



IGHTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024

This is the Governors' annual review of the 2023 / 2024 academic year.

During the year we were once again mindful of the pandemic and its impacts, which are still evident, whilst carrying out the business of our three core functions:

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- **Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
- **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

There were some changes to the makeup of the Governing Body over the year. Lisa Colbear and Stacie McAdie left their parent governor roles and Jeroen Van Bezooijen and Chris Jameson were elected in their place. We are extremely fortunate to have a full complement of four Parent Governors on the board who provide such valuable input and we thank all of those, old and new, who give their time and energy to the role. I was re-elected as Chair and Moyra Pickering was re-elected as Vice-Chair. Ruth Johnson joined us as Staff Governor and we were grateful, that once again, Lee Kennett stayed with us as a highly valued Associate Member on our Premises Committee. We said a very sad goodbye to our long serving Governance Professional, Yolanda Tredoux, who has supported us with her skills and knowledge over the last 15 years. I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to Yolanda and wish her the very best for the future. Fortunately, Caron Pullinger was appointed to the role, and her knowledge of the school, administrative skills and professionalism are of enormous benefit to the governing board. We are grateful to Caron for joining us and strengthening our team.

We met once each term as a Full Governing Body. Our three sub-committees – Performance and Strategy, Premises, and Finance – also met several times throughout the year.

Academisation

In addition to our usual business, governors continued to investigate our options around joining or becoming an academy.

We spent a lot of time visiting academy schools, meeting with governing boards from other academy schools and talking to CEOs of Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) to gather evidence and information about existing MATs and about the process of setting up a new MAT.

The Pioneer Academy (TPA) was immediately attractive to us being aligned with our ethos and values and further familiarisation with the trust and their schools led us to believe we had found a good choice for a potential partnership. As we continued our discussions with TPA and after more visits to schools that had already joined the trust, we formed the opinion that becoming part of TPA would have real benefits for our children, staff and whole school community.



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After engaging in a consultation process and more due diligence exercises, both the TPA Trust Board and Ightham Primary School Governors decided to start the formal application for our school to join TPA. We are now on schedule to convert to becoming an academy school with TPA on 1st December 2024. Whilst there will be some inevitable changes involved in the process, the governing body is convinced that being part of TPA will secure the best future for the school with solid support from an organisation led by education professionals who have a shared vision of a safe and happy academic experience in which all our children thrive. We will keep our strong community links and provide an experience relevant and unique to our setting. We look forward to continuing our governing body role as a school board within TPA. Our commitment to ensuring the best possible standards by contributing to the strategic leadership of the school remains unchanged.

Paula Freeman
September 2024



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