

## George Abbot School Local Governors' Accountability Report (2021/22)

### 1. Who we are

The structure of the George Abbot School Local Governing Body (LGB) is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation of the Learning Partners Academy Trust. We are constituted of nine Community governors (including two staff), five Parent governors and the Headteacher.

During the 2021-22 school year members were:

Name	LAC Member Type	Term of Office Ends	No. of terms of office	Committee Memberships at July 22 (C= Chair, V= Vice Chair)			Additional Responsibility
				Curriculum & Outcomes	Finance & Resources	Pay	
Rachel Murphy	Community (Staff)	18/07/2022	1	Y	Y		Sustainability
Julie Dickson	Community	01/10/2022	2	Y	Y		<b>Vice Chair of the LGB</b> ; 6th Form & Careers
Douglas Spinks	Community	07/02/2023	3	<b>C</b>			
Sue Kennie	Community	25/11/2023	1	Y	Y		Sixth Form Action Group
Hannah Clements	Parent	01/12/2023	1	Y			Safeguarding; SEN
Trevor Skerritt	Parent	01/12/2023	1	Y	<b>C</b>	Y	Pupil Premium/Disadvantaged
Nicola Mead	Community	16/12/2023	2	Y	Y	Y	<b>Chair of the LGB</b> ; Pupil Premium
Jackie Thompson	Community	30/11/2024	2	Y		Y	Wellbeing
Aimee Roussos	Community	16/03/2025	1	Y			Sixth Form Action Group
Liz Bentley-Pattison	Parent	31/03/2025	1	<b>V</b>			
Matthew Bryan	Community	31/03/2025	1	Y			
Andy Unitt	Community	31/03/2025	1		Y		
Catherine Fowler	Community (Staff)	19/10/2025	1	Y	Y		
Mick Rolton	Parent	18/01/2026	1		Y		
Kate Carriett	Headteacher	ex officio	n/a	Y	Y	Y	
Andy Robertson	Parent	31/03/2025	1				Resigned Oct 2021
Richard Hubbard*	Community	04/12/2021	3		Y		Term of office ended Dec 2021

### **What we are expected to do**

The LGB has three key responsibilities:

- To ensure the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

### **2. How we are organised**

The LGB has the following official positions:

- Chair of Governors (Chair)
- Vice Chair of Governors (Vice Chair)
- Clerk to the Governing Body (the Clerk)
- The Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by members of the LGB and confirmed by the GEP trustees.
- The Clerk to the Governing Body is appointed by the LGB.
- The Headteacher is appointed by the GEP trustees.

Two committees have delegated responsibilities to reflect the sub-committees of the Trust board. Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs are elected by the LGB.

### **3. Our main concerns**

- Continuing focus on the gap in Progress 8 outcomes between the pupils qualifying for pupil premium and those that don't
- Strengthening the outcomes and progress in English, whilst still maintaining good results across the whole curriculum in KS4 and KS5
- Increasing the profile of reading and extended writing across the curriculum
- Ensuring that the KS3 curriculum is amended effectively following Ofsted's visit
- Improving recruitment and marketing of the sixth form
- Setting a balanced budget in the context of shrinking funding and rising costs

### **4. What we have done**

#### Formal Meetings

During the 2021-22 school year, we held the following meetings:

- 4 meetings of the LGB
- 3 meetings of the Finance & Resources Committee
- 3 meetings of the Curriculum & Outcomes Committee
- 1 meeting of the Pay Committee, and 0 pay appeals
- 2 Exclusion Panel Hearing (Spring & Summer terms)
- 2 Governor Open Mornings (Autumn & Spring term)
- Annual and 6-monthly Performance Review of the Headteacher
- 3 Trust-School-Chair of Governors meetings
- 1 Governor Conference (Trust-wide) (Summer term)

#### Informal Meetings

During the 2021-22 school year, the following meetings took place:

- Nine meetings between the Chair of Governors, Vice-Chair of Governors and the Headteacher for the purpose of ensuring keeping up with the progress of school activities and any potential impacts on governance.

- Numerous meetings between the Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee and the School Business Manager (SBM) for the purpose of reviewing the current year income and expenditure and developing the 5-year strategic financial plan. Two additional finance meetings with the Headteacher, SBM and the Trust CFO.
- 4 school visits and 1 call undertaken by the Safeguarding Link Governor and the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Additionally, a virtual Safeguarding mid-year review.
- 8 meetings between Link Governors and key member of staff for the purposes of monitoring Mental Health & Wellbeing, SEN, Pupil Premium and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

Attendance (%) of committee members during 2021-22 was as follows:

Name	Local Governing Body	Curriculum & Outcomes	Finance & Resources	Pay
Kate Carriett	3/4	3/3	3/3	1/1
Nicola Mead	4/4	3/3	3/3	1/1
Julie Dickson	4/4	3/3	3/3	-
Richard Hubbard**	1/1	-	1/1	-
Douglas Spinks	3/4	3/3	-	-
Jackie Thompson	4/4	2/3	-	1/1
Sue Kennie	3/4	2/3	3/3	-
Trevor Skerritt	4/4	3/3	3/3	1/1
Hannah Clements	3/4	1/3	-	-
Rachel Murphy	3/4	3/3	2/3	-
Aimee Rousoss	3/4	2/3	-	-
Liz Bentley-Pattison	3/4	3/3	-	-
Matthew Bryan	3/4	3/3	-	-
Andy Robertson**	0/1	-	-	-
Andy Unitt	2/4	-	2/3	-
Catherine Fowler	3/3	3/3	3/3	-
Mick Rolton *	3/3	1/2	2/2	-

\* joined part-way through year

\*\* left part-way through year

## 5. What difference have we made?

This year has continued to be extremely challenging in light of the COVID pandemic continuing, therefore causing much of the normal governor face to face work to be conducted virtually. We have seen a further period of development of the partnership between governors, leadership of the school and the Trust. Additional changes have come about with the proposed merger of the Trust with another Trust. This has created extra work for governors to feed into the consultation of the proposed shaping of the merged trust and its governance model. This work is still ongoing.

Governors have:

- Held meetings to review strategy and practice for
  - Safeguarding
  - Pupil Premium

- SEND students
- Learning & Teaching
- Mental Health and wellbeing
- Pastoral support
- 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Careers
- Sustainability
- Chair and Vice chair meeting Head monthly
- Chairs of committees met with the Head termly
- Ran a new reporting system to match against four key Ofsted inspection judgements
- Reviewed outcomes and performance data at KS3, KS4 and KS5
- Agreed the 2022/23 budget and the subsequent 5-year strategic financial plan
- Reviewed the school's CPD support for staff
- Improved the risk management process
- Reviewed and ratified school policies
- Supported the school's exclusion procedure
- Met with Trustees and Chairs across the Trust
- Undertaken training to support our duties including two curriculum review mornings (focussing on English & Science) with the Senior Leadership Team and Graham Tuck to keep abreast of school initiatives
- Supported the recruitment of the new Finance Manager
- A review of the Admissions exceptional circumstances applications
- Attendance at school functions.

#### **6. How can I find out more about George Abbot Governing Body?**

There is more information about the Governors on the school website:

<http://www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/governance>

#### **7. How can I contact George Abbot Governing Body?**

For further information on governance at the school, please contact the Clerk via

email: [clerkga@gepacademies.com](mailto:clerkga@gepacademies.com)

If you wish to contact the Chair of Governors, please contact the school office on 01483 888000 or email: [office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk) in the first instance for them to redirect your query.