

Annual Governance Statement

Local Governing Committee Epping Upland C of E Primary School

Sept 2025 – July 2026

Introduction

Epping Upland C of E Primary School is an academy within the Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust (EFSPT). The EFSPT is overseen by a Board of Trustees who are accountable to the Membership Board and the Department for Education (DfE). Whilst overall accountability for the performance of the EFSPT rests with the Trustees, each academy within the Trust has its own Local Governing Committee (LGC) with delegated authority to manage their school in accordance with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference.

The LGC comprises Parent, Staff and Trust Governors. In addition, Epping Upland, being one of four Church Schools within the Trust, has Foundation Governors appointed by the Chelmsford Diocese Educational Trust (CDET).

Governance in schools is a strategic activity; LGCs act within the delegated authority of the Trust Board. The primary functions delegated to our Governors at Epping Upland are the four 'Ss': *safeguarding, SEND, standards and stakeholder engagement*. As we are a Church of England school, our Governors also maintain the Christian character of the school.

Our LGC also upholds the Trust's strategic direction by:

- carrying forward the Trust's vision, ethos, values and principles in ways that are appropriate to the school's status, pupils, staff and community
- governing the school in line with the Scheme of Delegation, Terms of Reference, Governance Planner and other guidance agreed by the Board of Trustees
- agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- meeting statutory duties

Our Governors also ensure accountability by:

- holding to account the school leadership for the academic performance of the school, the quality of provision and the quality of care of the children
- recommending the appointment of the Headteacher to the Board of Trustees
- monitoring progress towards agreed targets
- performance managing the Headteacher
- engaging with stakeholders (including parents and pupils)
- contributing to school self-evaluation

Governance arrangements and Attendance

Epping Upland's Local Governing Committee is made up of a group of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds with a range of skills and expertise. Governors are committed to improving the education of every child in our school and invest a huge amount of goodwill, hard work and time.

The current LGC of Epping Upland is made up of the following:

- 2 Parent Governors elected by the parents / carers at the school
- 2 Staff Governors, including the Headteacher
- 3 Trust Governors appointed by EFSPT based on a skills audit, wherever possible
- 2 Foundation Governors appointed by the Chelmsford Diocese Educational Trust

A term of office is 4 years.

The LGC appoints a Governance Professional who ensures that all meetings are accurately minuted and action points followed up. The Governance Professional also advises on procedural matters and plays a key and crucial role in the work of the LGC.

Attendance at meetings for each Governor is monitored and recorded. Governors are notified of meeting dates for the following year at the end of the summer term.

Governors are also expected to undertake training and development, and a record is kept of this to ensure governors are up to date and the LGC is compliant in all relevant areas.

The work of the Local Governing Committee

The LGC meets every half term to consider various aspects of the school, in particular its Christian vision and character, strategic direction and delivery of the School Development Plan (SDP).

Each Governor takes responsibility for one of the key areas of Governance: Safeguarding, Risk Management, Finance, Health & Safety, SEND, Pupil Premium, Sport Premium and Website Compliance. Governors undertake regular monitoring of their key area, which involves discussions with the Headteacher and other members of staff; this is reported back to the LGC.

Additional areas to monitor are based on priorities identified in the School Development Plan. Governors use the SDP to monitor the school's progress on a series of key objectives that contribute to the strategic direction of the school.

The Foundation Governors meet regularly with the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher/RE Subject Leader to focus on matters related to the Christian character and values of the school.

In addition, LGC Panels are convened when necessary to allow Governors to discharge their statutory duties in relation to staffing matters, complaints, exclusions, etc.

The Finance Governor meets with the Trust CFO and Headteacher to review the budget to ensure that the school's money is being well spent and that we are financially sound. The Pupil and Sports Premium Governor also checks if the school has received additional funding in line with those pupils who are entitled to it and that it has all been appropriately accounted for.

An important factor in pupil achievement is regular attendance at school. Governors monitor pupil attendance on a termly basis via the Headteacher's report and more recently via monthly data produced by the DfE.

Review of 2025 - 2026

This was a period of considerable change for the school, with a new senior leadership team put in place. Key priorities were addressed and identified, including the introduction of a new curriculum across all subjects, new display areas for pupils' work and systems within the classrooms to support pupils' wellbeing. Adaptive Teaching has been identified as a priority for ensuring excellent teaching and learning for all pupils; Governors were pleased to note that staff had been supported with training in this area.

A highlight of the year was the successful SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection, which took place in January 2026. Inspectors noted that pupils 'enjoy an inspiring and inclusive school experience.'

The school's long-standing wellbeing officer retired after many years' service. A new appointment to this important role has been made and Governors were pleased to note this important work supporting the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of all pupils and their families will continue.

Future Plans for the LGC

A new LGC has been appointed for the year 2026 – 2027, and the senior leadership arrangements put in place last year have been confirmed as continuing for this academic year. The School Development Plan has established a clear vision and plan of action for the school and Governors are confident about the direction of travel the school is taking. They look forward to supporting the senior leadership team to deliver on this plan.

During the academic year 2026 – 2027, as well as the regular monitoring of statutory areas, Governors will focus on monitoring Curriculum, EYFS and Attendance as these are priorities identified in the school's Self-Evaluation Form. We will also be working with the Headteacher and Leadership team on preparations for an Ofsted Inspection which is due to take place this year.

How to contact the Local Governing Committee

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – the Chair of Governors, Mrs Lesley Duffin, can be contacted via the school office: office@eppingupland.efspt.org

You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; and more information about who we are, on the Governors' page of the school website.

<https://www.eppingupland.efspt.org/Our-Governors/>

Further details of Trust Governance can be found within the Audited Accounts published annually on the EFSPT website: <https://www.efspt.org/Audited-Accounts/>