



WonderStar

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Wonder Star School Governance Policy

Policy Document Title	Governance Policy
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Aims and Objectives

At Wonder Star School, our aims and objectives are:

- Outcomes, support and safeguarding for all pupils
- Achievement, accreditation and personal development for all pupils
- Deployment of staff and resources, including SEN funding

The Proprietor/Head Teacher and Governors work together to ensure that they create a culture that enables pupils and staff to excel. They are committed to ensuring high standards for the achievement and conduct of pupils and ensuring that outcomes are continually improving for all pupils.

Targets

Targets are set and reviewed annually. The key indicators include a focus on the following areas:

- Admissions to the school and growth of the school
- Attendance of pupils
- Academic success, quality of teaching and learning and accreditation
- School ethos, including high expectations for pupil progress and success across a range of curriculum areas
- Appraisal for staff, including incisive targets and professional development for staff to encourage and support teachers' improvement
- Policy and Procedures - safeguarding, single central record and the safety of pupils, teaching and learning and schemes of work, behaviour, rewards & sanctions, curriculum and accreditation
- Statutory compliance – ISS Regulations, health and safety and risk assessments.

To meet these targets the proprietor meets regularly and has discussions with the Head Teacher, school staff and pupils. Minutes from Senior Leadership Meetings detail progress towards these targets.

Effective Governance

The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

Governors have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation.

Effective governance is based on six key features:

- Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy
- Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance
- People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity
- Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements
- Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

Governance Structure

Wonder Star School is governed by the Proprietor, supported by a governing body that provides strategic oversight, support and challenge in relation to safeguarding, curriculum, wellbeing, compliance and school development.

Governors do not undertake the operational management of the school. The day-to-day running of the school remains the responsibility of the Head Teacher and Proprietor.

The governing body is in the process of being formally established, with the first full governance meeting scheduled for June 2026. Appropriate suitability, safeguarding and governance checks are being completed for all governors in line with statutory guidance and the Independent School Standards.

Current Governors

- **Dan Capper** – Chair & Finance Governor
- **Linda Cartlidge** – Pastoral & Mental Health Governor
- **Shirleean Southall-Martin** – Safeguarding & Therapeutic Provision Governor
- **Dan Cowsil** – Health, Safety & Compliance Governor
- **Sam Slingsby** – Curriculum & Education Governor

Policies that must be approved by Governors

Some policies and documents must be approved by the Proprietor. The approval of these policies cannot be delegated to a member of school staff.

The policies and documents that must be approved by the Proprietor at Wonder Star School are:

- The special educational needs (SEN) policy and information report
- The full governing board meeting minutes
- The child protection policy and documents
- The supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

In addition, it is recommended that the proprietor approves:

- Procedures for addressing staff discipline, conduct and grievance
- Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements

The [guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE) on statutory policies and other documents that schools are required to have in place is useful for Governors.

Inspection

Governors have an important role to play in the inspection process, not least because of their overarching responsibility for regulatory compliance. Inspectors are familiar with the many and varied forms of governance that operate in independent schools: there is no preferred or expected model www.isi.net/schools/governors-and-proprietors.

What is expected is that those with governance responsibility can demonstrate how they support the outcomes for pupils which are the focus of inspection: achievement and personal development. Inspectors can gather evidence from a variety of documentary sources, but an interview with the proprietor is an invaluable part of the process.

The [Governance Handbook](#) published by the Department for Education has further information.

The [National Governance Association](#) offers advice, support and guidance for Governors.