

George Abbot School Local Governors' Accountability Report (2022/23)

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 nine Community governors, five Parent governors, 2 Staff governors and the Headteacher.

During the 2022-23 school year members were:

	First Appointed	Term Start	Term End
Community governors			
Matthew Bryan	01 Apr 2021	01 Apr 2021	31 Mar 2025
Liz Coombs	24 May 2023	24 May 2023	23 May 2027
Julie Dickson	28 Nov 2014	02 Oct 2022	01 Oct 2026
Sue Kennie	26 Nov 2019	26 Nov 2023	25 Nov 2027
Nicola Mead	16 Dec 2015	17 Dec 2023	16 Dec 2027
Aimee Roussos	17 Mar 2021	17 Mar 2021	16 Mar 2025
Douglas Spinks	29 Nov 2012	08 Feb 2019	07 Feb 2023
Andy Unitt	01 Apr 2021	01 Apr 2021	31 Mar 2025
Mark Wyllie	24 May 2023	24 May 2023	23 May 2027
Headteachers			
Kate Carriett			
Parent governors			
Liz Bentley-Pattison	01 Apr 2021	01 Apr 2021	31 Mar 2025
Hannah Clements	02 Dec 2019	02 Dec 2019	01 Dec 2023
Mick Rolton	18 Jan 2022	18 Jan 2022	17 Jan 2026
Trevor Skerritt	02 Dec 2019	02 Dec 2019	01 Dec 2023
Jackie Thompson	30 Nov 2016	30 Nov 2020	29 Nov 2024
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.

Two committees have delegated responsibilities to reflect the sub-committees of the Trust board. Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs are elected by the LGB.

3. Our main concerns

- 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.
- Ensuring that the KS3 curriculum is amended effectively following Ofsted's visit.
- 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 2022-23 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 (Autumn term)
- 2 Governor Open Mornings (Autumn & Spring terms)
- Annual and 6-monthly Performance Review of the Headteacher
- 1 Trust-School-Chair of Governors meeting
- 1 Governor Conference (Trust-wide) (Summer term)

Informal Meetings

During the 2022-23 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 Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee, Vice-Chair of Governors and the Head of Finance for the purpose of reviewing the current year income and expenditure and developing the 5-year strategic financial plan.
- 3 school visits undertaken by the Safeguarding Link Governor and the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Additionally, a virtual Safeguarding mid-year review.
- 7 meetings between Link Governors and key member of staff for the purposes of monitoring Mental Health & Wellbeing, SEN, Pupil Premium and the 6th Form.

Attendance (%) of committee members during 2022-23 – see appendix 1

5. What difference have we made?

Our former Trust (Guildford Education Partnership) has now merged with Athena Schools Trust and formed Learning Partners Academy Trust. This has resulted in a number of changes of personnel and responsibility and the governors have supported the enlarged Trust. 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
- 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 2023/24 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
- Undertaken training to support our duties including two curriculum review mornings (focussing on English & Maths) with the Senior Leadership Team and Graham Tuck to keep abreast of school initiatives.
- A review of the Admissions exceptional circumstances applications
- Attendance at 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.

George Abbot School

Attendance

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NA = Apologies not Accepted, NS = No Apologies sent, ? = Attendance Not Marked, Blank = Not Required, CA = Consent for absence, - = Not applicable

Governor	Governor Type	19 Oct 2022	07 Nov 2022	16 Nov 2022	30 Nov 2022	25 Jan 2023	08 Feb 2023	01 Mar 2023	26 Apr 2023	10 May 2023	24 May 2023	05 Jul 2023	Governor attendance	Governor attendance %
		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 & Budget Overview	LGB Meeting		
Liz Bentley-Pattison	Parent governor	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		Y		Y	Y	7	88%
Matthew Bryan	Community governor	Y		Y		N	Y		Y		N	Y	5	71%
Kate Carriett	Headteacher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11	100%
Hannah Clements	Parent governor	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	7	100%
Liz Coombs	Community governor										Y	Y	2	100%
Julie Dickson	Community governor	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10	100%
Catherine Fowler	Staff (Teaching) Governor	Y		Y		Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	7	100%
Lauren Huse	Clerk	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11	100%
Mrs Sue Kennie	Community governor	N		Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	6	60%
Nicola Mead	Community governor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11	100%
Rachel Murphy	Staff (Support) Governor	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NS	Y	8	80%
Mick Rolton	Parent governor	Y			Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	100%
Mrs Aimee Roussos	Community governor	Y		Y		Y	Y		N		N	N	4	57%
Trevor Skerritt	Parent governor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11	100%
DOUGLAS SPINKS		Y		Y	Y	Y							4	100%
Jackie Thompson	Parent governor	Y	Y	Y		Y	N		Y		Y	Y	7	88%
Andy Unitt	Community governor	Y			Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	7	100%
Mark Wyllie	Community governor										N	Y	1	50%
Total meeting attendance		15	5	14	10	14	10	9	13	9	13	15		
Total meeting attendance %		94%	100%	100%	91%	88%	77%	100%	93%	100%	76%	88%		