

Our goal is for all the children to leave Ashdene as happy, confident, self-assured learners able to make a positive contribution as British Citizens. We want them to be prepared for a world which we can only begin to imagine: to be passionate about learning, to be resilient, independent, inquisitive and creative.

Ashdene is an outstanding school, with outstanding governance

- Governors provide very strong leadership
- Governors are dedicated and uncompromising in their ambition to provide the best education for the pupils
- Governors provide the right balance of support and challenge to ensure that the quality of education is always improving
- Governors know the school very well
- Governors have a clear strategic overview and are accurate in their assessments of the school's strengths and areas for improvement
- Governors challenge leaders to make continued improvements.
- Governors have a range of skills, both in education and in other fields such as finance.
- Governors keep up to date with regular training making sure they are abreast of issues affecting the school

How as governors, do we ensure that we have a deep, accurate understanding of the school's effectiveness?

We have two committees the Learning, Inclusion and Progress (LIP) committee and the Resources committee as well as the full governing board, all of which meet once a term.

- **The Learning, Inclusion and Progress committee** is chaired by Anne Gadsden at this committee; we review pupil attainment and progress data on a termly basis. We have a rolling programme of agenda items enabling us to drill down on key topics for example, the curriculum, to which we invite relevant staff members to attend to answer questions raised and share plans for the future.
- **The Resources committee** is chaired by Katie Orr. This committee holds the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to account on the financial frameworks and the financial monitoring, compliance round the statutory and contractual requirements, risk management and approval of the staffing structure. We review the premises and health and safety information

Each governor is a member of one of these two committees. Some governors have additional responsibilities, for example, representing the board at the Multi Academy Trust meetings.

In line with best practice, we have a School Improvement Partner (SIP). The SIP provides the governing board with an external and objective view of the progress made and further opportunities. The SIP provides support and guidance to the three governors who undertake the headteacher's performance management.

All governors go through a comprehensive induction process and attend training throughout their time on the governing body. The chair of governors has met with the governors on a 1-1 basis and a 360-degree review was completed on the Chair of Governors. This information contributed to the annual review of governance focusing on the effectiveness of the board and helped inform the setting of the strategic direction.

The Governing Board's priorities for Ashdene

Confident that we are meeting Ofsted's criteria for outstanding, we are focusing on ensuring that the children experience a curriculum fit for the 21st century

The priorities are:

- To complete the process of the school becoming a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) but to hold firm the Ashdene values
- To further promote excellence in teaching & learning [with a particular focus on Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) on hold COVID-19]
- To further encourage staff to continue being reflective practitioners widening their opportunities to support across the MAT
- To narrow any gaps as a result of COVID-19.
- To continue to support each child on the next step of their personal journey of learning and discovery.
- To work collaboratively with parents and carers, furthering their understanding of effective governance.
- To consider workload impact for all following the implementation of Lockdown 3.0 and the move to whole school remote learning