

**Halfway Nursery Infant School
Leadership & Governance**



Recommendations for Terms of Reference and Standing Orders

(Circle Model – Whole Governing Body)

The Governing Body will operate at all times in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act, the School Governance Regulations, the Local Authorities Scheme for Financing Schools and all other relevant legislation, and will review these Standing Orders at least annually.

In addition to the requirements set out in legislation, the following procedures will apply to the operation of the Governing Body.

These documents were agreed by the Governing Body at their meeting held on

Date 13 July 2017

Review Date July 2019

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Circle Model – Whole Governing Body Approach

Outline

The Governing Body works as a 'whole team', meeting 6 times per year, once in each term, without any separate committees. An agenda for each meeting will include all the tasks which the governing body is required to consider, and the governing body will 'commission' assignments or activities arising from the business of the meeting, which will be recorded in the minutes.

In addition to 'commissioning' activities or actions on their behalf, the governing body may wish to delegate monitoring activities to 'monitoring pairs' or 'individuals'. This could apply to statutory functions, and/or the priorities of the School Plan.

In each case where a function has been delegated there is a statutory duty to report any action or decision to the governing body at the next meeting.

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Terms of Reference for the Governing Body

The Governing Body has resolved to conduct all its business as a full governing body, and to work without committees.

Delegation

The attached Standing Order 'Delegation of Functions to Headteacher' outlines those responsibilities wholly delegated to the Headteacher. Monitoring activities against the priorities of the School Plan will be 'commissioned' at meetings or carried out by pairs or individual governors in accordance with the terms of reference following

The main responsibilities to be managed by the governing body are outlined below:

Items in bold cannot be delegated.

Operational

- **To draw up the Instrument of Government and any amendments thereafter**
- **To review the standing order for election of the Chair and Vice Chair including the length of the term of office.**
- **Elect (or remove) the Chair and Vice Chair.**
- **To appoint (or dismiss) the Clerk to the Governing Body.**
- **To hold at least 6 Governing Body meetings each year.**
- **To appoint and remove Co-opted and any associate members.**
- **To suspend or remove a governor.**
- **To decide which functions of the Governing Body will be delegated and to whom.**
- **To receive reports from any pair or individual to whom a delegation has been made and to consider whether any further action by the Governing Body is necessary.**
- **To review the delegation arrangements annually.**
- To recruit new governors as vacancies arise.
- To set up and publish a register of Governors' Business Interests.
- To approve and set up a Governors' Allowances Scheme.
- To regulate the Governing Body procedures where not set out in law, and record these as Standing Orders.
- To delegate to the Headteacher the functions as described in the Delegation of Functions to Headteacher Standing Order (attached).
- To assign individuals or pairs of governors to monitor the priorities of the School Improvement Plan in accordance with the attached terms of reference.
- To arrange a suitable induction process and mentoring for newly appointed or elected
- To audit individual and collective development needs and promote appropriate training.
- To ensure the Headteacher provides such reports as requested by the Governing Body to enable it to undertake its role.
- To receive reports on bullying, homophobic and racial incidents.

General

- Regularly review the vision and values of the school and ensure that these are shared with all stakeholders.
- To take an active role in School Self Evaluation identifying success and areas requiring improvement.
- To update and review regularly the School Improvement Plan identifying monitoring opportunities for the governing body.
- To review regularly how the school is regarded by pupils and parents.
- To ensure the school has in place all **statutory policies** and to keep

	<p>these under regular review, consulting with representative stakeholders as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve policies on review. • To approve all school trips involving an overnight stay away from home. • To ensure that the school does not discriminate against pupils, job applicants or staff on the basis of race, religion, gender, age disability or sexual orientation. <i>VA schools are entitled to identify the post of some staff as open to practising members of their denomination only.</i> • To discharge duties in respect of pupils with special needs by appointing a 'SEND governor' in community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided and foundation schools. • To ensure the school has a Complaints Procedure for Parents and that parents know how to raise concerns and make a complaint. • To ensure that the governing body complies with all other legal duties placed upon them.
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the first formal budget plan each year. • To engage in strategic planning. • To agree a 3 year budget. • To analyse and recommend the annual budget. • To annually review and approve the Finance Policy and recommend levels of delegation. • To annually review and approve the Charging and Remissions policy. • To make decisions in respect of service agreements and insurance • To ensure the school complies to the SFVS guidelines • To review and take account of any consultations to change the LA Finance Scheme.
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher appointments. • To determine the staff complement. • To agree a pay policy and pay discretions. • To review annually the impact of and implementation of the Pay and Reward Policy. • To establish a governor panel to hear staff appeals against dismissal, redundancy or grievances. • To dismiss the Headteacher. • To end the suspension of staff or Headteacher. • To determine dismissal payments/early retirement.
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure National Curriculum is taught to all pupils • To monitor the curriculum policy. • To establish a charging and remissions policy for activities.
Appraisal and Performance Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish and review and approve annually the Appraisal Policy. • To determine the timing of the Headteacher appraisal review cycle and appoint two or three governors to act as reviewers alongside an external advisor.
Discipline/ Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a statement of behavior principles on which the school can produce a behavior policy. • To review the use of exclusion and decide whether or not to confirm all permanent exclusions and fixed term exclusions where a pupil is either excluded for more than 15 days in total in a term, or would lose the opportunity to sit a public exam. (This may be delegated to the Chair/Vice Chair in cases of urgency - see Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England Guidance updated Feb 2105 point 54). • To direct the reinstatement of excluded pupils.
Premises & Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a school buildings strategy or master plan and contribute to LA Asset Management Planning arrangements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To procure and maintain buildings, including a properly funded maintenance plan. To seek advice from the LA to ensure adequate levels of buildings insurance and personal liability. To receive annual site report.
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To institute a Health & Safety policy To ensure that Health & Safety regulations are followed and appropriately prioritised. To receive (3x per Year) an annual Health & Safety Inspection Report and agree any actions.
Collective Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the school provides teaching of religious education for all pupils in accordance with the agreed syllabus or has informed parents of their right to withdraw their child.
Information for Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the school keeps parents and prospective parents informed by publishing a school prospectus, regular newsletters and frequently updated website. To adopt and review home school agreements.
Federations/ Academisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider forming a federation or joining an existing federation To consider requests from other schools to join a federation. To leave a federation. To consider forming or joining an existing academy trust
Extended Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To decide to offer additional activities and agree what form these should take. To cease providing extended services provision.

Membership of the Governing Body
(see contact list attached)

Agreed by the Governing Body (Date)			13/7/17
Review Date			July 2018
Quorum: one half of the number of governors in post (rounded up)			
			Appointment Date
Chair of Governors			
Vice Chair			
Clerk			
SEN, Child Protection			

Halfway Nursery Infant School

Terms of Reference for the Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk is expected to work within the following terms of reference:

Guiding Principles

- The Clerk is accountable to the Governing Body.

The main responsibilities of the Clerk are:

- To work effectively with the Chair of governors, the other governors and the Headteacher to support the Governing Body.
- To advise the governing body on constitutional and procedural matters, powers and duties.
- To convene meetings of the Governing Body.
- To attend meetings of the Governing Body and ensure minutes are taken, with action points.
- To maintain and publish on the school website a register of Business Interests.
- To maintain a register of members of the Governing Body and report vacancies to the governing body.
- To maintain a register of attendance and report non-attendance to the Governing Body
- To give and receive notices in accordance with relevant regulations.
- To maintain the password-protected governor section of the website.
- To perform such other functions as may be determined by the Governing Body from time to time.
- To undertake appropriate professional development.
- If the Clerk does not attend a meeting, the governors present at the meeting may appoint a member of the Governing Body (but not the Headteacher) to act as Clerk for that meeting.

Agreed by the governing body on

13/7/17

Review Date

July 2018

Halfway Nursery Infant School

Delegation of Functions to Headteacher

The Headteacher is expected to work within the following terms of reference, and to provide the Governing Body with such reports in connection with his or her functions as the governing body requires

Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make miscellaneous financial decisions up to an agreed limit of £10,000. • To enter into contracts up to the limit of £10,000. • To monitor monthly expenditure. • To make payments.
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appoint teachers and non-teaching staff. • To establish disciplinary, capability and grievance procedures. • To suspend staff. • To dismiss staff.
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the National Curriculum is taught to all pupils and consider disapplication for pupils as appropriate. • To establish and implement a Curriculum policy. • To decide which subject options should be taught. • To be responsible for standards of teaching. • To be responsible for each individual child's education. • To agree the content of any Sex and Relationship Education and to keep up to date a written policy for its delivery. • To ensure the balanced treatment of political issues and to prohibit political indoctrination. • To promote British values.
Appraisal and Performance Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To formulate and implement an Appraisal policy.
Target Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set targets for pupil achievement.
Religious Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Religious Education in line with school's basic curriculum.
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that Health & Safety regulations are followed.
School Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the school meets for 380 sessions in a school year.
Information for Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare and publish the School Prospectus • To ensure that free school meals and milk are provided to those pupils meeting the criteria. • To ensure that parents are aware of their rights to withdraw their child from collective worship, RE and Sex and Relationship education. • To ensure that a report on each child's educational achievement is forwarded to parents /guardians.

Extended Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To put into place the additional services provided. • To ensure delivery of services provided. 		
Agreed by the governing body on			13/7/17
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Terms of Reference for Individuals or Monitoring Pairs

Any individual to whom responsibility has been delegated is expected to work within the following terms of reference.

To monitor an identified target on the School Plan or a statutory function of the governing body and report to the governing body. It is expected that a minimum of 3 monitoring visits will be made to the school during the year. Other forms of communication such as telephone calls emails etc. may be substituted for one or more visits. A visit does not necessarily have to take place during the time when students/pupils are in school, and could be just as effective as a meeting between governor(s) and the lead professional at the end of the day as mutually agreed.

- To meet with the lead professional within the school to gain an understanding of the scope of the target and the activities the school is conducting to achieve success.
- To undertake any necessary training (in or out of school) to enable effective monitoring of the areas/subject.
- To monitor the progress of school activities towards the target or duty.
- To evaluate the extent of success at the end of the set timescale.

All visits to the school will be arranged through the chair of governors, with reference to the Headteacher, and in accordance with the Governor Visits policy.

Reports will be submitted for approval by the Headteacher and the Chair within 3 weeks of the visit, and then be published by the clerk of governors on the governor section of the website.

In addition, one or more governors will be designated as the SEND and Safeguarding Governors (which includes Child Protection). These could be the same governor.

School Plan Priorities

1.	[Governor name] [Governor name]
2.	[Governor name] [Governor name]
3.	[Governor name] [Governor name]
4.	[Governor name] [Governor name]
5.	[Governor name] [Governor name]
6. Budget Monitoring	[Governor name] see separate terms of reference [Governor name]
SEND	[Governor name]
Safeguarding (including Child Protection)	[Governor name]
Agreed by the governing body on	<input type="text"/>
Review Date	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Halfway Nursery Infant School

Terms of Reference for the Monitoring of the School Budget

A pair of governors or an individual will be assigned to monitor the financial management of the school on behalf of the governing body.

A minimum of 3 monitoring visits should be made each year, although at least one of these may be conducted virtually, by emails or by telephone discussion.

- To maintain an up-to-date 'balanced' three year budget plan, which shows clear links to the 'School Improvement' and 'Staffing' plans.
- To report monitoring and rollover to the full governing body, highlighting any significant variances.
- To evaluate any virement recommendations and report to the governing body.
- Analyse and report on Tenders for Contract Services.
- To keep in-school financial procedures under review.
- To benchmark school financial performance against similar schools and report to the governing body.
- To evaluate proposed expenditure following recommendations from the headteacher and present to the governing body.
- To ensure that the school is working within the guidance of the **Schools Financial Value Standard and Assurance (SFVS)** recommendations.
- To ensure that all spending provides 'Value for money' in terms of raising standards in education.
- To monitor and evaluate the management of the Voluntary Fund and to receive the audited accounts.
- To make regular reports to the Governing Body and ensure that key financial decisions are recorded correctly in the minutes.

Any additional items which individual governing bodies may wish to include

Names of Monitoring Pair

[Governor name]

[Governor name]

Agreed by the governing body on

Review Date

Halfway Nursery Infant School

Terms of Reference for Panel Hearings

- To make any decisions under the Governing Body's personnel procedures e.g. disciplinary, grievance, capability, where the Headteacher is the subject of the action.
- To make any decisions under the Governing Body's personnel procedures e.g. disciplinary, grievance, capability, unless delegated to the Headteacher.
- To make any determination or decision under the Governing Body's Complaints Procedure for Parents.
- To consider any appeals against a decision to dismiss a member of staff or to a decision short of dismissal e.g. disciplinary, grievance or capability.
- To make any determinations on behalf of the Governing Body in relation to staff redundancy and redundancy appeals.
- To consider any representations by parents in the case of an exclusion (parents/guardians do not have to be invited).
- To consider the appropriateness of any permanent exclusion or fixed term exclusion which totals 15 days or more in one term or where a pupil is denied the chance to take a public examination (parents/guardians must be invited).

NB Any governor who has participated on a panel for a staffing decision, cannot sit on the appeal panel

Membership [not less than 3]

Any three governors from a pool of governors [comprised of the whole Governing Body], who are:

1. Suitably qualified to undertake the role, and
2. Available on the date specified

The Headteacher is disqualified from serving in this role.

Any governor having a connection with either a pupil, a member of staff or the incident in question which could affect their ability to act impartially should not serve on the panel.

Agreed by the governing body on

13/7/17

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Halfway Nursery Infant School

Terms of Reference of the Headteacher Appraisal Group

- To meet annually with an independent advisor to discuss and determine the headteacher appraisal objectives for the coming year (the planning meeting).
- To review, with the support of the independent advisor, the performance of the headteacher against the agreed appraisal objectives and determine the recommendation on pay progression (the review meeting).
- To prepare and agree the Headteacher appraisal review statement, and report to the governing body.
- To monitor through the year the performance of the Headteacher against the agreed objectives and to ensure that appropriate support and development opportunities are provided.
- To make recommendations to the Finance pair/team/etc in respect of pay progression.

Membership [2 governors]

[Governor name]

[Governor name]

Agreed by the governing body on

Review Date

Halfway Nursery Infant School

Standing Order for Meetings of the Governing Body

Governors are expected to:

- Arrive in good time for the start of any meeting, having read all the agenda-related documentation made available prior to the meeting on the governor section of the website, and prepared with questions to ask or comments to make.
- Participate in discussion and listen to the views and comments of others.
- Be brief and adhere to any time limits placed against agenda items.
- Follow up on action points between meetings.

The following persons have the right to attend all meetings of the governing body

- Headteacher
- Clerk
- any governor
- associate members (unless the Governing Body requires them to leave for items relating to individual members of staff or pupils).

The following persons will be invited to attend regular meetings of the Governing Body - Deputy Headteacher, members of the senior leadership team

Full Governing Body meetings will be held at the school 6 times each year, in terms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The clerk will prepare a suggested calendar of meeting dates for the following year for approval at the meeting held in term 6 of each year.

The Clerk to the Governing Body will prepare a draft agenda, which will be finalised and approved by the chair. Governors wishing to place items on the agenda should give notice to the clerk, and provide a copy of any supporting papers.

Items of 'Any Other Business' will be taken at the beginning of the meeting and either added to the agenda, delegated to a pair, or placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

Voting, where necessary, will normally be taken by a show of hands; however, the Chair may determine a secret ballot where this has been requested by two or more governors.

All meetings will be convened by the Clerk. Any 3 members of the Governing Body may request a meeting by giving written notice to the Clerk, which includes a summary of the business to be transacted. The Clerk will then prepare an agenda to call a meeting.

Each meeting will commence at 4.30 pm and will be limited to 2 hours in duration. Where business has not been completed within the agreed time, those governors present may resolve to continue the meeting in order to complete the agenda. Any business not completed will form part of the agenda for the next meeting.

Draft minutes will be approved by the Chair within 2 weeks of the meeting, before being formally approved by the Governing Body at the next meeting.

Agreed by the governing body on

13/7/17

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July 2018

Halfway Nursery Infant School

Standing Order for the Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Guiding Principles

- The Governing Body **MUST** elect a chair and a vice chair.
- When the office of Chair or Vice Chair becomes vacant, the Governing Body must elect a new Chair or Vice Chair at their next meeting.
- There are no regulations covering the process of election with the exception of the need for the candidate(s) to withdraw from the meeting when a vote is taken.
- Governing Bodies are free to, and should, agree an election process.
- Governors who are paid to work at the school, for instance the Headteacher and the staff governors cannot be elected as Chair or Vice Chair.
- The process must be fair, open and transparent.

Factors the Governing Body should consider in agreeing their election process are:

- How long the Chair and Vice Chair will serve.
- Whether a Governor can be re-elected and whether there should be a limit to the number of terms a Governor could serve in the position of Chair or Vice Chair
- Whether a governor can stand for office if he/she is unable to be present at the meeting.
- How nominations will be made.
- Whether a candidate will self-nominate or be proposed by Governors.
- Whether there will be a secret ballot or show of hands.
- How the Governing Body would treat a tie in votes.

The role of the Chair of the Governing Body

- To ensure the business of the Governing Body is conducted properly in accordance with legal delegation requirements.
- To ensure that meetings are run effectively, focusing on the priorities and making best use of the time available, and to ensure that all members have an equal opportunity to participate in discussion and decision-making
- To establish and foster an effective relationship with the Headteacher based on trust and mutual respect for each other's roles.
- To establish and foster a good relationship with the Clerk based on professional respect for each role.

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE

- The Governing Body resolves that the following process will apply to the election of Chair (and vice chair) of the governing body (provide a brief outline of the role see overleaf):
- The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for a period of between 1 and 4 years.
- The Clerk will take the Chair to conduct the election of the Chair and the newly elected Chair will conduct the election for the Vice Chair using the same procedure.

Either

- a) The Clerk will invite Governors to self-nominate by a closing date no later than 2 weeks before the date of the meeting at which the election is to be held.

or

- b) Governors will be asked to propose nominations to the Clerk by a closing date no later than two weeks before the date of the first governing body meeting of the academic year. The Clerk will provide a form for this purpose, which will allow for nominations to be seconded before submission (if required).

- The Clerk will include the names of all candidates for election on the agenda for the meeting at which the election is to be held, and send it to governors at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.
- The candidates will be asked to leave the room whilst the election takes place and the outcome discussed.
- Governors will take a vote by secret ballot conducted and counted by the Clerk.
- Candidates will be allowed to vote (including for themselves) before leaving the room.
- In the event of a tie, each candidate will be given the opportunity to address the governing body before a further vote is taken. (If a candidate cannot attend the meeting, a supporting statement may be requested in advance of the meeting.)
- If no advance nominations have been received for the office of Chair, the Clerk may seek nominations at the meeting.

If no Chair is duly elected, a Governor **MUST** be appointed to Chair the remainder of the meeting.

Following the election of the Chair, the new Chair will conduct the election of a Vice Chair using the same procedure.

Agreed by the governing body on			13/7/17
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Standing Order for the Appointment of Co-opted Governors

Guiding Principles

The Governing Body may decide the process for the appointment of Co-opted governors.

Factors the Governing Body should consider in agreeing their appointment process are:

- What skills are required to support the Governing Body at the time of the vacancy.
- How and where vacancies should be advertised.
- Whether a candidate will self-nominate or be proposed [and seconded if wished] by governors.
- What information the Governing Body needs from each candidate to support their nomination i.e. a statement of so many words, interview with, or presentation to the governing body or alternatives as appropriate.
- Whether there will be a secret ballot or show of hands [and whether this would vary depending on the circumstances i.e. in all circumstances or only where there is more than one candidate.
- How the results will be notified to the candidates.
- How often the process will be reviewed.
- The process must be fair, open and transparent.

1. The Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body. They are people who in the opinion of the governing body have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.
2. The Governing Body may choose to advertise the vacancy broadly to reach as wide an area as possible. Priority may be given to candidates with particular skills if this expertise would enable the Governing Body to work more effectively. In these cases, this would be clearly stated when notifying the vacancy.
3. Where two or more names are put forward, prospective Co-opted governors will be asked to prepare a brief statement of no more than 100 words, explaining their background and why they wish to be appointed. Where possible these statements will be circulated to all members of the Governing Body prior to the meeting at which any appointment will be considered.
4. At the next meeting of the Governing Body, governors will be invited to vote by show of hands if there is a sole candidate. Where there are multiple nominations, governors will take a vote by secret ballot, managed by the Clerk.
5. In the event of a tie, the governors will again discuss the nominations and take a further vote.
6. The Clerk will announce the result, with the candidate polling the most votes being duly appointed.

Agreed by the governing body on

13/7/17

Review Date

July 2018