

Annual Governance Statement

2025-2026

School Name	Edmund de Moundeford VC Primary School
School Postal Address	The Beck, Feltwell, Thetford, Norfolk, IP26 4DB
Telephone number	01842 828334
Contact email address	office@edmprimary.co.uk
Website	https://www.edmunddemoundeford.co.uk/

The governing board must be only contacted via the school details given above, which is the legal business address for the whole governing board.

Category of school	Voluntary Controlled
DfE number	926/3030
Ofsted grading and date of last inspection	Good, November 2022

Name of Headteacher	Julie Lillycrop
Name of Deputy Headteacher	Michelle Ablitt

Date of Annual Governance Statement	July 2026
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The core functions of the governing board

As defined by the [Department for Education \(DfE\) in Governance handbook for maintained schools, academies and multi academy trusts, October 2020](#), the core functions of all governing boards, no matter what type of school or how many schools they govern, have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

In exercising their functions, the governing board shall

- Act with integrity, objectivity, and honesty and in the best interests of the school; and
- Be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take and in particular shall be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties.

Our governing board has a Code of Conduct which is reviewed and agreed annually. All governors and associate members are obliged to abide by this code.

Legal constitution of the governing board

The governing board was formally constituted on

13th March 2024

Category of Governor	Appointed or elected to the governing board?
3 x Parent Governors	Elected on to the governing board by parents of pupils at the school
1 x Headteacher	Governor by virtue of employment by the school
1 x Staff Governor	Elected on to the governing board by all staff employed by the school
1 x Local Authority Governor	Nominated by the Local Authority (Hillingdon Council), and appointed by the governing board
2 x Foundation Governors	Appointed by the Edmund de Moundeford Trust
3 x Co-opted Governors	Appointed by the governing board
Total number of governors = 11	

Who volunteers on the school's governing board?

Category of Governor	Full Name	Term of Office
Parent	Stuart D'Costa	29/04/25 - 28/04/29
Parent	Sarah Leamon	05/09/25 – 04/09/29
Parent	Sarah O'Donnell *	18/03/25 – 17/03/29
Headteacher	Julie Lillycrop	Ex Officio
Staff	Michelle Ablitt	01/09/25 – 31/08/29
Local Authority	Jeremy Harrison-Porter	25/10/22 – 24/10/26
Foundation	Kate Pizzey	10/06/25 – 09/06/29
Foundation	Lisa Strutt	10/06/25 – 09/06/25
Co-opted	Stuart Samuels	27/04/25 – 26/04/29
Co-opted	Dawn Harvey	29/04/25 – 28/04/29
Co-opted	Linda Amas	29/04/25 - 28/04/29

Sarah O'Donnell resigned from the Governing Body on the 22/5/26. We thank her for her service and appreciate her dedication to the role of Governor.

The Clerk to Governors is	Julie Mayer
The Chair of Governors is	Stuart Samuels
The Vice Chair of Governors is	Kate Pizzey

How the governing board delegates and distributes its duties

The governing body disbanded the following committees on 6/2/2020 following changes to OFSTED requirements that all governors should be aware of all aspects of the school. Since this point, the governing body has held six full governing body meetings per academic year during which all aspects of our strategic duty have been covered.

Committee 1 Resources	Committee 2 QDC
Met three times a year and oversaw school finances, pay and resources.	Met three times a year to review the quality of the curriculum, policies and assessment data.

Specific panels of the governing board are convened as required for

- School Complaints
- Staff Grievance and Discipline
- Pupil Discipline

The governing board delegates some specific functions to some governors covering specific areas of school life. These governors are known as Link Governors. Our school has the following link governors.

Area of responsibility	Named Governor
Safeguarding	Kate Pizzey
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	Jeremy Harrison-Porter
Sustainability	Linda Amas
Asset Register	Stuart Samuels
Finance	Stuart Samuels
HTPM	Stuart Samuels, Jeremy Harrison-Porter
Pupil Premium	Stuart D'Costa
Online Safety	Kate Pizzey
Safer Recruitment	Kate Pizzey
Website	Sarah O'Donnell, Sarah Leamon

Governing board and committee meeting attendance

Governor name	Governing Board Meeting Dates and Attendance					
	Autumn Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Summer Term
Stuart D'Costa						
Sarah Leamon						
Sarah O'Donnell						
Julie Lillycrop						
Michelle Ablitt						
Jeremy Harrison-Porter						
Kate Pizzey						
Lisa Strutt						
Stuart Samuels						
Dawn Harvey						
Linda Amas						

Governor name	Governing Board Meeting Dates and Attendance					
	Autumn Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Summer Term
KEY	Attended	Apologies given and accepted	Absent without consent	Resigned		

Governing board effectiveness and impact

What were the significant challenges for the governing board in 2025/26?

- Staff absence including the Headteacher being absent from work since the beginning of the second half of the autumn term.
- Ongoing financial uncertainty.
- Wellbeing concerns for staff following survey in the autumn term and instability caused by staff absence.
- Falling pupil numbers due to a decreasing birth rate.
- The age and disrepair of the school building.

How were the challenges met?

- Governors, staff, the wider school community and the local authority worked together incredibly hard to face the many and varied challenges brought about by the significant staff absences.
- The governing body and staff have worked hard, alongside the local authority finance officer, to maintain a balanced budget. Financial decisions have been made carefully with clear consideration of the future of the school.
- The Chair and Vice Chair have held fortnightly meetings with the Deputy Head throughout the Head's absence. We have operated an 'open door policy' for staff to help build trust and to give governors a more complete view of the day-to-day operations and challenges of the school from the point of view of the staff. We feel it is vital that staff are listened to and feel valued by our governing body.
- The school moved from six classes down to five classes in September 2025.
- The governing board has continued to buy into Norfolk County Council's Building Maintenance Partnership (BMP) to help to keep the school building fit for purpose. The school canteen has seen the beginning of significant refurbishment this year and we have begun a programme of redecoration of the interior of the school. The Edmund de Moundeford Trust have continued to offer financial support to the school, particularly with the upkeep of the swimming pool, for which we are very grateful.

What were the achievements of the governing board for 2025/26?

- Having a full governing body for the first time in many years.
- Working with staff and parent representatives to develop a new set of school values and a behaviour policy which supports these values.
- Building stronger links between the school and the community it serves.
- Governors have been more involved in school life, not just through official monitoring visits but also through attendance on school trips, at assemblies and performances and events.
- Maintaining a 'steady ship' during the Headteacher's extended period of absence.

How have these achievements improved areas of school life (impact)?

- The governing board is more representative of the community it serves, with a wider range of skills and experiences amongst the board.
- The school has developed a more positive ethos and culture.
- The school is establishing a stronger position within the local community and becoming more outward-looking. It has given the pupils a sense of belonging to the wider community, rather than just the community within the physical boundary of the school.
- A closer sense of trust and collaboration has been fostered between governors and staff.

Find out more about our school ...

- Link to Ofsted report <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report>
- Link to school's website <https://www.edmunddemoundeford.co.uk/>
- Link to school's Pupil Premium statement on the school's website <https://www.edmunddemoundeford.co.uk/page/?title=Pupil+Premium&pid=33>
- Link to school's PE and Sport Premium information on the school's website <https://www.edmunddemoundeford.co.uk/page/?title=Sports+Premium&pid=35>
- Link to Parent View Portal, which seeks parents' opinions on aspects of our school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Governing Board Register of Interests (2025-26)

Full Name	Category of Governor	Declarations of Members' Interests: Business, Educational and Personal
Stuart D'Costa	Parent	• None
Sarah Leamon	Parent	
Sarah O'Donnell	Parent	• None
Julie Lillycrop	Headteacher	• None
Michelle Ablitt	Staff	• None
Jeremy Harrison-Porter	Local Authority	• None
Kate Pizzey	Foundation	• None
Lisa Strutt	Foundation	• None
Stuart Samuels	Co-opted	• None
Dawn Harvey	Co-opted	• None
Linda Amas	Co-opted	

Each governor has declared their interests as given above in writing to the governing board.

Chair of Governor's signature

Date

Planned review date
