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Downsway Primary School

Challenging minds, changing futures.

Governance Strategic Development Plan (GSDP)

2026/2027

   

Introduction

The Governance Strategic Development Plan (GSDP) is the tool governors will use to monitor and support the school's progress towards its own development objectives.

The governors' strategic goals, as outlined in this plan, are based on the three core responsibilities of the governing board and the need for governors to develop the skills to be as effective as possible in their role. The plan identifies the individual steps governors will take to progress towards these goals.

This plan will be evaluated at the end of each academic year, where we reflect again on the previous year's performance to identify the needs of the next. This is a working document, and progress against our priorities is monitored at each governing board meeting.

Our vision

Children have the confidence to aim high and to be curious about their world.

They work successfully with others and have a tolerant and responsible attitude towards them

Our Values

Aspiration

Dreaming big, aiming high, working hard to achieve goals

Tolerance

Respecting, accepting & embracing others

Self-Belief

Believing in & valuing yourself

Responsibility

Learning to make good choices & understanding the importance of honesty

Curiosity

Showing enthusiasm, asking questions, imagining & exploring

Co-operation

Listening, supporting & sharing

Our Strategic Goals:

Strategic Goal A: To support the school effectively in setting and maintaining its vision and ethos

Strategic Goal B: To monitor and hold school leaders to account in fulfilling their educational responsibilities

Strategic Goal C : To ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

Strategic Goal D: To ensure the board is as effective as possible in carrying out its responsibilities

The Strategic Goals aim to satisfy our vision, implement our values, and promote continuous improvement.

Strategic Goal A: To support the school effectively in setting and maintaining its vision and ethos				
Action	**Key participants**	**Key activities for success**	**Evidence/Impact**	**Link to SDP/ Ofsted evaluation areas**
Governors visit and report on whole school activities	All CoG/VoG	Visits schedule; Governor-friendly visit pro formas.	**See general visits in support of Goal A below**	Teaching and curriculum
Governors have staff well-being as a standing agenda item	All HT Staff governor	Regular updates on staff wellbeing via HT's report, staff surveys etc.; Standing agenda item; HTPM panel meets. Part 2 minutes; Anonymised advice on staff performance management.		Leadership and governance Safeguarding
Governors are pro-active in fulfilling safeguarding responsibilities Including cyber security	All Safeguarding governor e-Security governor DSL SBM Clerk to governors	Annual review of KCSiE and CP policy; Safeguarding/DSL meetings; Cyber security meetings; SCR checks; ESAT (annual safeguarding audit)		Safeguarding
Governors are pro-active in ensuring school is a healthy and safe teaching and learning environment	All H+S governor	H+S governor visits and report; Bi-annual review of the Risk Register		Safeguarding

Strategic Goal B: To monitor and hold school leaders to account in fulfilling their educational responsibilities				
Action	**Key participants**	**Key activities for success**	**Evidence/Impact**	**Link to SDP/ Ofsted evaluation areas**
Governors monitor the implementation of the SDP	All HT CoG/VoG	Good monitoring coverage of all elements of SDP	**See general visits in support of Goal B below**	All evaluation areas: Safeguarding Inclusion Curriculum and teaching Achievement Attendance and behaviour Personal development and wellbeing Early years
Governors monitor provision for Diversity groups including SEND and Pupil Premium	All SEND governor Pupil Premium governor IM (Inclusion Manager)	Governor visits and reports; Review of SEND report And SEND policy; Review of Pupil Premium Strategy and policy.		Inclusion Achievement Attendance and behaviour
Governors receive and review school performance data (including attendance) and compare it with local and national data	All HT	Knowledgeable and effective interrogation of data		Achievement Attendance and behaviour
Governors monitor	All	Regular liaison with Early Years staff;		Early Years. Inclusion

provision for Early Years	Early Years governor	SIA reports; Review of EY performance and attendance data; Review of SEND, PP data including attendance; Review of Transition to School arrangements; Informal review of EY participation in Whole School events e.g. World Book Day; EY Performance etc.		Behaviour and Attendance

Strategic Goal C : To ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources				
Action	**Key Participants**	**Key activities for success**	**Evidence/Impact**	**Link to SDP/Ofsted evaluation areas**
Governors carefully review quarterly and annual budget reports	All SBM	Knowledgeable and effective interrogation of data		Leadership and governance
Governors ensure special funds (Pupil Premium, Sport) are well managed.	All SBM	Knowledgeable and effective interrogation of data.		Inclusion Personal development and well-being
Governors ensure they have the financial skills and knowledge to make informed judgements	All SBM	Governor training; Finance governor; Schools Financial Benchmarking; SFVS audit.		Leadership and governance

Strategic Goal D: To ensure the board is as effective as possible in carrying out its responsibilities				
Action	**Key participants**	**Key activities for success**	**Evidence/Impact**	**Link to SDP/ Ofsted evaluation areas**
Governors take collective and individual responsibility for being effective in their role	All CoG/VoG Clerk to governors	Board and self- evaluation; Governor training; In - house GD.		Leadership and governance Safeguarding
Governors keep stakeholders informed and collect information, as appropriate, from them	All CoG/VoG	Monthly newsletter; Pupil voice; Governor visits; Staff/ parents/pupil surveys; Governor Activities page		Leadership and governance Inclusion; Teaching and curriculum
The board plans for succession	All CoG/VoG Clerk to governors	Work shadowing; Governor support; Widest possible distribution of governor roles; Training; Board and self-evaluation.		Leadership and governance

General governor visits supporting Goals A and B	
Date	**Description of Visit and Link to SDP/ Ofsted evaluation areas**

Glossary of Terms

CoG Chair of Governors

CP Child protection

DSL Designated Safeguarding Lead

ESAT Education Safeguarding Advisory Team (The school completes their annual safeguarding audit)

GD Governor development

HT: Headteacher

HTPM Headteacher's performance management

IM Inclusion Manager

KCSiE Keeping Children Safe in Education (Statutory advice document from the Department for Education)

SBM: School Business Manager

SCR Single Central Record (Record of all staff and their safeguarding clearance – for the purposes of safeguarding, staff includes volunteers, governors etc.)

SDP: School Development Plan

SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

SFVS Schools financial value standard

VoG Vice Chair of Governors