



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

2025-26

A Message from the Governing Board

This report celebrates the work and impact of Christ's College Local Governing Board (LGB) during the 2025–26 academic year. Governors are volunteers who work alongside school leaders to support the College, ask thoughtful questions, and help ensure decisions are made in the best interests of pupils, staff, families and the wider community.

It has been a positive and purposeful year for Christ's College. Pupil numbers have continued to grow, provision for pupils with additional needs has been strengthened, opportunities beyond the classroom have widened, and further investment has improved the school site and facilities.

Across the year, the LGB has celebrated the school's successes while continuing to provide constructive challenge in the areas that matter most: safeguarding, SEND and inclusion, attendance, behaviour, curriculum, pupil progress, personal development, careers, staff wellbeing, finance, health and safety, and longer-term sustainability.

Governors remain proud to support a school rooted in Christian ethos, character, community and ambition, where pupils are known, supported and encouraged to flourish.

Further information about governance within Emmanuel Schools Foundation (ESF) is available at: [Governance - Emmanuel Schools Foundation](#).

Meet the governing board

Governor Name:	Role/Responsibility:
Lucy Pearson	Chair - Monitoring: Safeguarding, Child Protection and Looked After Children; interim Health & Safety; Leadership & Management.
Nat Ogborn	Vice Chair - Monitoring: Careers Education & Guidance and Quality of Education & Curriculum (Secondary).
Susan Dimmock	Monitoring: Quality of Education & Curriculum (Primary), EYFS and SEND (Primary).
Anneline Dowell	Monitoring: Stakeholder & Community Engagement, Staff Development and People & Wellbeing.
Eve Hedley	Monitoring: SEND (Secondary) and Attendance.
Rachael Mackay	Governor appointed through the year.
John D'Silva	Governor appointed through the year.

Regular Attendees

Julie Normanton	Principal
Andrew Beattie	Head of Primary
Darren Warburton	ESF Finance Director
Kelsey Stoddart	Governance Professional

Key Achievements and Actions

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding remained a central priority, with the LGB reviewing staff training, team capacity, case management, recording systems, Trust support and link governor monitoring.
- Challenge focused on how safeguarding information is shared with staff, how local risks are understood, and how pupils and families with welfare or mental health needs are supported.
- The Board welcomed the strong safeguarding culture, the use of vulnerability tracking, and the school's continued focus on supervision, accountability and professional challenge where needed.

Inclusion

- SEND, Pupil Premium and Equalities information was reviewed regularly, with attention given to attendance, behaviour, progress, curriculum access and wider opportunities.





- The SEND Hub was a positive development this year, with governors monitoring how pupils use the provision, how learning is maintained, and how data is helping leaders identify patterns and improve support.
- Poverty proofing remained an important priority, with the LGB welcoming work to understand barriers and improve access to trips, clubs, music lessons, interventions and wider school life.

Curriculum and Teaching

- Curriculum and teaching were reviewed across Primary and Secondary, including adaptive teaching, challenge, assessment, moderation, literacy, numeracy and bespoke staff development.
- The all-through curriculum approach continued to strengthen, with closer links between Primary and Secondary and positive developments in SEND access, creative arts, modern foreign languages and engineering.
- Leaders were challenged to ensure adaptive teaching helps pupils access an ambitious curriculum without lowering expectations.

Achievement

- Outcomes were scrutinised across EYFS, KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4, with governors focusing on progress, gaps, intervention, higher grades and the school's improvement journey over time.
- The Board celebrated strong improvements in KS2 reading and writing, continued strength in phonics, and the positive direction of travel in KS4 outcomes.
- Further challenge focused on writing, maths, greater depth, SEND and disadvantaged outcomes, with future reporting strengthened to show targets and year-on-year achievement trends more clearly.

Attendance and Behaviour

- Attendance and behaviour were monitored throughout the year, with challenge focused on persistent absence, term-time holidays, Y10 and Y11 attendance, SEND attendance and family support.
- The LGB welcomed reductions in suspensions, the positive behaviour picture overall, and the significant reduction in restrictive intervention records.
- Governors supported the school's work on belonging, rewards, pastoral structures, early intervention and "unmissable moments" to strengthen attendance and engagement.

Personal Development and Wellbeing

- Personal development, Christian ethos, character education, student leadership, chaplaincy, pupil voice, house events and enrichment were reviewed and celebrated.
- The Thrive School of Excellence recognition was warmly welcomed, reflecting the school's commitment to emotional wellbeing, de-escalation, student support and positive relationships, with Christ's College now taking a lead across Sunderland, by providing training and support to four other Sunderland schools through Shine funding.
- Staff wellbeing, recruitment, absence and leadership capacity were reviewed through personnel updates, recognising the link between staff support and strong provision for pupils.

Early Years and Sustainability

- Early Years remained a key focus, with governors reviewing staffing changes, Reception recruitment, the planned nursery pipeline, provision, assessment, outdoor learning and Trust support.
- The stronger Reception intake for September 2026 was welcomed as an encouraging step in the school's long-term sustainability strategy.
- Wider pupil number trends were monitored, including strong Y7 demand, increased numbers on roll and the impact this has on site capacity, funding and future planning.

Careers, Enrichment and Wider Opportunities

- Careers provision continued to develop through stronger Gatsby Benchmark self-evaluation, employer links, work experience tracking, university and college partnerships, and weekly careers communication, boosted through greater collaboration as a key player in the Pennywell Fellowship
- A broad co-curricular and visits offer was reviewed, including Grand Days Out, residentials, international opportunities, clubs, interventions and access for disadvantaged and SEND pupils.





- Student leadership and character development were strengthened through new leadership roles, house captains, leadership training and the planned Character Reflection Journal, as well as a combined RAF CCF, in collaboration with our neighbouring school, to launch in the next academic year

Leadership and Governance

- Governors supported leadership development, succession planning, staffing growth and strengthened structures across the College.
- Finance, health and safety and estates matters remained under regular oversight, including budget monitoring, capital projects, the Lighthouse Refectory, engineering development, solar panels, critical incident planning and planned nursery provision.
- Governor visits, strategy discussions, action point reports and question sheets helped strengthen preparation, live challenge and follow-up at meetings.
- The board recognised the significant philanthropic investment into the school, through the generous provision of additional maths and English teachers for 5 years, from September 2026, to support the continued drive to raise outcomes in core subjects, as well as the financial contribution to the Engineering rebuilding project and funding through Shine for the school's successful Thrive project and Inclusion Mentoring work (from September 2026)
- Key policies and reports were reviewed and approved, including admissions, careers, EYFS, RSE, SEND, medical conditions, health and safety and other statutory or Trust requirements.

Looking Ahead! – Future Governance at Christ's College

As Christ's College moves into 2026–27, the Local Governing Board will continue to support leaders while holding them to account for the areas that matter most to pupils, families and staff. Governors will keep close oversight of safeguarding, inclusion, SEND, attendance, behaviour, curriculum, outcomes, personal development, careers, staff wellbeing and financial sustainability. The Board will also continue to champion the school's Christian ethos, strong sense of community and ambition for every pupil to flourish.

The LGB will continue to work closely with the Trust so that local governance remains focused, well supported and effective. During 2026–27, governor roles, the Cycle of Business and the meeting structure will be reviewed so that meetings make best use of time, challenge is purposeful, and oversight is directed towards the areas where Christ's College most needs support and assurance. This will help governors continue to ask the right questions, follow up agreed actions and align local governance with school priorities, Trust assurance and the developing Ofsted framework.

Christ's College Local Governing Board has been strengthened during 2025–26. At year end, membership stands at seven governors, with capacity to grow to nine. The board benefits from a wide range of experience across education, safeguarding, SEND, leadership, community engagement, careers and stakeholder engagement. A further potential governor is expected to start in the next academic year, which will support capacity and strengthen the overall balance of the Board.

Looking ahead, governors are excited to see recent improvements continue to embed, including the development of the SEND Hub and Thrive work, the stronger Reception intake and nursery links, the growing careers and enrichment offer, and the continued development of student leadership and character. The Board remains proud to serve Christ's College and to celebrate the care, ambition and opportunity that staff provide for pupils every day.

