

## George Abbot School Local Governors' Accountability Report (2023/24)

### 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 14 Community governors (five of which also have a child/children at the school), three Parent governors, 2 Staff governors and the Headteacher.

During the 2023-24 school year members were:

|                                   | Appointed this year |             | Resigned this year |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|                                   | First Appointed     | Term Start  | Term End           |
| <b>Community governors</b>        |                     |             |                    |
| Graham Bown                       | 28 Feb 2024         | 28 Feb 2024 | 27 Feb 2028        |
| Matthew Bryan                     | 01 Apr 2021         | 01 Apr 2021 | 31 Mar 2025        |
| Hannah Clements                   | 02 Dec 2019         | 02 Dec 2023 | 01 Dec 2027        |
| Liz Coombs                        | 24 May 2023         | 24 May 2023 | 23 May 2027        |
| Julie Dickson                     | 28 Nov 2014         | 02 Oct 2022 | 01 Oct 2026        |
| Renée France                      | 28 Feb 2024         | 28 Feb 2024 | 27 Feb 2028        |
| Sue Kennie                        | 26 Nov 2019         | 26 Nov 2023 | 25 Nov 2027        |
| Nicola Mead                       | 16 Dec 2015         | 17 Dec 2023 | 04 Jul 2024        |
| Aimee Roussos                     | 17 Mar 2021         | 17 Mar 2021 | 05 Feb 2024        |
| Trevor Skerritt                   | 02 Dec 2019         | 02 Dec 2023 | 01 Dec 2027        |
| Priya Sridhar                     | 28 Feb 2024         | 28 Feb 2024 | 27 Feb 2028        |
| Andy Unitt                        | 01 Apr 2021         | 01 Apr 2021 | 31 Mar 2025        |
| Timothy Viney                     | 28 Feb 2024         | 28 Feb 2024 | 27 Feb 2028        |
| Mark Wyllie                       | 24 May 2023         | 24 May 2023 | 23 May 2027        |
| <b>Headteacher</b>                |                     |             |                    |
| Kate Carriett                     |                     | N/A         | N/A                |
| <b>Parent governors</b>           |                     |             |                    |
| Liz Bentley-Pattison              | 01 Apr 2021         | 01 Apr 2021 | 31 Mar 2025        |
| Mick Rolton                       | 18 Jan 2022         | 18 Jan 2022 | 17 Jan 2026        |
| Jackie Thompson                   | 30 Nov 2016         | 30 Nov 2020 | 29 Nov 2024        |
| <b>Staff (Support) Governors</b>  |                     |             |                    |
| Rachel Murphy                     | 18 Sep 2018         | 18 Jul 2022 | 17 Jul 2026        |
| <b>Staff (Teaching) Governors</b> |                     |             |                    |
| Catherine Fowler                  | 20 Oct 2021         | 20 Oct 2021 | 19 Oct 2025        |

## 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 Board of Trustees.
- The Clerk to the Governing Body is appointed by the LGB.
- The Headteacher is appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Two committees have delegated responsibilities to reflect the sub-committees of the Trust board: Curriculum & Outcome (C&O) and Finance & Resources (F&R) Committees. Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs are elected by the LGB.

## 3. Our main concerns

- Ensuring a robust attendance policy with particular reference to the new DfE policy
- 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.
- Planning for the OFSTED inspection expected in 24-25
- 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 2023-24 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 no pay appeals
- 1 Exclusion Panel Hearing (Summer term)
- 2 school reviews to triangulate school provision and practice
- Annual and 6-monthly Performance Review of the Headteacher
- 3 Trust Chairs of Governors Meetings
- 1 Governor Conference (Trust-wide) (Summer term)

### Informal Meetings

During the 2023-24 school year, the following meetings took place:

- Six 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 F&R Committee Chair and the Head of Finance for the purpose of reviewing the current year income and expenditure and developing the 3-year strategic financial plan.
- Meetings were also held between the C&O Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Headteacher to plan the C&O Committee meetings in detail.
- 3 school visits undertaken by the Safeguarding Link Governor and the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Additionally, a virtual Safeguarding mid-year review.
- 6 meetings between Link Governors and key member of staff for the purposes of monitoring Mental Health & Wellbeing, Special Education Needs (SEN), Pupil Premium, the Sixth Form, and Sustainability.
- An Admissions subcommittee was established to re-write the Admissions Policy which was subsequently approved by the LGB.
- Admissions subcommittee met on three occasions with the external lawyer to prepare the new Admissions Policy for 25-26.
- Visited lessons and listened to pupils through the student voice process.
- Supported other Trust schools with Exclusion Panel Appeal hearings.

## Attendance of committee members during 2023-24 – see appendix 1

### George Abbot School Governor Meeting Attendance

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NS = No Apologies sent, Blank = Not Required, R = Resigned, NA = Not Yet Appointed

| Governor                   | Governor Type             | LGB Meeting | Pay Committee | Curriculum & Outcomes Committee | Finance & Resources Committee | LGB Meeting | Curriculum & Outcomes Committee | Finance & Resources Committee | C&O Meeting | Finance & Resources Committee | LGB Meeting (budget setting) | LGB Meeting | Governor attendance | Governor attendance % |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|                            |                           | 18/10/2023  | 06/11/2023    | 15/11/2023                      | 06/12/2023                    | 24/01/2024  | 07/02/2024                      | 28/02/2024                    | 24/04/2024  | 08/05/2024                    | 22/05/2024                   | 03/07/2024  |                     |                       |
| Liz Bentley-Pattison       | Parent governor           | N           |               | Y                               |                               | Y           | Y                               |                               | Y           |                               | Y                            | N           | 5                   | 71%                   |
| Graham Bown                | Community governor        | N/A         | N/A           | N/A                             | N/A                           | N/A         | N/A                             |                               | Y           | Y                             | Y                            | Y           | 4                   | 100%                  |
| Matthew Bryan              | Community governor        | N           |               | Y                               |                               | Y           | N                               |                               | Y           |                               | N                            | Y           | 4                   | 57%                   |
| Kate Carriett              | Headteacher               | Y           | Y             | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                             | Y                            | Y           | 11                  | 100%                  |
| Hannah Clements            | Community governor        | Y           |               | Y                               |                               | Y           | Y                               |                               | Y           |                               | N                            | Y           | 6                   | 86%                   |
| Liz Coombs                 | Community governor        | Y           |               | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | N                               | Y                             | Y           | N                             | Y                            | Y           | 8                   | 80%                   |
| Julie Dickson              | Community governor        | Y           |               | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | N                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                             | N                            | Y           | 8                   | 80%                   |
| Catherine Fowler           | Staff (Teaching) Governor | Y           |               | Y                               |                               | N           | Y                               |                               | N           |                               | Y                            | N           | 4                   | 57%                   |
| Renée France               | Community governor        | N/A         | N/A           | N/A                             | N/A                           | N/A         | N/A                             |                               | Y           | N                             | Y                            | N           | 2                   | 50%                   |
| Lauren Huse                | Clerk                     | Y           | Y             | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                             | Y                            | Y           | 11                  | 100%                  |
| Mrs Sue Kennie             | Community governor        | Y           |               | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | N                               | Y                             | Y           | N                             | Y                            | N           | 7                   | 70%                   |
| Nicola Mead                | Community governor        | Y           |               | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                               | Y                             | N           | Y                             | N                            | Y           | 8                   | 80%                   |
| Rachel Murphy              | Staff (Support) Governor  | N           |               | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                             | Y                            | Y           | 9                   | 90%                   |
| Mick Rolton                | Parent governor           | Y           |               | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                               | N                             | Y           | Y                             | Y                            | N           | 8                   | 80%                   |
| Mrs Aimee Roussos          | Community governor        | Y           |               | N                               |                               | N           | R                               | R                             | R           | R                             | R                            | R           | 1                   | 33%                   |
| Trevor Skerritt            | Community governor        | Y           | Y             | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                               | Y                             | Y           | Y                             | Y                            | Y           | 11                  | 100%                  |
| Priya Sridhar              | Community governor        | N/A         | N/A           | N/A                             | N/A                           | N/A         | N/A                             |                               |             | N                             | Y                            | NS          | 1                   | 33%                   |
| Jackie Thompson            | Parent governor           | Y           | Y             | Y                               |                               | Y           | Y                               |                               | Y           |                               | Y                            | Y           | 8                   | 100%                  |
| Andy Unitt                 | Community governor        | Y           | Y             |                                 | Y                             | Y           |                                 | Y                             |             | Y                             | Y                            | Y           | 8                   | 100%                  |
| Timothy Viney              | Community governor        | N/A         | N/A           | N/A                             | N/A                           | N/A         | N/A                             | Y                             | Y           | Y                             | Y                            | Y           | 5                   | 100%                  |
| Mark Wyllie                | Community governor        | Y           |               |                                 | N                             | Y           |                                 | N                             |             | NS                            | Y                            | N           | 3                   | 43%                   |
| Total Meeting Attendance   |                           | 14          | 5             | 14                              | 10                            | 15          | 10                              | 10                            | 15          | 10                            | 16                           | 13          |                     |                       |
| Total Meeting Attendance % |                           | 82%         | 100%          | 93%                             | 91%                           | 88%         | 71%                             | 83%                           | 88%         | 67%                           | 80%                          | 65%         |                     |                       |

### 5. What difference have we made?

Now being part of a larger multi-academy trust (Learning Partners), the governors have actively supported the enlarged Trust attending numerous meetings and training events. At a school level, the large number of meetings detailed below reflects the high level of engagement the governors have had with all parts of the school. It also reflects the welcome the governors have had from both teaching and support staff.

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
- School Quality Assurance reviews
- Chair and Vice chair meeting the Headteacher each half term
- Chairs of committees met with the Headteacher termly
- Reviewed outcomes and performance data at KS3, KS4 and KS5
- Agreed the 2024/25 budget and the subsequent 3-year strategic financial plan
- Reviewed the school's staff well-being strategy
- Improved the risk management process
- Reviewed and ratified school policies
- Supported the school's exclusion procedure
- Met with Trustees and Chairs across the Trust
- Attended two Open Mornings, to keep abreast of the school's initiatives, covering:
  - School culture with particular reference to strategy and the school development plan
  - A focus on English and Science with Heads of Department and the Senior Leadership Team
  - Triangulation of school provision and practice
- Re-wrote the Admissions Policy, liaising extensively with the school's lawyers, and organised the required consultation with parents and interested bodies
- Attended numerous 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@learningpartners.org](mailto:clerkga@learningpartners.org)

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.