



Annual Governance Impact Statement 2024-25

Aims of the Board

Core Function: Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, strategy and direction

Core Function: Oversee financial performance of the school and ensure statutory responsibilities completed

Act as a critical friend to the school

Chairs Statement – Review of the Year 2024-25

Riversdale continues to have a major impact on the lives of the children who attend the school. A tremendous amount of work has been completed on ensuring consistency in the curriculum during the year. Development of the curriculum for the Base has been the most recent focus.

September 2024

The school received a phonics review which was very positive, and I was fortunate enough to be able to complete a learning walk with the phonics lead, who was knowledgeable and enthusiastic about her subject. The fidelity to the Little Wandle scheme was particularly evident in both the report and in Fartuuns commentary to me. Purchase of the books from the scheme to go home with the children was important for the teaching of phonics in the school.

October 2024

Several staff members had considerable health issues during the year. The staff pulled together and supported each other and the pupils. Thankfully most of the staff came through and returned to work. Sadly, though, the school lost Alex Coxon in November 2024. He was a valued member of the team who battled with illness for a while. It was particularly sad in such a close community as Riversdale. Our thoughts remain with his family and friends.

November 2024

The Governing Board welcomed Martine Thompson, our new parent governor.

December 2024

Christmas brought a whole host of festive treats. I particularly enjoyed the Early Years Christmas performance. It was a feast for the eyes and ears. The children gave stellar performances and the hard work of the staff was evident. All the performances were excellent.

January 2025

The Governing Board were lucky enough to attend a workshop on Ofsted Preparedness with Nick Flesher. It was informative and useful.

Riversdale welcomed a visit from our MP, Fleur Anderson. She toured the school, taking particular interest in the Base. We discussed issues around SAT's results for the Base children and the effect they have on the attainment of a mainstream school when they are as inclusive as a school like Riversdale. She also looked at our old portacabin and agreed to make representation to the Council for a replacement. She stayed long enough to do an assembly. The children asked some great questions, including was she nervous if she had to go on TV, what party she was from and what would she have done if she had not become a politician.

February 2025

Riversdale was the subject of a Guided Peer Evaluation. The report vindicated what the governors know to be true. The school is full of teachers and TA's who care deeply about the fortunes of the pupils and the outcomes for them. The vast majority of parents are supportive and know their children are receiving an excellent education in an inclusive and nurturing environment.

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March 2025

The Governing Board welcomed Aoife Considine as a Co-opted Governor.

A major development for the school was the agreement of the LA to construct a two-storey modular building replacing the aging portacabin. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of Autumn Term 2025. Great news!

April 2025

The Budget Plan 2025=26 was agreed on 3rd April 2025.

May 2025

The Year 6 pupils as usual undertook their SATS. It was a mammoth task for the staff to organise and some governors monitored the administration of the tests, which were held in an exemplary manner. on the 14th May 2025 Riversdale pupils attended a special PE skills session for SEND pupils at Southfields Academy. Jenny El-Khawad, our Co-Vice Chair also went along. She reported that the session was arranged as a result of the latest initiative to promote PE and sport in schools in England for children with SEND. Four Paralympians introduced themselves to the students and told about their achievements in their different sports. The Southfields PE staff, along with four student PE ambassadors and the Paralympians worked with the children from Riversdale and Southfields Academy teaching tennis ball and racquet skills. The children participated enthusiastically, listening to instructions, showing a keen commitment to improving and having fun. The Minister for School Standards, Catherine McKinnell, took part in the session to mark the launch of the new programme, Inclusion 2028.

June 2025

The Summer Fair was held on Saturday 28th June. It was a well-attended and fun day for everyone, despite the heat.

July 2025

The Year 6 leavers event was a wonderful display of talent and hard work. The children performed brilliantly and the sheer hard work by staff and pupils shone through.

The SAT's Results and other public tests were very pleasing and a steady improvement on the previous year. The Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check was excellent as was the improvement in the SATS, with Reading being particularly excellent. A testament to a lot of hard work throughout the year.

Governing Board 2024-25 - Performance Against Objectives

Objective	Status
Achieve at least Good at the next Ofsted inspection or the equivalent under the new framework.	No Ofsted Inspection to date. Plenty of work has taken place by the board to be prepared. Nick Flesher session, much more focus in FGB meetings, separate meeting to look at likely documents which could be used as evidence at an inspection and further sessions planned.
Adopt standard agendas that cover the Terms of Reference for each committee.	We now have engaged the Clerking Service and our Clerk provides standard agendas.
Maintain and train a Full Governing Board.	We have two vacancies. We have two candidates who might be suitable.

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Ensure governors have the necessary skills to carry out their core functions	Training is a work in progress.
Develop and implement an Estate Management Strategy that ensures the building is fit for purpose	Estate Management Strategy was written. The Portacabin is being replaced by a new modular building, hopefully two storey.
	The School House still needs funding and a full scale plan.

Current Governing Board Members

Name	Type of Governor	Term Ends
Vasoula Baron	Co-Opted	09/03/2029
Sue Burke	LA	19/03/2028
Aoife Considine	Co-Opted	18/03/2029
Pat Durai-Bates	Co-Opted	28/03/2027
Jennifer El-Khawad	Co-Opted	06/11/2027
Rebecca Gifford	Parent	08/03/2026
Rebecca Osuntokun	Co-Opted	19/03/2028
Amy Roberts	Headteacher	N/A
Steven Sousa	Co-opted	01/07/2029
Martine Thompson	Parent	09/11/2028
Fred Ellis	Staff	01/07/2029
Vacancy	Co-Opted	
Vacancy	Co-opted	
Other Members		
Linda Hawthorn	Associate Member	09/11/2028
Ann Kerr	Associate Member	06/11/2028

Clerk to Governor Details

Governance Professional - Nicola Cheshire, Governor Services

Committees and their Members

Committee Membership		
Curriculum	Resources	Pay
Vasoula Baron (Co-Chair)	Vasoula Baron	Sue Burke
Sue Burke	Sue Burke (Chair)	Par Durai-Bates
Jennifer El-Khawad (Co-Chair)	Aoife Considine	Vacancy
Fred Ellis	Pat Durai-Bates	
Linda Hawthorn	Rebecca Gifford	
Ann Kerr	Amy Roberts	
Rebecca Osuntokun	Martine Thompson	
Amy Roberts	Vacancy	
Steven Sousa	Vacancy	



Resources Committee Report from Chair of Committee

22nd October 2024 - Autumn Term Resources Meeting

- Sue Burke was elected chair of the committee;
- Terms of Reference were reviewed and agreed;
- Progress on the budget using P6 spreadsheet was discussed;
- SFVS action plan was reviewed;
- Performance management and staff attendance and well-being was discussed;
- Estate Management Strategy and the rejection by the council for a replacement for the portacabin was discussed.

6th March 2025 – Spring Term Resources Meeting

- Pupil roll and Nursery and Reception numbers for 2025-26;
- Progress against the budget using the P9 spreadsheet report;
- Reviewed and agreed the SFVS document;
- Set date of 3rd April 2025 to review and agree the budget for 2025-26;
- Discussed the formation of a Risk Register;
- Reviewed staff attendance and staffing changes and also discussed staff well-being;
- Discussed Estate Management Strategy Plan including good news that planning permission had been submitted for a new modular building to replace the portacabin by the council;
- Agreed the electrics and fire alarm works.

26th June 2025 – Summer Term Resources Meeting

- Updates on SDP priorities of portacabin replacement and school house refurbishment;
- Pupil roll was discussed;
- Access finance system update and review of P12 budget spreadsheet;
- CFR Report was reviewed and agreed for submission;
- Ratification of 2025-26 Budget and recent updates on P2 spreadsheet were shared;
- Report received from PTC on their donations of £8K to the school;
- Staff Sickness and absence was reviewed, along with staff changes and staff well-being;
- Health and Safety Policy was reviewed and agreed.

Curriculum Committee Report from Co-Chairs of Committee



21st October 2025

The committee agreed the Terms of Reference and confirmed the link roles for governors. A statement of the school ethos had been agreed and the tag line now appears on the website, across the school and on all documents. Following the Ofsted report, some governors had met with Ann DeBono and the HT reported on the outside support the school was receiving from Q1E. Steven reported on the quality of teaching especially for reading and the delivery of the Maths scheme and said that subject leaders were producing action plans. We heard how there was a significant increase in numbers of pupils with EHCPs and that the Base now included pupils with more behavioural and emotional needs. It was noted that the Yr 6 SATs 2024 results reflected 23 SEND and 9 EHCP pupils. This information is not evident in published statistics.

13th March 2025

The committee looked at the attendance numbers which though below the National average, continues to be a priority. The school has details of all absences and the reasons behind them and the HT outlined the efforts being made to encourage and reward regular attendance. We were reminded about Martyn's Law becoming a statutory requirement for safeguarding and further discussion included the SCR procedures and Prevent training. The Link governor for Safeguarding agreed to complete the Safer Recruitment training and said that she had plans to meet with Svenja about Health & Safety, and the school council regarding their views on Safeguarding. Pupil premium funding for clubs and trips was discussed and how the school organised lunchtime clubs as well as breakfast and after school clubs. We reviewed the Autumn results which showed progress in the core areas. Steven noted that the staff were particularly positive about the writing scheme. Some changes were to take place in the Base with Power Maths replacing Maths No Problem. We asked about the GPE report which had been positive and aimed to help staff following the observations carried out.

23rd June 2025

The committee welcomed Nicola in her additional role as clerk to the sub-committee meetings. We discussed the HT's report at length and made suggestions for its format for next year. We looked at attendance and the pupil premium children accessing clubs. Pupil numbers for Early Years was discussed. We discussed the annual safeguarding review to be presented at FGB and looked at the well-being questionnaires and outcomes showing a happy school.

Link Governor Roles

Link Governor Role	Name of Allocated Governor
Attendance, Safeguarding, Pupil Premium and LAC	Vasoula Baron
Quality of Education - English	Sue Burke
Quality of Education - Maths	Pat Durai-Bates

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Quality of Education – History, Geography, Music, PE	Linda Hawthorn
Quality of Education – PSHE, RSE, RE, MFL	Rebecca Osuntokun
Quality of Education – Science, IT, Art & Design, DT	Aoife Considine
Behaviour and Attitudes	Rebecca Gifford
Personal Development	Martine Thompson
Early Years	Ann Kerr
SEND and the Base	Jennifer El-Khawad

Governor Visits Undertaken 2024-25

Attendance, Safeguarding, Pupil Premium and LAC - Vasoula Baron

Safeguarding - 14/11/2024

Health & Safety – 17/03/2025

Attendance – June 2025

Quality of Education – English - Sue Burke

English curriculum etc – 26/11/2024

Handwriting – 03 & 05/03/2025

Phonics – 07/05/2025

Quality of Education – Maths, Sustainability and Climate Change - Pat Durai-Bates

Maths – 26/11/2024

Maths – 30/06/2025

Quality of Education – History, Geography, Music, PE - Linda Hawthorn

History & Geography – 13/03/2025

Music – 23/06/2025

Quality of Education – PSHE, RSE, RE, MFL Rebecca Osuntokun

Meetings were arranged with subject leads but had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Quality of Education – Science, IT, Art & Design, DT Aoife Considine

Started 19/03/2025 and unable to meet with lead teacher before the end of term.

Behaviour and Attitudes - Rebecca Gifford

Behaviour – 25/04/2025

Personal Development - Martine Thompson

Personal Development – 21/03/2025

Rights Respecting – 02/05/2025

Early Years - Ann Kerr

EYFS – 29/04/2025

SEND and the Base - Jennifer El-Khawad

SEND – 09/10/2024

ASD Base Meeting – 14/10/2024

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ASD Base Learning Walk – 17/03/2025

SEND – 03/04/2025

SEND – 14/05/2025

SEND – 18/06/2025

Miscellaneous Visits

Visit by MP and Heads Performance Management – Sue Burke and Pat Durai-Bates

SAT's Week – 12 – 15/05/2025 – Vasoula Baron, Sue Burke and Jennifer El-Khawad

Meetings with Chair and Headteacher

Autumn Term 2024

5th December 2025

Spring Term 2025

23rd January 2025

24th February 2025

14th March 2025

17th March 2025

Summer Term 2025

15th May 2025

12th June 2025

14th July 2025

Team Around the School Meetings

27th March 2025

22nd May 2025

Governors Attendance Data

See Appendix A