

Hartley Brook Primary Academy Local Governance Committee

Annual Impact Statement 2024-2025

Role of the Local Governance Committee at Hartley Brook Primary

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 Hartley Brook. 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 Hartley Brook:

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 Hartley Brook.
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 Hartley Brook'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-to-school 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 five occasions during 2024–2025.

Astrea Academy Trust The Quadrant, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WG
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1. To ensure the vision, ethos and strategic direction of Astrea is maintained at Hartley Brook

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, Behaviour and Special Educational Needs. 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 Hartley Brook secondary school ready.

Each Governor holds a link role (e.g. safeguarding, SEND), conducts school visits, and reports back. Governor visits this year have been well attended by Governors.

3. To work with Hartley Brook'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. As the safeguarding link Governor, I have 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.

The recruitment and retention of parent governors has presented challenges, despite the proactive efforts of the governing body and the school.

Despite this, the committee supports the school's work in engaging parents, for example by reviewing communications, asking questions about parent feedback mechanisms, and encouraging strong relationships between home and school.

We welcome feedback from parents and carers and remain committed to strengthening community connections so that every child has the best chance to thrive at Hartley Brook.

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:

- Pupil numbers & impact on budget
- How to cover certain key roles in school if long term sickness was an issue

Governors have discussed the planning the school has in place if either of these risks became an issue in the school and Trustees have sight of these in order to have oversight of possible risks across all schools in the Trust.

Final Reflections

The staff at Hartley Brook demonstrate high levels of commitment to both the academic success and pastoral care of their pupils. Their efforts have led to sustained progress in academic outcomes this year. 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 Hartley Brook 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.

Richard Webb

Chair of Hartley Brook LGC

July 2025