

George Abbot School Local Governors' Accountability Report (2024/25)

1. Who we are

The 2024-25 structure of the George Abbot School Local Governing Body (LGB) was in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation of the Learning Partners Academy Trust. We were constituted of 14 Community governors (six of which also have a child/children at the school), 1 Parent governor, 2 Staff governors and the Headteacher.

During the 2024-25 school year members were:

	Appointed 2024/25		Resigned 2024/25
	First Appointed	Term Start	Term End
Community governors			
Liz Bentley-Pattison	01 Apr 2021	01 Apr 2025	31 Mar 2029
Graham Bown	28 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2024	27 Feb 2028
Matthew Bryan	01 Apr 2021	01 Apr 2025	31 Mar 2029
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	22 Jul 2025
Renée France	28 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2024	27 Feb 2028
Sue Kennie	26 Nov 2019	26 Nov 2023	31 Dec 2024
Trevor Skerritt	02 Dec 2019	02 Dec 2023	01 Dec 2027
Priya Sridhar	28 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2024	02 Jul 2025
Jackie Thompson	30 Nov 2016	29/01/2025	29 Jan 2029
Andy Unitt	01 Apr 2021	01 Apr 2025	31 Mar 2029
Timothy Viney	28 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2024	27 Feb 2028
Mark Wyllie	24 May 2023	24 May 2023	22 Jul 2025
Headteacher			
Kate Carriett		N/A	N/A
Parent governors			
Mick Rolton	18 Jan 2022	18 Jan 2022	17 Jan 2026
Staff (Support) Governors			
Rachel Murphy	18 Sep 2018	18 Jul 2022	17 Jul 2026
Staff (Teaching) Governors			
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.

Four committees have delegated responsibilities to reflect the sub-committees of the Trust board: Curriculum & Outcome (C&O), Finance & Resources (F&R) Committees, Pay, and Admissions. Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs for C&O and F&R are elected by the LGB. Committee Chairs for Pay & Admissions are decided by the committees at each meeting.

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. (Inspection took place in February 2025.)
- 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 2024-25 school year, we held the following meetings:

- 3 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
- 2 Exclusion Panel Hearings (Autum & Spring terms)
- 1 Complaint Review Meeting (Summer term)
- 4 governors attended a 1-hour meeting with the Ofsted Inspector during the inspection.
- 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 2024-25 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.
- Numerous planning meetings for Ofsted preparation.
- 3 visits undertaken by the Safeguarding Link Governor and/or Vice-Chair of Governors alongside the Designated Safeguarding Lead (one of which included the Trust). Additionally, a Safeguarding Forum was held in the Autumn term attended by a group of governors and the school's Safeguarding Team.
- 4 informal meetings between the Vice-Chair of Governors, the Headteacher and parents/ students to support behaviour policy with the aim of preventing permanent exclusion.
- 6 meetings between Link Governors and key members of staff for the purposes of monitoring Mental Health & Wellbeing, Special Education Needs (SEN), Pupil Premium, the Sixth Form, and Sustainability.
- 3 in-person Admissions Committee meetings with the outgoing and the incoming Admissions Officer.
- Several online meetings between the Admissions Committee to discuss specific exceptional circumstances applications.
- Significant time spent by the Admissions Committee reviewing the Admissions Policy and discussing the rationale behind keeping / removing the 'exceptional circumstances' criteria, leading to a proposal (approved by the LGB) to amend the policy for the 2027/28 academic year (subject to external consultation.)
- A student voice session with high achieving students.
- Visited lessons and listened to pupils through the student voice process.
- One governor supported the Trust on a complaints panel hearing.

Attendance of members during 2024-25

George Abbot School Governor Meeting Attendance

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NS = No Apologies sent, CA = Confirmed Absence, R= Resigned, Blank = Not Required		LGB Meeting	Pay Committee	Curriculum Outcomes Committee	Finance & Resources Committee	LGB Meeting	Curriculum & Outcomes Committee	Finance & Resources Committee	Curriculum & Outcomes Committee	Finance & Resources Committee	LGB Meeting	Governor attendance	Governor attendance %
Governor	Governor Type	16 Oct 2024	25 Oct 2024	20 Nov 2024	04 Dec 2024	29 Jan 2025	12 Feb 2025	05 Mar 2025	30 Apr 2025	14 May 2025	02 Jul 2025		
Liz Bentley-Pattison	Community governor	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y		Y	6	100%
Graham Bown	Community governor	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	89%
Matthew Bryan	Community governor	N		N		N	Y		Y		N	2	33%
Kate Carriett	Headteacher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10	100%
Hannah Clements	Community governor	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y		CA	5	83%
Liz Coombs	Community governor	N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7	78%
Julie Dickson	Community governor	Y		Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	6	67%
Catherine Fowler	Staff (Teaching) Governor	Y		Y		N	Y		N		Y	4	67%
Renée France	Community governor	Y		Y		Y	N	Y	Y		Y	6	86%
Lauren Huse	Clerk	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10	100%
Mrs Sue Kennie	Community governor	Y		Y	Y	R	R	R	R	R	R	3	100%
Rachel Murphy	Staff (Support) Governor	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	7	78%
Mick Rolton	Parent governor	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	NS	NS	NS	5	56%
Trevor Skerritt	Community governor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10	100%
Dr Priyashri Sridhar	Community governor	Y		N		Y	N		Y		N	3	50%
Jackie Thompson	Community governor	N	Y	CA		Y	Y		N		Y	4	57%
Andy Unitt	Community governor	Y	Y		Y	N		Y		Y	Y	6	86%
Timothy Viney	Community governor	Y		N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7	78%
Mark Wyllie	Community governor	N			N	N		NS		NS	N	0	0%
Total Meeting Attendance		15	5	12	10	9	14	10	12	9	13		
Total Meeting Attendance %		79%	100%	71%	83%	50%	88%	91%	75%	82%	72%		

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.

It had been anticipated that the school would have an Ofsted inspection during 24-25 and this actually occurred during February 25. The inspection was classified as a Section 8 inspection which, in summary, is ungraded and confirms that a school has maintained its Good or Outstanding grade.

Together with the Chair of Trustees, a group of governors met with the Ofsted inspector and explained the governance arrangements and the school development plan. There were also specific questions regarding our disadvantaged students.

After the inspection, the lead inspector provided a summary of their findings. The full report has been published ([George Abbot School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)) and the school has retained its Good rating. The school was subsequently informed that another inspection would take place within 18-24 months to determine whether or not the grade should be increased to Outstanding.

NB: With the change in Ofsted inspection criteria in Nov 25, a Report Card format will now be used and the Good/Outstanding grades no longer exist.

Governors have:

- Held meetings to review strategy and practice for:
 - Safeguarding
 - Pupil Premium
 - SEND students
 - Learning & Teaching
 - Mental Health and wellbeing
 - Pastoral support
 - 6th Form and Careers
 - Sustainability
 - School Quality Assurance reviews
- Numerous meetings to plan for Ofsted inspection
- 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 2025/26 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.
- Supported the Trust's complaints procedure.
- Supported the school's admissions procedure.
- Met with Trustees and Chairs across the Trust.
- Attended two Open Mornings, to keep abreast of the school's initiatives.
- 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

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