



Derwent and Southill Federation Governors
Annual Statement and Impact Report
Autumn 2026 2027

The Governing Body at our schools endeavours to fulfil the role defined by the Government supported by the Local Authority. In doing so we hope that we can help to make our schools the very best they can be for the benefit of our children and even better today than we were yesterday. Our current School Improvement Adviser is Kerrie Lewis and she has visited both schools within the last term.

The annual statement explains how we have fulfilled our responsibilities, including:

- The governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees.
- The attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings.
- An assessment with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.

Before covering these areas, we would firstly like to explain that the governor role is intended to be strategic in nature. We take our role “critical friend” to the current Headteacher and the leadership team of both schools, who are responsible for their day to day operational running very seriously. In reviewing the way in which these schools work, the Governors have gained an enormous respect for all the staff in them. The amount of effort, care for our children and “going the extra mile” we see on a regular basis from all our staff is exceptional.

It is not only academic progress that is in evidence in our schools as evidenced by recent data publications on our KS2 SATs result for example. Pupils are enriched by wider curriculum activities, such as educational visits and events like the annual residential trips, or curriculum experiences such as specialist Spanish, music, art, design and technology and computing lessons. This broader enriched curriculum means all our pupils can enjoy school life.

Governor Meetings:

At Derwent and Southill Federation members of the governing body have played, and continue to play, a strong role in driving both schools forward. The current governors are all listed on the website and are all volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children.

The Governing Body is responsible for three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteachers and SLT to account for the educational performance of both schools, their pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of both schools and making sure its money is well spent.

Governor attendance has, as always, been of a very good level, with any absences having been fully recorded, explained, accepted and approved by the Governing Body. There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the Governing Body. We have a newly appointed clerk that helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered, and we have two main sub-committees ; the Finance and Resources Committee and the Academic Standards Committee. These carry out the detailed work in accordance with their terms of reference.

Academic Standards Committee (ASC):

In the ASC committee governors work alongside the Headteachers and senior leaders in assessing regular reports outlining progress against objectives. Both schools' Development Plan (SDP) sets aims for the forthcoming year. The SDP for 2026 2027 is based on priorities that come from both school's



data, self evaluation and Ofsted Priorities.

As part of the remit of this committee governors will approve policies for sex education, religious education and other policies relating to the curriculum as well as monitor and evaluate pupil progress across all year groups and across all vulnerable groups.

Governors ensure pupil's spiritual, moral and cultural development, including the promotion of fundamental British Values, are at the heart of both schools' work. Both schools are values led and the values are promoted monthly in assemblies and in all documentation. These underpin our Behaviour Policy for children and Code of Conduct for staff.

Governors visit both schools as part of their monitoring programme. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for governors to be able to work closely with staff members across school and the visits are reported on, in the ASC and FGB meetings.

Full Governors Meeting (FGB):

The governors work closely with the Headteachers, the School Business Manager and Senior Leaders. These meetings cover the key information shared in the committee meetings and focus on key elements in the schools; safeguarding, SEND; and the key characteristics of the schools. Learning Wander feedback on Quality of Teaching is shared (with specific names withheld) and key leaders action plans and progress is shared for comment.

Finance and Resources Committee

The Bursar and School Business Manager work in collaboration to manage the school finances and they are responsible for reporting the budget and the priorities of both school

This committee is responsible for setting and monitoring the budgets for both schools and overseeing the financial management of both schools. This also includes the monitoring and examination of spending concerning the out-turn budget during the financial year, together with the monitoring of Pupil Premium expenditure and ensure that relevant details are available on both schools websites.

Governors appreciate the requirements of our children's parents and carers and their need to be satisfied with the overall leadership and management of both schools and how this affects the safety, learning and enjoyment of their children. A Pay Awards Committee is assembled annually to monitor the pay awards and assure themselves of the validity and appropriate checks and balances when these are submitted for approval. The Head teacher has two governors and the local authority School Improvement Adviser to support and manage that pay progression or any pay award.

Governors consider reports in respect of buildings and premises matters and review health and safety policy and any training. They also oversee and prioritise future developments relating to the buildings and premises of both schools.

Governors review all school policies on a programmed basis in accordance with renewal dates, ensuring that all guidance is current and up to date

Impact statement:

The Governing Body, the Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team and indeed all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop both schools. All of our governors are fully trained in safeguarding.

Raised standards at both Derwent and Southill have been a key target since the start of the federation. The governors continue to monitor the progress in this area as seen in the Headteachers' reports to governors,



the SEF and joint staff and governor work scrutiny. Detailed pupil outcomes for the key measures are available on both school websites.

Governors take an active and essential role in the recruitment of staff; they have supported the recruitment of at least good and better teachers resulting in effective leadership subjects. Equally, governors, in collaboration, with the Executive Headteacher take swift and robust measures to address any concerns with the quality of teaching

Due to the large intake of Forces Families at Derwent, governors play a critical role in ensuring the allocation and spending of Service Pupil Premium Funding.

Future and Continuous Improvement:

To achieve their objectives governors must continually evaluate their role within the life of both schools. Areas of focus for the forthcoming year are directly taken from the SDP

The Headteachers for Derwent and Southill meet other heads at cluster level as well as feeder schools. These Shefford and Stotfold Cluster meetings have focussed closely on the 3-2 tier programme and the focus for us is to prioritise the safety and security of Southill Lower School and its transition to primary status. In this we also oversee liaison with Southill Estates manager Anthony Barber-Lomax.

Review

The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring the review of this statement, and for reporting back to the Local Authority when requested.

Date of report autumn 2026

Signed Neil Parsons (Chair of Governors)