



Annual Summary of Actions & Achievements for the Local Governing Board of Christ's College

2024-25

A Message from the Governing Board!

This year has been one of real momentum at Christ's College — a school where every child is known, supported, and encouraged to grow in both character and confidence.

In October 2023, the school received a strong 'Good' judgement from Ofsted, recognising the quality of leadership, the personal development of pupils, and the warm, purposeful atmosphere that defines the College. Since then, the school has continued to go from strength to strength — with growing pupil numbers, exciting new facilities, wraparound provision and plans to further support local families through a whole-school Thrive approach, funded by a successful SHINE bid.

This report outlines the work and impact of the Local Governing Board (LGB) during the 2024–25 academic year. As a team of dedicated volunteers, we are proud to support Christ's College as it serves a diverse, vibrant community. Working closely with the Principal and senior leaders, we help shape the school's direction — offering both challenge and support, and ensuring decisions are rooted in the values of the Emmanuel Schools Foundation (ESF).

Over the course of the year, governors have engaged with all aspects of school life — from safeguarding, SEND, and wellbeing, to curriculum, enrichment, and strategic planning. Our focus has remained firmly on creating the very best experience and outcomes for every pupil, while supporting staff and strengthening community partnerships.

Whether you are a current parent, a prospective family, or a member of our wider community, we hope this summary gives you a true sense of the care, ambition, and character that make Christ's College such a special place.

Further information about governance within the Foundation can be found here: [Governance - Emmanuel Schools Foundation](#)

Meet the governing board

Governor Name:	Role/Responsibility:
Lucy Pearson	Governor - Chair – Monitoring: Safeguarding, Child Protection and Looked After Children. Appointed Chair on 11 July 2024.
Nat Ogborn	Governor - Vice Chair - Monitoring: Careers Education & Guidance and Quality of Education & Curriculum (Secondary).
Susan Dimmock	Governor - Monitoring: Quality of Education & Curriculum (Primary), EYFS and SEND (Primary).
Gavin Rushton	Governor - Monitoring: Ethos & British Values, RSE & PHSE and Behaviour & Attitudes, including Personal Development.
Anneline Dowell	Governor - Monitoring: Stakeholder & Community Engagement, Staff Development and People & Wellbeing.
Eve Hedley	Governor – Monitoring: SEND (Secondary) and Attendance

Regular Attendees

Julie Normanton	Principal
Andrew Beattie	Head of Primary
Dr Mark Pike	ESF CEO & Trustee
Mr Darren Warburton	ESF Finance Director
Miss Christine Taylor	ESF Company Secretary and Data Protection Officer
Ms Kelsey L Stoddart	Governance Professional

Key Achievements and Actions

Leadership and Strategy

- Governors have worked closely with the Principal and senior team to support the school's long-term development, including reviewing key priorities through regular meetings and a dedicated Strategy Day.





- A refreshed leadership structure was approved, helping to strengthen support for staff and students across both primary and secondary.
- Governors endorsed plans for major capital projects, including the refurbishment of the dining and kitchen spaces and the exploration of a partnership approach to an on-site nursery, to meet the needs of growing pupil numbers.

Early Years and Reception Recruitment

- Governors have placed a strong focus on increasing Reception admissions, recognising the importance of early years in shaping children's long-term success.
- The Governing Board is supporting the school's exploration of a partnership approach with an existing high-quality nursery provider, to create a smooth and trusted pathway into Reception for next year.
- Governors visited the Early Years setting and discussed how the team is managing a challenging group of pupils with care, patience and well-planned support. They also followed up on funding and resource needs, and how best to promote the school to local families.

Curriculum and Quality of Education

- Governors carried out focused visits to review curriculum developments across all year groups — including how reading, writing and spelling are being taught and how progress is being tracked.
- The board supported a programme of staff training and professional development, asking questions about how it links to workload and career progression.
- Governors reviewed pupil progress data at key stages — such as Year 2, 6 and Year 11 — and asked for clarity on the impact of extra support and what the school is doing to help every child reach their potential.

Support for Additional Needs (SEND)

- The Governing Board monitored the school's work with pupils who have special educational needs or disabilities and supported the development of a new SEND and Thrive Hub, due to open in 2025.
- Governors met with the SENCo, and Primary SEND Lead to discuss support plans, family communication, and staff training.
- They endorsed the school's decision to commission an external review of SEND provision, showing a continued commitment to inclusion and improvement.

Attendance, Behaviour and Wellbeing

- Governors reviewed attendance data and met with school leaders to discuss the school's approach to encouraging good attendance across all year groups.
- The board welcomed the school's improved attendance figures and supported creative approaches to help reduce absence, including increased communication with families and "unmissable" moments in the school calendar.
- Behaviour was also a key focus. Governors monitored the introduction of the Trust-wide behaviour policy and asked questions about how the school is supporting pupils to succeed in class and stay engaged in their learning.
- Governors met with staff and students, from primary and secondary phases, to ensure that their lived experience matched with leader's ambitions. This reinforced the view that the school is a calm and settled place of learning, where all feel safe and free to learn.
- Regular safeguarding updates were reviewed, and governors welcomed the positive safeguarding culture highlighted in a recent Trust review.

Character, Community and Culture

- The Governing Board supported the school's work to build character, confidence and resilience in every pupil — including its successful bid for the "Character Mark Plus" award.
- Governors praised the introduction of new student leadership roles, Listening Weeks, and open community events, including SEND coffee mornings, parent forums, VE Day celebrations, and more.
- A governor with responsibility for community engagement visited the school to discuss local partnerships and encouraged the school to widen engagement with organisations beyond the church network.





- Governors were pleased to note the formation of the Pennywell Fellowship Hub, working with the 4 other schools in the locality to broaden links and ultimately life chances for young people in this community

Enrichment, Trips and Careers

- Governors were pleased to see a 36% increase in student participation in clubs, trips and enrichment activities this year.
- They reviewed participation by different groups of students and supported the school's efforts to make every opportunity accessible, especially for disadvantaged and SEND pupils.
- Highlights included a visit to Berlin, sports success, curriculum-linked visits for primary pupils, residential experiences for year 5 and year 6, the launch of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme for year 9 and preparations for the upcoming student expedition to Peru.
- The board also reviewed the school's careers education, which is now meeting nearly all Gatsby benchmarks. Governors supported further development of employer links, guidance for pupils with additional needs, and better tracking of individual aspirations.

Effective Governance in Action

- Governors have remained actively involved in school life — not only attending meetings, but spending time in classrooms, corridors and conversations with staff and pupils.
- Link visits took place across the year, giving governors the chance to observe lessons, explore the learning environment, and discuss key areas such as curriculum development, Early Years, behaviour and attendance.
- Governors met with staff to hear how professional development and wellbeing are being supported and explored how training and leadership opportunities are helping staff grow and stay.
- We listened to pupil and parent voice through events, feedback and visits — and encouraged the school to strengthen links with local nurseries, families and community groups.
- Our annual Strategy Day gave us valuable time with staff and students to reflect on the school's journey so far and shape priorities for the future.

Looking Ahead! – Future Governance at Christ's College

As we look to the year ahead, governors remain proud to be part of Christ's College — a school that is growing in strength, spirit, and confidence.

Our focus will continue to be on listening well, asking thoughtful questions, and supporting leaders to make decisions that keep pupils at the heart of everything. We'll be looking closely at how the school embeds recent improvements, how the potential new nursery, Thrive project and SEND provision take shape, and how every child — whatever their starting point — is known, supported, and able to thrive and flourish.

We're also excited to keep championing staff development, community voice, and pupil opportunities — from classroom learning to character, clubs and beyond.

Christ's College is a school with strong values and a bright future. As governors, we're here to help protect that vision, challenge where needed, and celebrate every success along the way.

