Baslow St. Anne's
C of E Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Marie Clark

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Baslow St Anne's School
Academic Year September 2025 to July 2026

The Annual Governance Statement is a report that sets out the school governance arrangements at Baslow St. Anne's and forms a key part of the self-evaluation process, informing parents and stakeholders of the effectiveness and impact of the work of the Board during 2025-26 and communicating the priorities for the new academic year.

The primary objective for the governors at Baslow St. Anne's is to support the Headteacher and the school team in creating an environment where all pupils progress to achieve their optimum potential, whilst ensuring that robust and effective safeguarding procedures are in place.

The Role of the Governing Body

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Baslow St Anne's School Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher 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.

In exercising their functions, the governing board shall:

- Act with integrity, objectivity, and honesty and in the best interests of the school; and
- Be open about the decisions and actions it takes and in particular, to be prepared to explain these to interested parties.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The internal organisation, management, control, and day-to-day running of the school
- The educational performance of the school.

The Governing Body is key to the strategic leadership and management of Baslow St. Anne's and is best described as a critical friend of the school, providing the right balance of support and effective challenge in common pursuit of ongoing school improvement.

Figure 1: The Baslow St. Anne's Primary School Governing Body Membership

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Governor	Category and appointee(s)	Term of office & expiry date
Dr Omar Ali IT and Data Protection Committee Link Governor roles: Geography, History, Art and Design, Technology	Parent Governor by parent election	7.12.2025-6.12.2029
Mrs Natalie Anwyl Chair of Governors from 11.7.2022 until 9.7.2025. Chair of PHSS Committee Link Governor roles: Safeguarding and Computing	Parent Governor by parent election (8.6.2021) until 24.3.2025 Co-opted Governor: elected by the Full Governing Body.	Resigned as Parent Governor 24.3.2025. 24.3.2025 to 23.3.2029
Mrs Marie Clark	Headteacher – ex officio	1.9.2013 and continuing
Miss Lucy Grant	Associate Member –elected by the Full Governing Body	10.6.2025-20.6.2026 and 13.7.2026-12.7.2027
Mrs Sarah Hayes	Staff Governor, by staff election	23.3.2026-22.3.2030
Mr Dominic Harrex Chair of Resources Committee Link Governor roles: Maths, Pupil Premium, Gifted and Talented	Local Authority Governor, nominated by Derbyshire County Council on 11.3.2025 and elected by Full Governing Body on 25.3.2025.	25.3.2025 to 24.3.2029
Mrs Kate Holbrook Link Governor roles: Sport and PE, EYFS, Languages	Co-opted Governor elected by the Full Governing Body. Associate Member elected by the Full Governing Body	25.3.2024 to resignation on 24.3.2025 24.3.2025 to 23.3.2026
Mrs Jane Laybourn Link Governor roles: EYFS and English	Co-opted Governor elected by the Full Governing Body.	26.9.2022 to 25.9.2026 and 26.9.2026 to 25.9.2030
Mrs Hannah McDiarmid Link Governor role (from September 2025): SEND	Parent Governor by parent election	22.5.2025 to 21.5.2029
Ms Sophie Moran	Co-opted Governor elected by	13.7.2026 to

Link Governor roles: Sports/PE, Languages, Transition, Music	the Full Governing Body	12.7.2030
Mr Tony Mottram Vice Chair of Governors (9.7.2025 to 8.7.2026) Link Governor roles: IT and GDPR, Geography and History, Art, Design and Technology, (until 31.8.2025: Health and Safety)	Co-opted Governor elected by the Full Governing Body.	11.7.2022 to 10.7.2026
Mr Tom Osborn	Staff Governor elected by the school's staff	15.3.2022 to 14.3.2026
Mr Craig Radford **Chair of Governors** from 9.7.2025 to 8.7.2027 Link Governor role: Science	Parent Governor by parent election	19.3.2024 to 18.3.2028
Mr Brian Smith Link Governor roles: SIAMs, RE and Health and Safety	Foundation Governor appointed by the Derby Diocesan Board of Education	1.9.2025 to 31.8.2029
Mrs Paula Varley Link Governor roles: Anti-bullying, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Diversity and Equality.	Parent Governor by parent election	6.12.2024 to 5.12.2028

During the year there were a number of changes to the Governing Body composition arising from terms coming to an end. Sincerest gratitude is extended to Mr Tony Mottram, Mrs Kate Holbrook and Mr Tom Osborn for their expert contributions and wholehearted dedication to fulfilling their roles as governors.

The resulting vacancies were promptly filled by Sophie Moran, Omar Ali and Sarah Hayes, who bring a broad spectrum of professional skills and experience, bolstering the board for the coming year and adding fresh perspectives, which is essential in maintaining objectivity.

A change in leadership in July 2026, saw Paula Varley voted in as the new Vice-Chair of Governors replacing Tony Mottram. The Governing Body members were pleased to reappoint Jane Laybourn for a second term as a Co-opted Governor, retaining strong governing experience within the Board and offering mentorship to new recruits.

Baslow St. Anne's is hugely fortunate to benefit from such a diversely skilled and highly dedicated membership. Reviews are undertaken each time a vacancy arises on the Board to ensure a balance of expertise and areas of interest, as listed below, which underpins effective governance and the success of the school:

- Leadership experience, for example in education, governance, or another area
- Strategic planning

- Budgetary management and financial planning
- Business management
- Personnel management
- The skills to interpret and understand data
- Special educational needs and disabilities
- Mental health and wellbeing
- IT and data protection
- Health & social care
- Legal / professional services
- Buildings & maintenance
- Health & safety
- Curriculum interests
- Community cohesion.

Sub-Committees are structured into four areas of focus, with each being chaired by a Governor. The Sub-Committees are as follows:

1) Premises, Health and Safety & Safeguarding (PHSS). Chair – Natalie Anwyl
2) Curriculum & Standard. Chair - Jane Laybourn
3) Resources Committee, Chair – Dom Harrex
4) IT & Data Protection, Chair – Tony Mottram and then Omar Ali from September 2026.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher and leadership team in formulating, implementing, and monitoring the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which sets goals for the forthcoming year. The current SIP is based on priorities identified from pupil performance data, the school self-evaluation summary and OFSTED priorities.

The SIP set outs clear aims, key tasks required to achieve these aims and the success criteria to measure outcomes. The SIP is monitored and reviewed half termly in dedicated sub-committee meetings and at full governing body meetings, with a thorough review of progress being undertaken and presented to governors within the Headteacher's report. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is available to view on the school website.

SIP targets for the school year 2025-26 were:

- SIP 1- English
    - To embed a consistent approach to the teaching of phonics across all phases using the Little Wandle resources and then monitoring this so that assessment informs timely intervention and optimum outcomes are reached.
    - To further develop children's reading fluency, comprehension skills and support a wider love of reading with opportunities for real-life speaking and listening.
    - To fully embrace our new writing and spelling scheme to provide children with new, purposeful writing opportunities to ensure children are challenged and achieving their best.

- SIP 2- Maths
    - To continue to ensure White Rose resources, a mastery-based scheme of learning and teaching toolkit, are effectively utilised to promote opportunities for children to have a robust consistent curriculum to build learning from the previous year objectives.

- Develop and maintain fluency in times table, providing both support and challenge to allow every child to be confident and challenged.
- To build and progress opportunities for children who exceed age related expectations to be challenged appropriately and purposefully.

External Inspection

Ofsted

Baslow St. Anne's was most recently inspected in November 2022 and it is expected the school will be revisited in the next academic year. The competency and effectiveness of the governing body forms part of the leadership & management judgement and therefore regular self-examination is undertaken, in addition to ensuring there is a strong evidence base in place to demonstrate this.

The outcome of the inspection was excellent; 2 'outstanding' and 3 'good' judgements. Two 'areas for improvement (AFIs)' were identified, echoing the school's own ongoing self-evaluation process. Significant progress has been made in addressing these in the intervening years, with Governors always being minded of these in setting future SIPs and asking pertinent questions in the relevant meetings.

The Headteacher and the wider Governing Body discussed Ofsted Inspection Preparation at its meeting in July 2026 and preparatory meetings have been held with Derbyshire County Council Educational Leads to inform our planning for the upcoming inspection.

SIAMS

The most recent 'Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) in 2019 assessed the school as Grade 2. Again, it is likely that the school will be reinspected in the next academic year. Our key areas for development from this inspection were:

- Involve the whole school community in regularly evaluating the impact and effectiveness of Baslow St Anne's as a Church school, to contribute meaningfully to governor's strategic planning.
- Establish a clear shared understanding of spiritual development so that pupils can be empowered to reflect and explore spiritual and ethical dimensions across the whole curriculum.
- Develop regular opportunities for pupils to engage in social action projects that they themselves have identified, to address issues of injustice and disadvantage

The Governing Body welcomed Liz Seymour, Acting Diocesan Director of Education to the Full Governing Body in March 2026 to understand and prepare for any upcoming inspection. The Headteacher continues to work with other local schools to ensure peer learning for SIAMS.

Governor visits:

Not only do the governors regularly visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SIP, school policies and procedures, and to support with specific issues, but they also play an integral role in helping design and implement extra-curricular activities. Governor visits are vital in order to understand how the school 'works' and to witness the school's vision and ethos in action. It is also an opportunity to absorb the school environment, observing behaviour and our pupils' commitment to the core values. Current examples of the impact of these visits include:

- Refreshed marketing strategy to promote the school to new reception pupils
- Supporting the Head in making challenging financial decisions and managing budgets for maximum pupil benefit.

- Regular Learning Walks and reports build a broad evidence base of governor dedication, interaction and impact, and equip governors to respond effectively during inspection.
- Learning Walks can be the catalysts for exploring new ideas, for example the introduction of the new Debating Society following an English key role governor visit.

Key Role Governor(s):

In addition to regular Governor Visits, there are specific Key Roles adopted by individual Governors. The purpose of these roles is to get a greater understanding of specific elements of school life and to facilitate closer working with subject leaders. These areas of focus are as follows:

Mathematics	RE (Religious Education)
English	PHSE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic)
Safeguarding	SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)
Anti-Bullying	Health and Safety
Pupil Premium	EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)
Science	SIAMs (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)
Enterprise	Diversity
Sports	IT & Data Protection
Languages	Gifted & Talented
History/Geography	Mental Health & Wellbeing
Art	Transition to Secondary
IT & Computing	

Each Key Role Governor carries out learning walks throughout the school year. During these visits, Governors will gain valuable insight into how the school is developing their approach and performing in these key areas. This is shared with the Governing Board via a written report of their learning walk, with visit reports also providing a valuable evidence base for external inspection. Learning walks allow for triangulation of information presented at Governing Board, allowing for an extra level of assurance.

Governing Body Meetings

The governing body has a programme of meetings throughout the school year, and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance. The Full Governing Body (FGB) meet 4 times a year and sub-committees meet as required - once every term as a minimum. Meetings are a blend of face-to-face and online to support colleague workloads and to minimise impact on the school/work day of members.

Ahead of meetings, Governors review all relevant policies on a rotational basis in accordance with the policy register. This ensures that all guidance is current and relevant. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list. The key school's policies can be found on the school website.

During 2021/22 the school adopted a new pupil performance tool – FFT Aspire Pupil Tracker, which offers enhanced capabilities to monitor individual and group progress across a range of metrics. Anonymised data is made available to governors, alongside verbal and written presentations followed by question-and-answer sessions with the Headteacher and Deputy. The tool enables specific scrutiny of pupil progress amongst vulnerable groups, including SEND, and the use of the Pupil Premium. Data can also be benchmarked against similar schools (cluster schools), the Local Authority, and schools nationally to aid analysis, identify trends and facilitate direct comparison.

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The Baslow St Anne's School Governors' Attendance record for School Year 2025-26.

A record is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Body of governors' attendance at all meetings to demonstrate that meetings are 'quorate', to ensure that decisions can be made. For Governing Bodies, the quorum is 50% (rounded up) of the Governors in post and does not include vacancies. Governor attendance has, as always, been at an exceptional level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted by the governing body. There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the governing body.

Figure 2: Baslow St. Anne's School Governors' Attendance record for 2025-26.

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Governor	FGB meetings – numbers attended during time in role	Committee meetings – numbers attended during time in role
Dr Omar Ali	3 out of 3	All IT and DP Committee meetings
Mrs Natalie Anwyl	4 out of 4	12 out of 12
Mrs Marie Clark	4 out of 4	12 out of 12
Miss Lucy Grant	4 out of 4	4 out of 4
Mr Dominic Harrex	4 accepted apologies	4 out of 4
Mrs Sarah Hayes	1 out of 1	Not yet allocated
Mrs Kate Holbrook	3 out of 3	2 out of 3, 1 accepted apology
Mrs Jane Laybourn	4 out of 4	4 out of 4
Mrs Hannah McDiarmid	4 out of 4	4 out of 4
Ms Sophie Moran	1 out of 1	Not yet allocated
Mr Tony Mottram	3 out of 3	3 out of 3
Mr Tom Osborn	1 out of 2, 1 accepted apology	2 out of 9, 7 accepted apologies (teaching clash).
Mr Craig Radford	4 out of 4	4 out of 4
Mr Brian Smith	3 out of 4, 1 accepted apology	2 out of 4, 2 accepted apologies
Mrs Paula Varley	4 out of 4	5 out of 7, 2 accepted apologies

Financial Management:

Financial probity is a core function of the governing body and members sitting on the Resources Committee have been trained in school finance management and work with the Headteacher to review all aspects of the school's income and expenditure regularly throughout the year. Responding to financial and budgetary pressures is a mainstay of this agenda, alongside the day-to-day challenge of maintaining a balanced budget against rising costs including energy, staffing and inflation. With income directly linked to pupil numbers, it is vital to continue to attract pupils up to the school's capacity, and to make astute, forward-looking spending decisions. 2025/26 has been a challenging year in terms of the financial position of the school due to lower school intakes compared to those year groups transitioning to secondary school and various national changes to the funding model. The school finished the year in a small surplus, though there remains an underlying recurrent deficit. The Governing Body have agreed various decisions to reduce the cost base of the school in-year and for future years, ensuring the appropriate balance between the financial position, supporting the school team and most importantly, the educational experience and attainment of our pupils.

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Baslow St. Anne's has a very active PTFA who have been immensely successful in raising funds to provide finance for activities which the school budget cannot resource. Renewed thanks go to all of those involved.

Staff Recruitment:

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors undertake training in "Safer Recruitment" practices. Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection of all staff and follow rigorous processes to ensure the appointment of high quality, thoroughly vetted staff who share the schools mission statement and aims.

Governor Training undertaken in School Year 2025-26:

During this academic year governors have received training in a range of subjects including:

- New Governor Training
- Governor Finance Training
- Online Safety
- SEND
- NSPCC Safeguarding Training
- PREVENT training
- KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) – All Governors fully understand this document.
- Safer Recruitment
- DCC Governor Briefings
- Diocese Governor Training
- GDPR
- Equality & Diversity
- Networking with National Leaders of Governance

Future and Continuous improvement:

The governing body and school leadership team are constantly striving for improvement with the emphasis not only on individual academic progression but also social, emotional, cultural, moral, and spiritual development.

Ongoing and future areas for targeting will include:

- Ensure continued monitoring of safeguarding within the school
- Ensure continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment across all ability groups including those working at greater depth across all subjects
- Ensure continued improvement in vulnerable groups including pupil premium and SEND
- Ensure continued monitoring of staff and pupil well-being within the school
- Monitoring and supporting progress against Ofsted AFIs and agreed SIPs.
- Embed a culture of continuous improvement, constantly seeking ways to positively impact the school.
- An ongoing commitment to engaging with stakeholders, particularly parents, via a variety of different methods in order to ensure we take on board all views to inform effective strategic decision making.
- Ensuring that learning walks are fully recorded, with observations linked to monitoring progress against strategic priorities and key policies, to provide an even more secure basis for evaluation.
- Review of the governing body key role areas to ensure skills and experience are effectively targeted and training needs identified.
- Instigate full and frank discussions to manage the challenges of adequate resourcing whilst maintaining a balanced budget.

How to contact your Governing Body

Information about the school's governing body is available on the governors' page of the school's website page http://www.baslow.school/governors/

Alternatively, you can write to the Chair of Governors, Mr Craig Radford, Baslow St Anne's School, School Lane, Baslow, Derbyshire DE45 1RZ or email: chair@st-annescofe.derbyshire.sch.uk or contact the school by telephone: 01246 583298.

Prepared by Craig Radford
Chair of Governors 2025/26