

Byron Wood Primary Academy Local Governance Committee Annual Impact Statement 2024-2025

Role of the Local Governance Committee at Byron Wood

Local Committee Members are skilled volunteers appointed for their experience and insight, with delegated responsibilities for overseeing individual schools. While not legally accountable for the school, committee members focus on school improvement, supporting and challenging the Principal and leadership team to ensure an excellent education for all pupils.

Committee members typically include parents, staff, and members of the local community — and this is the case at Byron Wood. Their contributions are vital in informing the Astrea Trustees of the school's local context and performance. The committee also offers the Principal access to diverse professional perspectives outside the education sector.

Accountabilities of the Local Governance Committee (LGC) at Byron Wood:

We act on behalf of the Astrea Board of Trustees and have five main accountabilities:

1. To ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of Astrea is maintained at Byron Wood.
2. To hold school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school, the inclusion of all pupils and the offer of a knowledge-rich and broadly-based curriculum.
3. To work with Byron Wood's leadership and central team to ensure that high standards of safeguarding are maintained.
4. To promote positive parent, community and stakeholder engagement and to drive school-toschool partnerships for improvement within the Trust.
5. To identify, understand and report to Trustees any strategic risks facing the school.

Governance Activities this Year

- The LGC met formally on six occasions during 2024–2025.
- Governors conducted nine school visits focused on priority areas: SEND, Safeguarding, Reading, and Pupil Premium.
- The school received a highly successful Ofsted inspection in January 2025, during which Governors were interviewed about their impact and oversight.

1. To ensure the vision, ethos and strategic direction of Astrea is maintained at Byron Wood

At every meeting, the Principal provides a detailed report covering pupil performance, behaviour, attendance, staffing, premises, risks, and policy implementation. Governors consistently challenge and question the data to ensure the school remains focused on academic attainment for all pupils.

We've also reviewed the Academy Improvement Plan and Self-Evaluation, alongside presentations from leaders on topics such as Safeguarding, Reading for Pleasure, Early Years, and Academic Outcomes. These insights help Governors ensure that the school's work aligns with Astrea's strategic vision.

The Chair of Governors also attends termly Trust sessions for committee Chairs, sharing updates and ensuring alignment with Trust-wide direction.

2. To hold school leaders to account for educational performance of the schools, the inclusion of all pupils and the offer of a knowledge-rich and broadly-based curriculum.

Every meeting has included updates or presentations related to curriculum, teaching quality, and pupil outcomes. The Principal's report includes comprehensive performance data, including outcomes for key groups (SEND, disadvantaged pupils) and milestones such as:

- End of Reception results
- Year 1 Phonics Screening
- KS2 Combined Reading, Writing, and Maths

Governors provide rigorous challenge on progress toward academic targets, especially where improvement is needed. A consistent theme has been ensuring that pupils leave Byron Wood secondary-ready.

Each Governor holds a link role (e.g. safeguarding, SEND), conducts school visits, and reports back. Attendance remains a key area of focus; Governors have supported school efforts to improve this and are encouraged by recent progress.

3. To work with the Byron Wood's leadership and central team to ensure that high standards of safeguarding are maintained.

All Governors complete statutory safeguarding training annually, including the latest DfE guidance (*Keeping Children Safe in Education*). Safeguarding is discussed at every meeting, with Governors scrutinising the data and challenging any emerging trends or anomalies.

The Trust conducts regular safeguarding audits, and the committee reviews the findings and monitors follow-up actions. Mr Hopkins, the safeguarding link Governor, has conducted focused visits and reviewed safeguarding processes. The annual safeguarding audit has been signed off by the committee.

4. To promote positive parent, community and stakeholder engagement and to drive school-to-school partnerships for improvement within the Trust.

We welcomed two new members this year: Mrs Atawi (Parent Governor) and Mr Odendal, both of whom bring fresh insight and valuable expertise. Our committee benefits from a broad range of skills across education, safeguarding, finance, and IT.

We encourage expressions of interest from prospective Governors. Please contact the Principal to learn more about this rewarding role.

5. To identify, understand and report to Trustees any strategic risks facing the school. A section in every Principal report relates to strategic risks facing the school.

The Principal's report includes a section on strategic risks. This year, these have included:

- Staffing pressures and long-term absence
- Pupil mobility
- Costs associated with community-use renovation of the caretaker's house

We're delighted that the caretaker's house is now ready for community use — a result of the school's determined effort and a positive addition to community support.

Governors continue to highlight the link between attendance and academic progress, and we are seeing early signs of improvement in this area, which we will monitor closely into the next year.

Final Reflections

The staff at Byron Wood demonstrate high levels of commitment to both the academic success and pastoral care of their pupils. Their efforts have led to clear progress, especially in phonics, the multiplication check in Y4 and in attendance. The Local Governance Committee remains dedicated to supporting and challenging leaders to ensure every pupil thrives.

This statement aims to reflect the meaningful role the LGC has played this year in helping Byron Wood deliver high-quality education.

If you're interested in joining our enthusiastic committee, please look at the school's Autumn Term communications about how to get involved.



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