



Local Governing Body  
Annual Report

September 2025 – July 2026

## Chair's summary

This past academic year has seen yet more improvements taking place in our school. Not only did we achieve a fantastic set of exam results in August 2025, but we were also extremely proud to have been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication and Improvement from Luton Music Services. In addition, we achieved the FFT National School Attendance Award for the 24-25 Academic year and also achieved the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award at Bronze level. These accolades are just some of the fantastic things that were achieved and are a real testament to the dedication and hard work of all the staff at Stopsley.

I would once again like to thank Karen Hand, our Headteacher who, along with her leadership team have tirelessly navigated and steered us through yet another challenging but highly rewarding year including an Ofsted inspection in early June, the results of which we look forward to sharing shortly. I would also like to thank our CEO Ann Marie Mulkerins and the wider Trust Central team for all the help, support and guidance they have also provided to us over the past 12 months.

As a Local Governing Body, we continuously strive to provide appropriate support and challenge to the school and have welcomed the opportunities we have been given to see the school in action. As Chair, I am incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by an amazing set of individuals from a myriad of backgrounds each bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The role of a governor is an extremely rewarding one, albeit at times demanding, so I would like to take this opportunity yet again to thank each and every member of the Local Governing Body for the support they have given, not only to the school, but also to me and one another. For the visits they have undertaken, the training they have completed, the meetings they have attended (and more importantly contributed to) and for simply giving unstintingly of their time on a totally voluntary basis as summarised in the report below – thank you.

## Introduction

Schools are no longer required to produce a Governors' Annual Report, however, at Stopsley High School we believe that it is important that as a local governing body we are open and transparent with parents and stakeholders and have therefore decided to publish an annual report that explains about the work of the local governing body over the past year. A copy of the Annual report will be published on the school website along with other information that parents may find useful.

Stopsley High School is part of Middlesex Learning Trust.

## Contact information

|                                          |                                   |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| <b>Clerk to governors email address:</b> | lgbclerk@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk |

| <b>Governor Vacancies</b>                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| There are currently 1 Community Governor and 1 parent Governor vacancy on the Governing Body. |

### Local Governing Body membership

| Role                       | Governor         | Date term of office ends | Allocated Responsibilities                                |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Parent governors</b>    | Sarah Clegg      | Resigned 27/11/25        |                                                           |
|                            | Dawn Vivian      | 12/10/29                 | Safeguarding Link                                         |
| <b>Community governors</b> | Toni Chivers     | 31/08/29                 | Chair<br>Leadership & Management Link                     |
|                            | Henry Gosling    | 17/01/2027               | Vice Chair<br>SEND Link                                   |
|                            | Mariam Hoq       | 18/09/2027               |                                                           |
|                            | Ianek McLaughlin | 17/01/2027               | Finance Link                                              |
|                            | Emmanuelle Roman | 04/12/2026               | Careers Information Advice and Guidance Link              |
|                            | Anna Theron      | 15/05/2029               |                                                           |
|                            | Nerima Wandera   | 21/09/29                 | Careers Information Advice and Guidance Link<br>SEND Link |
| <b>Staff governors</b>     | Omar Ouedraogo   | 28/09/29                 | Health & Safety Link                                      |
|                            | Jemma Woollett   | 19/10/2027               | Health & Safety Link                                      |
| <b>Headteacher</b>         | Karen Hand       |                          |                                                           |
| <b>Clerk</b>               | Errin Winter     |                          | Training & Compliance                                     |

### Governors attendance at Local Governing body meetings

| Governor      | Number of possible meetings | Number of meetings attended | Percentage of meetings attended |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Toni Chivers  | 3                           | 3                           | 100%                            |
| Sarah Clegg   | 1                           | 1                           | 100%                            |
| Henry Gosling | 3                           | 2                           | 67%                             |
| Karen Hand    | 3                           | 3                           | 100%                            |
| Mariam Hoq    | 3                           | 2                           | 67%                             |

|                  |   |   |      |
|------------------|---|---|------|
| Ianek McLaughlin | 3 | 1 | 33%  |
| Omar Ouedraogo   | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Emmanuelle Roman | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Anna Theron      | 3 | 2 | 67%  |
| Dawn Vivian      | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Nerima Wandera   | 3 | 2 | 67%  |
| Jemma Woollett   | 3 | 3 | 100% |

### Governance structure

The Middlesex Learning Trust Scheme of Delegation sets out the Trust's approach to delegations between the different layers of governance within the Trust and outlines those responsibilities that are delegated to the Local Governing Body.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Local Governing Body (LGB) has the strategic responsibility to hold the school Leaders to account for the academic performance, quality of care and provision within the school, the approval of the annual and 3-year budget and to review the school's progress in relation to its school improvement plan. At all times members of the Local Governing Body are expected to act within the framework set by national legislation and with due consideration to the policies and procedures of Middlesex Learning Trust. The LGB meets as a whole board for a Business meeting once a term. In addition, the LGB meets for additional development and training meetings as identified in the annual review process

To ensure that we remain strategically focused on the agreed key areas of school improvement and work in an efficient way, certain aspects of our governance responsibilities have been delegated to specific governors.

### Monitoring activity

One of the key functions of the governing body is to undertake strategic monitoring activities, the purpose of which is to triangulate information shared with governors by the senior leadership team. Over the past year the local governing board has undertaken the following monitoring activities:

- Monitoring visits (face to face and/or remotely) with members of the Senior leadership team/middle leaders to discuss aspects of the school improvement plan conducted
- Pupil surveys
- Staff and parent surveys
- Inviting members of the senior leadership team/middle leaders to governing body meetings to report on key areas

Below is a summary of the various activities that have occurred over the academic year:

- Reviews of the Single Central Record
- Link Governor meetings: Finance, Health & Safety, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Safeguarding and Careers Information advice and Guidance (CIAG)
- Meetings with and presentations from Middle Leaders to share their vision, values and curriculum
- Participation in trust wide training and meetings
- Attendance at the Open Evening
- Attendance at Post 16 Choices evening
- Attendance at Welcome to Year 10 evening
- Attendance at the school production of Legally Blonde

- Attendance at the Year 6 Discovery afternoon
- Participation in the Year 9 Careers event
- Participation in the Year 10 mock interview days
- Attendance at the Year 11 leavers assembly
- Attendance at Year 9 Making choices evening
- Meetings with Student voice
- Learning Walks
- Meeting with the HMI as part of the recent Ofsted Inspection
- Presenting at the Women's Inspiration Conference

In addition to the above, members of the Local Governing Body have supported the school through representation on a number of committees and hearings such as the Headteacher performance review, student disciplinary hearings and appeal panels. Members of the Governing body also met with the lead Inspector as part of the schools recent Ofsted inspection.

### Governor training

Members of the Local Governing body take their responsibility to stay up to date seriously and place high importance on this. The following table shows the various training and professional development opportunities the governing body have undertaken during the 2025-26 academic period.

| Governor     | Training or CPD undertaken                                  | Date        |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Toni Chivers | Summer Term Chair/Vice Chair Briefing                       | 15 Jun 2026 |
|              | Finance Training                                            | 6 May 2026  |
|              | Exclusions, Behaviour & Discipline                          | 23 Apr 2026 |
|              | Handling Complaints in Schools and Trusts                   | 21 Apr 2026 |
|              | Ofsted Update Briefing for Governors                        | 26 Mar 2026 |
|              | Finance 3: monitoring in detail for trusts                  | 20 Mar 2026 |
|              | Finance 3: monitoring in detail for maintained schools      | 20 Mar 2026 |
|              | Finance 2: understanding your school budget                 | 20 Mar 2026 |
|              | Managing Staff Workload and Wellbeing: The Governance Role  | 17 Mar 2026 |
|              | Using Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP)   | 17 Mar 2026 |
|              | ISDR Training                                               | 11 Mar 2026 |
|              | Ofsted Framework and IDSR                                   | 10 Mar 2026 |
|              | Prevent Training                                            | 20 Nov 2025 |
|              | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors | 15 Oct 2025 |
|              | The Prevent duty                                            | 10 Oct 2025 |
|              | Cyber security for governors/trustees                       | 9 Oct 2025  |
|              | MLT Governance Conference                                   | 27 Sep 2025 |

|                  |                                                                     |             |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                  | Safeguarding link governor                                          | 9 Sep 2025  |
|                  | Safeguarding for governance (refresher) 2025/26                     | 5 Sep 2025  |
|                  | UK GDPR and data protection for governance                          | 5 Sep 2025  |
|                  | Safeguarding and Child Protection: The Essentials 2025/26 (The Key) | 3 Sep 2025  |
| Henry Gosling    | GOV03 - Exclusions, Behaviour & Discipline                          | 21 Oct 2025 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Safeguarding for governance (refresher) 2025/26                     | 10 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Cyber security for governors/trustees                               | 10 Oct 2025 |
|                  | The Prevent duty                                                    | 10 Oct 2025 |
| Mariam Hoq       | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
| Ianek McLaughlin | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
| Omar Ouedraogo   | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
| Emmanuelle Roman | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                  | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |
| Anna Theron      | Suspensions and exclusions                                          | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                  | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors         | 15 Oct 2025 |

|                |                                                                         |             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                | Suspensions and exclusions                                              | 22 Jan 2026 |
|                | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors             | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                | Suspensions and exclusions                                              | 22 Jan 2026 |
| Dawn Vivian    | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors             | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                | Level 4 Diploma Counselling Children & Adolescents (Open Study College) | 24 May 2026 |
|                | Level 4 Diploma Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (Open Study College)        | 17 May 2026 |
|                | Attended MLT Safeguarding training: Prevent Focus                       | 20 Nov 2025 |
|                | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors             | 15 Oct 2025 |
|                | Level 4 Diploma Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Abuse (Open Study college) | 31 May 2025 |
|                | Level 2 Self Harm & Suicide Awareness Prevention (TQUK)                 | 22 Jan 2025 |
| Nerima Wandera | MLT Finance Training                                                    | 6 May 2026  |
|                | Safeguarding for governance 2025 - Ofsted update                        | 11 Mar 2026 |
|                | Cyber security for governors/trustees                                   | 10 Mar 2026 |
|                | MLT Training - Ofsted Framework and IDSR                                | 10 Mar 2026 |
|                | LGB Safeguarding training - KCSIE Key Updates for Governors             | 15 Oct 2025 |
| Jemma Woollett | MLT Finance Training                                                    | 6 May 2026  |
|                | MLT Training - Ofsted Framework and IDSR                                | 10 Mar 2026 |
|                | Cyber security for governors/trustees                                   | 21 Jan 2026 |
|                | Attended MLT Prevent Training                                           | 20 Nov 2025 |
|                | Safeguarding for governance (refresher) 2025/26                         | 9 Oct 2025  |
|                | The Prevent duty                                                        | 22 Sep 2025 |
|                | UK GDPR and data protection for governance                              | 22 Sep 2025 |

### School Improvement Priorities 2025-26

The following progress was made against the key priorities identified by the school and Local Governing body during the 25-26 academic year School Improvement Plan.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>SIP Objective 1: To further develop routines for explicit instruction through modelling and scaffolding to enhance student understanding and support their transition to independent practice. This will maximise student engagement in their learning, with the aim of eradicating passivity and increasing active participation.</b></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modelling and scaffolding are now embedded into everyday practice.</li> <li>• Students are showing greater confidence when working independently.</li> <li>• Student engagement levels have improved, and peer coaching has provided useful opportunities</li> </ul>                                    |

to share strategies and refine practice.

- The increased use of AI and Arbor has significantly enhanced operational flexibility and improved efficiency.
- AI tools have reduced the administrative burden on staff, allowing them to focus on strategic priorities and teaching and learning. It has also supported with workload and communication and helped in reducing teacher's stress.
- Whole school CPD principles have ensured that this is subject specific to reflect the disciplinary nature of subjects, meaning students really benefit from strategies that impact on their progress.

**SIP Objective 2: To continue to develop students' oracy and their literacy skills. Specifically developing our understanding of disciplinary literacy to support the effective implementation of the curriculum**

- Students are becoming more confident when speaking about their learning and using subject-specific vocabulary.
- There has been a stronger focus on literacy across the curriculum, which is beginning to have a positive impact on both discussion and written work.
- Students are able to make links between the vocab used in different areas and are seeing that some words have different meanings when in different settings.
- The use of subject specific terminology in lessons is providing students with the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of command words such as identify, explain, discuss
- Further work is needed to ensure consistency in the teaching of disciplinary literacy and oracy across departments.
- Continuing to develop students' confidence in articulating their ideas and using academic vocabulary will remain a key priority.

**SIP Objective 3: To review the systems and processes to ensure greater consistency in implementation resulting in a positive behaviour, excellent attendance and effective safeguarding**

- New desks and systems are in place in the Conduct Improvement Room resulting in better communication between staff.
- The Attendance challenge was positively received by students, ensuring their cards were signed each day and attendance was celebrated each term.
- Improved use of CPOMs and open communication has allowed confidence to report concerns in school that may arise with individuals or groups of students.
- Implementation of 'Meet and Greet' and 'End and Send' has led to improved behaviour.
- While systems are now clearer, we need to ensure they are used consistently by all staff.
- An ongoing focus on attendance, safeguarding processes and communication will support continued improvement next academic year.

**SIP Objective 4: To consider opportunities to increase flexibility and workstream efficiencies across the school.**

- The successful introduction of free access to school-safe AI platforms for all staff has resulted in reduced workload and increased work stream efficiency and flexibility with more staff engaging with AI and other digital tools to support their work.
- Staff sharing ideas and strategies has helped improve efficiency and opened up new ways of working.
- PPA time has been timetabled in the mornings to allow more flexibility for teachers to work from home.
- To maximise the impact of our school-safe AI platforms, we intend to provide more CPD sessions focused on safe and effective use of AI tools, covering practical applications for lesson planning, resource creation, and administrative tasks, alongside data protection and online

safety considerations. Regular training updates will ensure all staff can confidently use AI to reduce workload while maintaining safeguarding and data security standards.

### Governors' expenses

Governors are entitled to claim for any expenses they incur as a direct result of their governance role as per our governor's expenses policy. In the interest of transparency, the table below includes details of all expenses claimed by governors during the 2025/26 academic year.

| Amount claimed                                             | Reason for the claim |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| No governors have claimed any expenses this academic year. | N/A                  |