Governors' Annual Report

2025-2026

Mr Simon Topper

Interim Chair of Governors

July 2026

Governors' Annual Report to Parents
2025-2026

Introduction

This report had been prepared to provide details of the core functions completed by the LGB during the 2025-26 academic year under several key headings.

Composition of the Local Governing Board ("LGB")

For the 2025-2026 academic year, the LGB of Redhill Primary Academy comprised of the following members: -

- Dara Carroll (Chair) – until May 2026
- Simon Topper (Chair) – from June 2026
- Phillip Nicholls
- Duncan Marshall
- Danielle Dobson
- Shannon Rogers
- Gemma Himsworth

The LGB continues to undertake processes of self-evaluation to highlight development needs and to assist with governor recruitment. The LGB is cognisant of the requirement to have an appropriate range of skills amongst governors, principally to enable the LGB to meet its core functions and to effectively support the Headteacher to address the Academy's priorities. The experience and skills of the LGB has continued to be satisfactory this year, notwithstanding that Mr Carroll ceased being interim Chair of Governors in May 2026. I would like to take this opportunity to record our grateful thanks to Mr Carroll for his commitment and support to the Academy during his tenure. At this point, I should also advise that arrangements are being made to recruit new governors to replace fellow governors for the start of the new academic year including a new Chair of Governors and the need to replace four existing Governors who have reached the end of their term of service.

Core Function report

1. Vision and strategic direction of the Academy

During the year, the LGB has: -

- Continued to work with the Headteacher to further support the Academy's transition to TTMAT's systems and controls and to promote further collaboration with other affiliated schools.

- Reviewed the Academy's vision, aims and values, as clearly published via the Academy website.

- Undertaken, as far as practicable, monitoring and evaluation assessments of areas specifically relating to the Raising Attainment Plan and ensured that improvement plans have continued to be focussed on those areas identified for improvement.

- Reviewed data and reports from monitoring sessions within the Academy to identify strengths and weaknesses and to ensure these were documented in the Academy Improvement Plan.

- Agreed, reviewed, and monitored performance targets for the Headteacher, ensuring that these were appropriate and relevant to the Academy Improvement Plan.

- Considered, reviewed, and updated key policies to ensure these remain appropriate in accordance with statutory guidance, including those relating to Safeguarding & SEND, Health & Safety, Behaviour and Pay & Performance Management Policy.

- Sought out and acted upon the views of pupils and parents through direct discussion and through questionnaires. The collated results of the parental questionnaires have been analysed.

- Attended relevant training courses to improve their skills in order to support the whole academy community and ensure that we continue to be effective in our role.

2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the performance of the Academy:

During the year, the LGB has: -

- Reviewed the Inspection Summary Report, and internal assessments to determine the areas of strength and weakness and actively challenged the Headteacher to ensure robust systems are in place to address areas of weakness.

- Actively questioned the Headteacher regarding progress towards the Academy Improvement Plan to ensure that resources have continued to be directed effectively to areas of need.

- Monitored teaching and learning within the Academy, where possible, to ensure that the quality of teaching remained good with many outstanding features.

- Undertaken interim monitoring visits to monitor progress towards priority areas, which includes scrutinising of pupils' books to gain an understanding of pupil data and tracking methods, pupil progress and attainment. Other monitoring visits have also been carried in the areas safeguarding and health and safety.

- Carried out comprehensive audits of the safeguarding provision and safeguarding records, such as the Single Central Register.

- Continued to specifically consider the progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

- Reviewed reports provided regarding the Curriculum provision, Pupil Premium provision, Schools Sport Funding, teaching standards, Behaviour and Safety, Progress and Attainment, to gain a clear and broad understanding of the context of the work and help to shape strategic questions and decisions.

3. Financial management:

During the year, the LGB has: -

- Worked in collaboration with the TTMAT finance team to set a budget which clearly demonstrated that expenditure plans were appropriate in line with the Academy's priorities.

- Ensured that resources for intervention support have been maintained and continued to have a positive impact.

- Ensured that all expenditure had followed 'best value' principles.

- Ensured that strategic expenditure plans have been formulated to appropriately allocate other grant income to have a positive impact on pupil outcomes.

- Reviewed the termly risk management reports to identify potential problems before they occur so that risk-handling activities may be planned to mitigate adverse impacts on achieving the Academy's objectives.

4. Statutory responsibilities:

During the year, the LGB has: -

- Completed an audit for the Academy website to ensure that it remained current and compliant with statutory regulations, including, but not limited to, the publication of key policies and governance information, the allocation of funding, safeguarding procedures and the provision for SEND pupils.

- Continued to have a Designated Governor for Safeguarding to ensure that all safeguarding responsibilities continued to be met through comprehensive auditing of the provision.

- Updated the Academy Safeguarding policy to include the requirements of new statutory guidance and other topical issues.

- Maintained a robust schedule for monitoring compliance of the LGB's statutory duties in respect of policies.

- Ensured that there has been a named Governor with responsibility for Health & Safety and to overview Health and Safety audit reports.

- Maintained a schedule of business interests in respect of Governors and reviewed the termly schedule prepared to record interests declared by the Academy's senior leadership team.

Plans for 2026-2027

Redhill Primary Academy continues to be successful and a popular choice of local school. The LGB, the Headteacher and all staff continue to be committed to driving improvements in pupils' progress and attainment.

To ensure that the Academy continues to provide a safe and well-maintained learning and teaching environment, work will be undertaken in preparation for the new year to ensure that the building maintenance and fabric is in good order. The LGB will monitor how this work progresses. In terms of more significant projects, the LGB supported the funding and acquisition of new desktop computers to enhance teaching and learning across the school. The investment was carefully considered by the LGB in light of its potential to strengthen digital literacy, improve access to online learning resources, and support the effective delivery of the curriculum. Members recognised the importance of providing pupils and staff with reliable technology to facilitate high-quality learning experiences, develop essential computing skills, and ensure that classrooms are equipped to meet the demands of modern education. The LGB also considered the long-term benefits of this investment in supporting pupil engagement, curriculum innovation and improved educational outcomes.

The LGB will continue to undertake routine monitoring activities during **2026-2027**, as broadly set out in this report, and it will continue to provide support to the Headteacher to ensure that pupils are provided with an appropriate learning environment and every opportunity to reach their best possible potential. The LGB will also review progress towards the Academy's improvement targets and monitor the operation of the new nursery provision.

The Local Governing Board has continued to provide effective oversight and strategic governance across both Redhill Primary Academy and Thomas Telford Primary Free School. Since extending its responsibilities to include both schools, the Board has successfully supported strong leadership, ensured robust accountability, and maintained a clear focus on educational standards, safeguarding, finance and pupil outcomes.

Through regular monitoring, challenge and support, governors have developed a comprehensive understanding of each school's strengths, priorities and areas for development. The shared governance structure has fostered greater collaboration between the schools, enabling the

exchange of best practice, consistency in strategic decision-making and a collective commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

The Board has worked closely with the Executive Headteacher and senior leaders to ensure that both schools continue to thrive, providing effective challenge where appropriate and celebrating successes. Governors are confident that the arrangements have operated successfully, strengthening leadership capacity and supporting continued school improvement across both settings.

To discuss any aspect of this report, or to find out about future opportunities to join the Local Governing Board, please contact the Chair of Governors via the Academy.

Simon Topper

Chair of Governors

July 2026