George Abbot School
Local Governors' Accountability Report (2025-26)

1. Who we are

The 2025-26 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 10 Community governors (six of which also have a child/children at the school), 1, increasing to 2 Parent governors, 2 Staff governors and the Headteacher.

During the 2025-26 school year members were:

	Appointed in 26/26		Resigned / Term Expired
	First Appointed	**Term Start**	**Term End**
Community governors			
Liz Bentley-Pattison	01 Apr 2021	01 Apr 2025	10 May 2026
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
Renée France	28 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2024	27 Feb 2028
Trevor Skerritt	02 Dec 2019	02 Dec 2023	01 Dec 2027
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
Headteacher			
Kate Carriett		N/A	N/A
Parent governors			
Mick Rolton	18 Jan 2022	18 Jan 2022	17 Jan 2026
Margaret Dunn	13 Mar 2026	13 Mar 2026	12 Mar 2030
Philip Harris	13 Mar 2026	13 Mar 2026	12 Mar 2030
Staff (Support) Governor			
Rachel Murphy	18 Sep 2018	18 Jul 2026	17 Jul 2030
Staff (Teaching) Governor			
Catherine Fowler	20 Oct 2021	20 Oct 2021	19 Oct 2025
Tom Ratcliffe	20 Oct 2025	20 Oct 2025	3 July 2026

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.
- 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
<u>Formal Meetings</u>
During the 2025-26 school year, we held the following meetings:

- 3 meetings of the LGB
- 3 meetings of the Finance & Resources Committee (all governors welcome to attend)
- 3 meetings of the Curriculum & Outcomes Committee (all governors welcome to attend)
- 1 meeting of the Pay Committee, and no pay appeals
- 3 meetings of the Admissions Committee
- 3 Exclusion Panel Hearings (Autumn, Spring & Summer terms)
- 1 Stage 2 Parent Complaint Review Meeting (Spring term)
- Annual and 6-monthly Performance Review of the Headteacher
- 3 Trust Chairs of Governors Meetings
- (Note: A Governor Conference (Trust-wide) was scheduled for the summer term but postponed due to extreme heat.

Informal Meetings

During the 2025-26 school year, the following meetings took place:

- Numerous 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.
- The Chair of Governors met with the Director of Education and Headteacher to review the school improvement plan.
- The Chair of Governors and Headteacher participated in a SAfE workshop sharing experiences of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors working well together.
- Chair of Governors attended an Ofsted briefing on the new inspection framework.
- The Chair of Governors and Clerk had interviews with a National Governors Association consultant who is undertaking a survey of governors for the Trust.
- 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.
- 2 Open Mornings attended by multiple governors, one of which was a joint Open Morning with the governors from Boxgrove Primary School.
- 3 visits undertaken by the Safeguarding Link Governor and/or Vice-Chair of Governors alongside the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- 1 informal meetings between the Vice-Chair of Governors, the Headteacher and parents/ students to support behaviour policy with the aim of preventing permanent exclusion.
- 8 meetings between Link Governors and key members of staff for the purposes of monitoring Mental Health & Wellbeing, Special Education Needs (SEN), Sixth Form, Careers, Health & Safety, and AI.
- Regular discussions between the Chair of Governors and the Assistant Headteacher in relation to Pupil Premium.
- Several online meetings between the Admissions Committee to discuss specific exceptional circumstances applications for the 2026-27 intake.
- Significant time spent by the Admissions Committee reviewing the Admissions Policy and preparing for public consultation to remove the ‘exceptional circumstances’ criteria, from the policy for the 2027-28 academic year. Subsequently, significant time on the review of the Terms of Reference.
- The Chair of Governors delivered two training sessions to the Sixth Form on Finance.
- Visited lessons and listened to pupils through the student voice process.
- The Chair of Governors twice presented certificates to High Achieving Students.

Attendance of members during 2025-26

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**	15 Oct 2025	04 Nov 2025	19 Nov 2025	03 Dec 2025	04 Feb 2026	11 Feb 2026	04 Mar 2026	22 Apr 2026	20 May 2026	01 Jul 2026		
Liz Bentley-Pattison	Community Governor	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y			5	100%
Graham Bown	Community Governor	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	89%
Matthew Bryan	Community Governor	Y		N		N	Y		Y		N	3	50%
Kate Carriett	Headteacher	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9	90%
Hannah Clements	Community Governor	Y		Y		N	Y		Y		N	4	67%
Liz Coombs	Community Governor	N		N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5	56%
Margaret Dunn	Parent Governor								Y	N	Y	2	67%
Catherine Fowler	Staff (Teaching) Governor	Y										1	100%
Renée France	Community Governor	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y		Y	6	100%
Philip Harris	Parent Governor								Y	Y	N	2	67%
Lauren Huse	Clerk	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	8	80%
Rachel Murphy	Staff (Support) Governor	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	7	78%
Mick Rolton	Parent Governor	Y		Y	N	Y						3	75%
Tom Ratcliffe	Staff (Teaching) Governor	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	7	88%
Trevor Skerritt	Community Governor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10	100%
Jackie Thompson	Community Governor	N	Y	Y		N	Y		Y		Y	5	71%
Andy Unitt	Community Governor	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y		Y	N	6	86%
Timothy Viney	Community Governor	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	7	78%
	Total Meeting Attendance	13	5	10	8	12	11	8	12	9	10		
	Total Meeting Attendance %	87%	100%	71%	80%	80%	85%	89%	80%	82%	67%		

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
  - 6th Form and Careers
  - Sustainability

- AI
- 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 2026/27 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, including a public consultation.
- 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.