GREAT TEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2026

The Role of the Governing Body

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Great Tey C of E Primary School's Governing Body are:

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

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Great Tey C of E Primary School is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher) 2 elected parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor, 2 Foundation Governors (including the Incumbent) and 5 Co-opted Governors. Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body and 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. The full Governing Body meets twice each term and we also have a number of committees which meet to consider different aspects of school such as a Pay and Performance Committee. We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The Governing Body appoints a professional clerk who is responsible for arranging meetings, taking minutes and following up on all actions. The clerk also advises on procedural matters and plays a key role in the working of the Governing Body.

During the academic year 2025/26, the following changes to the Governing Body were noted: the retirements of Briony Waller, parent

governor, Ugo Simonelli, co-opted governor and Margaret Jones, co-opted governor. New governors were appointed during the year; Irene Beesley, co-opted (January 2026) Lotte Nickel, parent governor and Paula McManus, co-opted (July 2026)

Attendance record of governors

Governors have very good attendance at meetings and a meeting has never had to be cancelled because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). Details of individual governors’ attendance at meetings are published on the school website.

Training

To fulfil its role effectively, the Governing Body must ensure that all its governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school’s priority objectives. All members of the Governing Body have undertaken mandatory training such as Safeguarding and Child Protection by attending the school staff INSET day in September. Governors also attend briefings and training where appropriate from bodies such as the LA and the Nexus Learning Partnership (previously known as Tiptree and Stanway Consortium).

The work that we have done in the governing body during 2025/26

Following on from the Ofsted inspection March 2024 the Governing Body has focused with the Headteacher on the Objectives emphasised in that inspection report, namely to ensure teachers use assessment effectively to identify how well pupils are retaining important knowledge to inform future teaching. Also, to develop more precise monitoring of the curriculum to gain a secure understanding of how well pupils are learning in some subjects compared to others.

The school has adopted a new pupil assessment tool; “Insight” and governors receive helpful assessment data at curriculum meetings.

We have continued to scrutinise and monitor attendance records at every Governing Body Meeting and the causes of poor attendance for particular pupils. The school continues to work jointly with the Children Missing Education Team and this has proved effective in reducing absences in particular circumstances. This year, governors have supported the school to implement school improvement plans, with a particular focus on science and computing. Governors meet regularly with staff and pupils, including

talking to pupils about their learning, their engagement with the curriculum, their personal development and their preparation for national tests such as KS2 SATs.

The full Governing Body met six times over the 2025/26 academic year to inspect, review and agree school policies and to monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan which identifies the key areas of focus for the academic year. At each meeting and during individual monitoring visits, governors continued to question the school on its decisions and actions. This was to ensure that the school's standards and expectations remained high and that pupils from all backgrounds and abilities are accommodated. Information from school data, Headteacher reports and monitoring visits enabled the Governing Body to scrutinise pupil progress across all areas including vulnerable groups.

As of September 2026, the number of pupils on roll at the school remains close to full capacity based on our published admission number of 12 per year group. We have continued to monitor and manage the school budget effectively during this period of growth despite increases in teachers' pay awards and a virtually standstill budget allocation with valuable help from our Consortium Finance Advisor.

Performance Management

Governors are responsible for undertaking the Headteacher's performance management review each year. A panel of governors, who have undertaken training, supported by an expert external advisor, carry out the Headteacher's annual appraisal, which is reviewed at points throughout the year. The appraisal process allows the Governing Body to look closely at the Headteacher's performance, and discuss areas of strength and, where necessary, areas for development. New targets are then set against criteria on which the Headteacher's performance will be evaluated.

Future plans of the governing body from 2026

To work with the Headteacher in developing holiday provision for pupils.

To monitor the implementation of school improvement plans, with a particular focus on History, Geography and RE.

To carry out an audit of the school's "spirituality" and to monitor how effective the school is at embedding pupils' and staff' experience and understanding of spirituality.

We will continue to work with the Local Authority and our local consortium schools to obtain a fair and adequate budget allocation for our school to enable us to consolidate the progress made to date and to ensure the further development of provision at Great Tey.

How you can contact the governing body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Ives, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; and more information on the Governors pages of the school website. Minutes of Governing Body meetings are available on request.