ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26

Governing Body of Hitherfield Primary School and Streatham and Norwood Better Start Areas

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Hitherfield Primary School Governing Body are:

- 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;
- Overseeing financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

1. Vision and Values

'Our vision is to create a school community where everyone feels valued, has the opportunity to explore and develop their strengths and is able to participate in new experiences. We aim to become an inspirational school to produce good citizens for the future in an atmosphere that promotes confidence, high academic achievement, physical health and emotional well-being.'

2. Governance Arrangements

In 2025/26 there were 15 full members of the Governing Body and 3 Associate Members:

- Staff Governor (Headteacher) 1
- Appointed by the Local Authority 1
- Parent Governors (elected) 4
- Staff Governor (elected) 1
- Co-opted by the Governing Body 8
- Associate Members (appointed by the Governing Body) 3

The Full Governing Body meets four times a year, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. The Resources Committee and Learning and Personal Development (LAPD) Committee each meet six times a year. We convene special committees if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The Chair of Governors and the Executive Headteacher serve on Resources and LAPD Committees as *ex officio* members. All other Governors serve on one Committee.

- The Resources Committee covers finance, personnel and premises matters, and deals with data protection and the Better Start Areas. (Hitherfield's Better Start Area Manager is also an Associate Member of this Committee). It sets the school's annual budget and monitors implementation with reports from the Executive Headteacher and the School Business Manager.
- The Learning and Personal Development Committee has spent time considering

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development of the curriculum. Governors discuss key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about "vulnerable groups" of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes.

- Safeguarding is the responsibility of the Full Governing Body and is discussed within each of the Committees.

3. Governor Attendance

A record of Governors' attendance at meetings is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Body (see Annex 1). To be quorate, allowing formal decisions to be made, there needs to be at least 50% of Governors in attendance at the Full Governing Body meetings and at least three Governors (who are members of the Committee) in attendance at Committee meetings. To date, all meetings have been quorate.

4. Finances

Finance was the overriding strategic concern during 2025/26, as it had been in the previous two years. Falling school rolls in Lambeth and other London boroughs is the main driver of financial pressure.

The Executive Head Teacher and School Business Manager met frequently with members of the Resources Committee to present detailed projections and actions. The school finished the fiscal year 2025/26 with a deficit of £66k on income of £7,542k. The forward look continues to be challenging. Expenditure reductions, mainly affecting staffing, have continued throughout the year.

Governors continued to focus on the following strategic areas:

1. Securing the Financial Stability of the School
2. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
3. Governors Roles and Responsibilities / Succession
4. Nursery and Better Start Areas
5. School Structure, Links and Partnerships (including pupil rolls)

On 6 June 2026 Governors convened for a Strategic Session (Half Day) looking at options under Area 5 above, i.e. school structures, links and partnerships in the context of falling pupil rolls. Hitherfield continues to be a popular three form entry school and fills its reception places. Vacancies arising in 2025/26 in Year 3 onwards due to mobility (where outflows
from London were not balanced by inflows) have prompted a change to the class structure from 6 classes to 5 classes across Years 4 and 5 from September 2026.

5. Assessing Hitherfield's Performance

Governors use many information sources to understand how well the school is serving its children, drawing on OFSTED, examination/assessment results, presentations about the curriculum from subject leads, and school visits.

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Standard Assessment Tests (SATS) at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 give an indication of how well the teaching and learning is functioning against external benchmarks. Annex 2 gives a summary of results showing good attainment among Hitherfield pupils, with outcomes exceeding the national average in 2026 and marking an improvement against 2025.

The school's policies and procedures were regularly reviewed and updated during the year particularly to ensure ongoing compliance with national and local guidance and legislation. The school's key and statutory policies can be found on the school website at https://www.hitherfield.co.uk/our-school/policies.

Approved Minutes of meetings can be obtained by contacting the Clerk to the Governing Body via the school office at admin@hitherfield.co.uk.

6. The Hitherfield Community

Governors are grateful for the important contribution of the PTA. This group of committed volunteers organise the main school events including the Summer Fair, the Christmas Fair, Eid Party, cake sales, second-hand uniform sales and other food events. The PTA also raises large sums of money for the school to help purchase reading books across the school, handwriting books, new playground equipment and other school resources.

Governors also welcome the provision of Breakfast and After School Clubs and other extracurricular Clubs that are so popular and provide a vital service to many parents.

7. How to Contact your Governing Body

Information about the Governing Body is available at https://www.hitherfield.co.uk/our-school/governors. Our Clerk to the Governing Body, Ms Katy Byrne, or the Chair of Governors, Dr Tessa Crilly, can be contacted via the school office or by e-mail via admin@hitherfield.co.uk or you can write to them via our postal address.

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Annex 1. Hitherfield Primary School & Children's Centre - Governor meeting Attendance Record 2025/26

Governor	Category	Full Governing Board	Resources Committee	Learning & Personal Development	Pay	Chairs' Sub Group
Emily Andrews	Co-Opted	4/5	NA	6/6	NA	1/2
Chris Ashley-Jones	Staff (Executive Headteacher)	5/5	5/5	6/6	1/1	2/2
Michael Ball	Co-Opted	4/5	NA	3/6	NA	NA
Tessa Crilly	Co-Opted	5/5	5/5	4/6	1/1	2/2
Phyllis Dunipace	Co-Opted	4/5	4/5	NA	1/1	2/2
Michael Elliott	Co-Opted	3/5	4/5	NA	NA	NA
Simon Hooberman	Local Authority	5/5	5/5	NA	NA	NA
Anna Hutchinson	Parent	4/5	NA	5/6	NA	NA
Graham Lee	Associate	4/5	5/5	NA	NA	NA
Robin Milton	Parent	4/5	4/5	NA	NA	NA
Keela Moore	Parent	2/2	NA	0/1	NA	NA
Luke Parker	Associate	4/4	5/5	5/6	NA	NA
Nathan Parkes	Staff	4/4	NA	6/6	NA	NA
Julia Patrick	Co-Opted	5/5	NA	6/6	NA	NA
Mike Short	Co-opted	5/5	5/5	NA	1/1	2/2
Unta Taiwo	Parent	2/2	NA	0/2	NA	NA
Arlette Wells	Associate	1/1	4/5	NA	NA	NA
Cara Williams	Parent	5/5	NA	3/5	NA	NA
Nici Yarlett	Co-Opted	5/5	3/5	NA	NA	NA

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Annex 2. Summary of Results 2026

EYFS:
At the end of Reception Hitherfield assesses the pupils and identify who has reached 'A Good Level of Development'. This information is not shared with the DfE, as they only require the Baseline assessment. Therefore there is no national figure available.

Children attaining 'A Good Level of Development'	2026 - 75%	2025 - 80%	2024 - 73%	2023 - 72%
National	2026 - 72% (Lambeth 73%)	2025 - 68% (Lambeth 70%)	2024 - 67% (Lambeth 68%)	2023 - 67%

Year 1 Phonics:
Children are tested on their phonics knowledge at the end of Year 1.

% attaining a 'pass'	2026 - 85%	2025 - 85%	2024 - 92%	2023 - 74%
National	2026 - 82% (Lambeth 81%)	2025 - 80% (Lambeth 80%)	2024 - 80% (Lambeth 79%)	2023 - 79%

Governors receive an analysis of why every child did not attain the 'pass' mark.

Year 2:
Hitherfield reports an updated phonics pass rate at the end of Year 2 and the teacher assessment outcomes for Reading, Writing and Maths and the combined percentages.

Phonics - % attaining a 'pass'	2026 - 93%	2025 - 95%	2024 - 94%	2023 - 96%

Of the 12 children who had not passed the phonics test in Year 1 in 2025 (2 were not at Hitherfield) 6 passed this year.

Year 6:
Hitherfield reports the test outcomes for Reading, GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Maths and the teacher assessment for writing, along with the combined R,W,M percentages. The figures include the children with EHCPs who did not sit the tests, several of which are going to specialist secondary schools.

2026 Hitherfield All Children

2025 Year 6 (including all counted pupils)	**Reading**	**Writing**	**Maths**	**Combined**	**GPS**
Greater Depth	41%	19%	34%	18%	25%
Expected +	79%	79%	78%	71%	69%
Working Towards Standard	10%	10%	11%		20%

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Below Key Stage	11%	11%	11%		11%

There were 6 children with EHCPs in this cohort, none of which took the tests but are included in the figures above, equivalent of 7% of the cohort.

National 2026

National	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined	GPS
Greater Depth	31% (Lambeth 37%)	13% (Lambeth 17%)	27% (Lambeth 33%)	9% (Lambeth 12%)	%
Expected +	75% (Lambeth 79%)	73% (Lambeth 75%)	75% (Lambeth 78%)	63% (Lambeth 67%)	74%

Historic:

2025 Hitherfield All Children

2025 Year 6 (including all counted pupils)	**Reading**	**Writing**	**Maths**	**Combined**	**GPS**
Greater Depth	33%	27%	31%	14%	20%
Expected +	75%	72%	70%	57%*	69%
Working Towards Standard	20%	19%	25%		26%
Below Key Stage	5%	9%	5%		5%

*6 children arrived at Hitherfield in their last three years of primary school and did not achieve the combined RWM, but are not removed from the data. This is the equivalent of 5% of the RWM combined percentage.

Hitherfield 2024

2024 Year 6 (including all counted pupils)	**Reading**	**Writing**	**Maths**	**Combined**	**GPS**
Greater Depth	52%	25%	30%	16%	25%
Expected +	90%	78%	77%	72%	76%
Working Towards Standard	5%	16%	18%		19%
Below Key Stage	6%	6%	6%		6%

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