

Drayton Park Primary School

Annual Governance Statement for the Academic Year 2024–2025

Introduction

This statement outlines the key activities, strategic focus, and governance impact of the Governing Board of Drayton Park Primary School for the academic year 2024–2025. The board has supported the school through a period of considerable transformation, ensuring continuity, high standards, and alignment with the school's long-term vision.

Major Challenge: Defederation from Montem School

A defining challenge this year was the defederation from Montem School, which took effect in July 2024. This transition required significant adaptation, including:

- Leadership and staffing changes to establish an autonomous structure.
- A reconstitution of the Governing Board, to ensure appropriate oversight and capacity for the stand-alone school.
- The development of a distinct, school-specific strategic vision, culture and set of priorities.

The Governing Board played a key role in managing this change, maintaining educational standards, and providing strong leadership throughout a period of considerable organisational and cultural shift.

Strengthening Governance: Key Actions in 2024–2025

In response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the school's new status, the board undertook a wide programme of governance development:

1. Leadership and Recruitment

- Recruited a new Chair of Governors, Stuart McWilliams, to lead the newly reformed board and bring external leadership expertise.
- Appointed three new co-opted governors who had no prior connection to the school as well as five governors who are current parents of children at the school and a new staff governor.
- Successfully onboarded 9 first-time governors, ensuring they were supported to understand their roles and responsibilities.

2. Governance Structure and Oversight

- Established a formal Finance & Resources Committee for focused oversight of finances, staffing and premises.
- Reformulated link governor roles to align with the school's new strategic objectives.

3. External Expertise and Review

- Sought and implemented external advice on the structure and operation of the Governing Board.

Governing Board Composition

As of the end of 2024–25, the board included*:

- Parent Governors: Edward Hogg, Alex Barwise (Vice Chair)
- Staff Governor: Sarah De Silva
- Co-opted Governors: Stuart McWilliams (Chair), Sophie McNeill (Vice Chair), Karim Id Boufker, Iqbal Ali, Jessica Napier, Ben Caird, Geir Freysson, Helen Lysenko, Lizzie Granger, Katie Sperring

*Sujeet Wadke was a co-opted governor for 2024/5 but resigned 14/7/25 (although he has kindly agreed to become an Associate Member of the Finance and Resources Committee)

Attendance and business interests are published [here](#) on the school website.

Educational Outcomes and Vision

Despite the organisational changes, the school continued to perform strongly with Key Stage 2 results of: Reading 85%, Writing 85%, Maths 88%, Combined 85%. These results are above both national and Islington Borough averages.

These strong results reflect the school's ambitious, inclusive vision, which prioritises wellbeing, equity, and high academic expectations. The board has supported senior leaders to embed this vision across the school.

The achievements of the school were reflected in an extremely positive Ofsted inspection in June 2025. Inspectors found clear evidence that the school had significantly improved since its last inspection in all areas. An ambitious curriculum, excellent behaviour, high standards of teaching practice and a strong governing board with link roles reflecting the school's strategic priorities were all highlighted as strengths for the school. We encourage you to read the full report on the school website [here](#).

Safeguarding and Compliance

The Governing Board ensures that all statutory safeguarding duties are met. A designated safeguarding governor provides scrutiny of practice, and annual reviews and staff training

are monitored rigorously. Business interests and attendance at board meetings are published for transparency.

Looking Ahead

2024–25 has been a foundational year. The board is proud of the work undertaken to establish strong, fit-for-purpose governance for a newly independent school. Looking forward, the board will continue to focus on:

- Embedding strategic priorities into school development planning
- Deepening community engagement and inclusion
- Strengthening leadership capacity across the school
- Ensuring long-term financial sustainability

Conclusion

The Governing Board is grateful to the leadership team, staff, parents and pupils for their resilience, commitment and collaboration during this pivotal year. We remain dedicated to ensuring that Drayton Park Primary School continues to be a thriving, safe and ambitious environment for every child.

For more information or to contact the board, visit: www.draytonpark.islington.sch.uk.