



23 July 2026

Governing Body Review of the Year 2025/26

What is a Governing Body?

Governing Bodies exist to:

- develop a vision and strategy for the school with the Headteacher;
- oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent;
- hold school leaders to account to ensure that every pupil has the best possible education;
- engage with pupils, staff, parents and the community to understand their views.

Governors are made up of individuals with a huge range of skills from the private and public sector (some of whom are also parents/carers and staff at Greenway). They are *not* involved in the day-to-day running of the school but are tasked with the voluntary role of supporting and challenging the school to ensure that it continues to meet the ethos and planning priorities that have been established. You can find out more about Greenway's governors on the school website.

Fundamentally, it is Greenway Governing Body's ambition to ensure that the school is delivering the very best it can for your child/ren and for you.

As we are approaching the end of the summer term, we would like to report to you on some forthcoming changes to the Governing Body and the key pieces of work we have undertaken during the last academic year in meeting our obligations.

Governing Body Membership Changes

Having spent 4 years as a co-opted Governor, Janet English has decided to step away from the role at the end of the summer term and we wish her well. Amongst other things, Janet has sat on the Pay Committee and during her tenure has taken an active role in analysing responses to the staff survey and parent child questionnaires. We have all benefitted from her experience and wisdom.

Michele Webb is a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and midday supervisor at Greenway and is known to many of you. After an impressive 12 years as a co-opted non-teaching Governor, she is leaving the Governing Body (but not the school) and we will really miss her input. Michele was one of our inclusion link governors and brought a vast wealth of experience to the role for which we are extremely grateful.

We have three vacancies for co-opted Governors and are hoping to be able to fill these at the start of the new academic year having been actively recruiting. We will keep you posted!

Actions taken by the Governing Body throughout 2025/26

Vision and Values: As a Governing Body we always try to remain focussed on our Vision and Values for the school which you can see on the school website. It is clear that whatever steps staff, governors and parents take for Greenway, the children are at the centre of everything.

School Plan for 2025/26: We have continued with a rolling focus on Foundation subjects, and this year have targeted PE provision and Computing. We are very grateful to all staff but particularly Mr Lewis for ensuring that your children have so many opportunities made available to them. DSSN (Dacorum School Sports Network) of which we are a member, is always at pains to highlight the excellent practice Greenway demonstrates in Hertfordshire for its PE, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA). We have been excited to support the school in introducing pre-school morning movement clubs run by Mr Lewis and these are increasing in popularity. We have also particularly enjoyed seeing the introduction of more structured play at break times being made available to your child/ren and are encouraged by staff feedback around improved concentration and behaviours for learning in the classroom.

A review of the Computing curriculum took place this year. The new Chromebooks are being accessed regularly, with 2 classes being able to share a Chrome book trolley. Staff, pupil voice and learning walks confirm that children are learning and remembering more over time and enjoy the computing curriculum offered at Greenway. The Purple Mash scheme is fully embedded across the school, providing a clear progression in skills and knowledge.

There has also been a whole school strategy in the use of Artificial Intelligence with this being a priority within the school plan over two years. We have supported the school in the development of an AI Policy which you can find on

the school website. Next year the focus will be on exploring the potential use of AI-assisted technologies to support administrative and educational purposes.

Throughout this year, we have continued to be reassured by inspection feedback, following visits from our independent School Improvement Partner (SIP), that staff are consistently doing all that they need to do to ensure that your children are making the progress they should. We are sad to say goodbye to our long standing SIP who is retiring after many years supporting the school but we are looking forward to working with her replacement.

Standards: We are thrilled with our results this year. Children at every stage, from Early Years, Year 1 phonics to KS2 Year 6 SATS have continued to achieve well. This continues to demonstrate the high quality teaching your children receive at Greenway.

Governor Visits etc

This year, governors have undertaken a morning visit to the school where they observed the curriculum being delivered across all year groups save Year 6 who were rehearsing for their end of year performance. It was quite clear to governors that your children are engaged and enthusiastic about their learning and are able to discuss their lessons with us as well as telling us all about what they had been learning previously.

There have also been governor visits to attend assemblies and school events and to observe, seek feedback and report upon Special Educational Needs provision; Extended Services; Finance; and statutory governor Health and Safety and Safeguarding visits. Reports from all visits are discussed at our governor meetings.

The Governing Body has also responded to various applications for planning permission with regard proposed large housing developments close to the school as we are concerned about the traffic implications and the safety of you, your children and school staff.

Budget: Throughout the year the Governing Body monitors expenditure against budget headings and prepares and submits an annual return to the local authority at the financial year-end. Whilst we were pleased that we managed to end the financial year 2025/26 in a slightly better financial position than we had originally forecast, Governors have again needed to agree a budget with a (technical) in-year deficit for 2025/2026 (the deficit amount being covered by a carry forward).

All schools continue to face exceptionally difficult times particularly around staffing and we are doing our utmost to think creatively whilst also supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the school. A small working party of governors including Anita Nielsen and Shane Anderson has been meeting regularly with school leaders to attempt to improve the school's income streams whilst at the same time ensuring that we are providing you with what you need particularly with regard wrap around care. Inevitably we have to ensure that whatever service is provided to you for your child/ren that this is appropriately staffed - we certainly do not want to compromise on the quality of the offer. We are delighted that we have been able to offer places at a new look extended provision for all children requiring a place including those on the waiting list from September 2026. We are very grateful to all staff who have been involved in dealing with the very complicated logistics in managing this and a big thank you to Mandy Clutson and her team and Mrs Hayley Hunter and her team for providing your children with such a fantastic experience after school.

Pupil Premium: Governors monitor the spending of Pupil Premium to ensure that the money received is used in the most effective way for the benefit of those particular children eligible for it. You will see a summary of how this money has been spent on the school's website. Governor links Sheena Marsh and Michele Webb have continued to meet with the school's INCO Dani Roe on a regular basis to specifically discuss the provision for those pupils with additional needs, and including all pupils who are eligible for pupil premium.

Premises: We support the school in monitoring a rolling programme of improvements and we are very pleased to continue to have Governor Nick Brown's expertise as a qualified surveyor on the Governing Body.

Parent & Pupil Questionnaire: Governors Janet English, Sheena Marsh and Kate Moody have prepared and analysed the feedback from a pupil and parent questionnaire this year and their results will be fed back to you separately.

GSA: Thank you to the new Co-Chairs and to all those involved in providing and supporting so many wonderful happy events this year. Money raised has been invaluable in supporting delivery to the children in a wide variety of ways not least in new Chrome books, a sound and lighting system and an upgraded wi-fi. They have also led on fundraising through a JustGiving appeal, tuck shop sales, pilates, two generous donations from the winners of the 100 Club and combined with the GSA's £3,000 contribution the school now has £6,000 to invest in air

conditioning! We continue to explore with the GSA additional ways in which we may raise money for the school with your help.

Governor training: All Governors undertake training annually to support them in their roles and responsibilities and this year has been no different. The entire Governing Body has had updated training around the new Ofsted requirements and governors have separately had training on a variety of topics including safeguarding, artificial intelligence, governance and finance.

School Website: Governor Shane Anderson again reviewed the school website with school leaders to ensure that this is up to date and legally compliant and we are grateful to him for this piece of work.

Music and Other Achievements: This year school has also organised wonderful trips to St Albans Cathedral for the choir to sing at the annual service for the Hospice for St Francis and a very successful Music evening enjoyed by so many parents/carers.

Greenway Camps: Governors have worked hard with staff to provide an Easter and Summer camp for many families involving more than half the pupils at Greenway. This provides hours of fun in a safe environment with known school friends as well as supporting those parents/carers needing childcare. We wish everyone involved in the camp this summer lots of fun and are grateful as ever to Mandy Clutson and her team.

We wish those staff leaving the school this year (Mrs Tritton; Mrs Bowen; Mrs Pizzey, Mrs Lemming and Mr Pettifer) the very best of luck in the future. They have been delightful for governors and staff to work with and we will miss them all.

Finally, may we take this opportunity of congratulating Katharine Ellwood for having been shortlisted for the 2025 Education Today Headteacher of the Year Award.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth O'Reilly MBE

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body

