



Parkside Primary School

Governors' Annual Report
2025-2026

Governing Body 2025-2026

Chair: William Nisbet (Co-opted Governor)

Vice Chair: Hannah Langdon (Co-opted Governor)

Local Authority Governor: Roy Berg

Co-opted Governors: Kofi Adu, Deborah McDonald, Hannah Langdon, Claire Houghton, Karen Wishart (joined July 2026)

Parent Governors: Barbara Colossi, Graham Collins, Amutha Rasapalan, Elizabeth Powell-Clarke,

Associate Governors

Amanda Warriner

Andrew Peckham

Staff Governors: Desiré Lubbe, Yasmin Limbada, Nicola Williams

Headteacher: Lisa Cousins

The Business Manager Claire Wood also attends Full Governors Meetings

The full Governing Body meets twice a term.

Each governor is also a member of one or more of the following committees:
Environment, Finance & Personnel and Curriculum.

The minutes of meetings of the Governing Body are available from the school office.

Strategic functions

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Boards of Governors, the three core strategic functions of the Parkside Primary Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent

Constitution and organisation

The Governing Body capacity grew from 10 to 15 governors in 2022 in light of the expansion of the school to three forms of entry in recent years (completed up to year 6 from September 2011).

The fifteen strong board includes 4 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 4 elected parent governors and 1 Local Authority governor. The other five members have been co-opted onto the Governing Body because they have skills needed to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The co-opted members come from a range of backgrounds as stated in the Governor Profiles. All members of the Governing Body are subject to an enhanced DBS check and section 128 checks (ensuring no one is disqualified from being a Governor in any other educational sector).

The Governing Body meets twice a term to discuss formal business. We also have a number of committees that consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Parkside Primary School we have a Finance and Personnel Committee that looks at budget and personnel issues and a Curriculum Committee that looks at teaching and learning, curriculum, standards and pupil progress. Finally, the Environment Committee looks at all aspects of building and premises management including security and Health & Safety.

In addition to the committees, we have link governors who take responsibility for different areas including SEND, Pupil Premium funding, Looked After children, Safeguarding, Assessment, Sports Premium funding, Filtering and Monitoring and Health and Safety.

Independent challenge

Our most recent financial audit took place in August 2022 and we received a **Reasonable Assurance** grade.

Our most recent GDPR audit took place in July 2022 and went well with a couple of minor points to address which have been completed. We are due to have another audit imminently.

We undertook a S11 Safeguarding Audit in June 2025 and graded ourselves as all areas fully met. Waltham Forest feedback was very positive.

OFSTED (March 2023)

The final report stated the following:

- Pupils, families and staff are proud to be a part of this caring and inclusive school community. Pupils readily demonstrate the school motto of being 'Proud to Shine'
- Leaders know pupils and families well. They have high aspirations for what pupils can achieve. Staff expect pupils to work hard and do their best. Pupils are enthusiastic about their lessons, and this is reflected in the way that they are keen to learn and remember more across subjects. Pupils achieve well.
- Leaders have ensured that all staff know and understand their safeguarding responsibilities. They have established a culture where staff report any concern about a pupil, no matter how small. Staff receive regular and up-to-date training and know the signs that a pupil may be at risk. Leaders follow up any concerns quickly and effectively.
- Leaders have created a curriculum that meets the needs and interests of all pupils. It is ambitious and lays out the knowledge and skills to be taught in a

logical order. Typically, pupils develop their knowledge well and remember it in the long term.

- Governors take an active role in the life of the school. They know the school very well and carry out their statutory duties effectively.

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/103081>

School Monitoring

Waltham Forest has an established process for fulfilling their statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate school performance in key areas such as student attainment, school finances and safeguarding. For the academic year 2025/2026, Waltham Forest have secured the School Improvement function through Haringey Education Partnership (HEP). Our Advisor has visited the school on a number of occasions to look at Teaching and Learning and focus areas have included writing and Inclusion. Reports from HEP have been favourable highlighting the many positive aspects of the school.

Attendance record of Governors

Parkside Primary's Board of Governors is a committed team and attendance at meetings is excellent. Members devote much of their spare time to the school attending events, meeting with staff and pupils and speaking with external inspectors to ensure that the school keeps on track. Attendance information is published on the school website. <https://parksideprimary.secure-primariesite.net/governors/>

The work of the Governing Body and Committee

The Governing Body will continue to keep safeguarding at the forefront of our minds and monitor the budget to ensure our financial situation remains healthy. Our children are equipped for a Modern Britain by promoting values such as democracy, the law, liberty, respect and tolerance as set down by the Government. They sit alongside our own school vision and aims:

Proud to Shine Growing In Excellence Every Day



As a partnership of Children, Parents, Staff, Governors and the wider Community, we aim to: -

- Promote equality of opportunity for all pupils and staff
- Ensure that everyone will experience an inclusive education where discrimination on the grounds of race, sexual orientation, gender or disability is actively challenged, and tolerance and understanding promoted
- Meet children's individual and collective needs
- Provide a stimulating, secure and nurturing environment
- Promote an ethos that is highly motivating and encourages all to take responsibility for their own learning

- Provide an environment where we feel secure, valued, respected and understood
- Encourage all to have a positive self-image, high self-esteem and increasing confidence
- Provide an environment which encourages active learning, investigation, creativity and challenge
- Value and celebrate the richness and diversity of cultures and beliefs in our community
- Celebrate achievement, attainment and progress in all areas of development
- Display high standards of good manners and politeness at all times
- Encourage all to have a sense of responsibility for themselves, for each other and for their environment

SEND

The most recent code of practice for supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities was implemented in September 2014 and last updated in September 2025. Our SEND report can be found on the school website alongside other information (including our policy) about special educational needs. The report is updated annually in September. <https://parksideprimary.secure-primariesite.net/special-educational-needs-send-report/>

Governors have a key role to play in keeping children safe at school. We considered and approved a new policy for safeguarding children in line with the statutory framework which we will review annually. We ensure that any new legislation from the Keeping Children Safe in Education document is implemented. The most recent update was September 2025.

Latest OFSTED inspection

The school recently underwent a successful OFSTED inspection in March 2023. This was an ungraded inspection to see if we remain a GOOD school - this was confirmed. Below are extracts from the OFSTED 2023 findings:

- Subject leaders are skilled and knowledgeable. They provide effective training so that teachers are well equipped to deliver the curriculum. Teachers have the expert knowledge that they need to teach subjects effectively. Suitable approaches and routines are in place for checking what pupils know and remember. These are used effectively by staff to prevent pupils from falling behind with their learning. This includes making appropriate adjustments for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As a result, pupils achieve well.
- Children in the early years quickly settle into routines and build warm relationships with adults. The curriculum excites children about learning and ensures that they develop the knowledge and skills they will need for later years.
- Those responsible for SEND are experienced and knowledgeable and have high expectations for pupils. They draw upon the expertise of a wide range of external agencies. This ensures that pupils' needs are identified quickly and accurately, and that they receive high-quality support. Leaders ensure that pupils with SEND follow the same curriculum as their classmates and achieve well. These pupils are included in all aspects of school life.

- Leaders have ensured that pupils take part in a wide range of opportunities to support their broader development. Pupils are taught about difference and to respect other cultures, faiths and beliefs. Pupils learn about diversity, and why it is important to be tolerant of others. They are also taught about the importance of developing healthy lifestyles and relationships. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain

Pupil Premium Strategy

Our Pupil Premium Strategy is in place and regularly evaluated. In 2025-26, as with the previous year, we must show how our spending strategy is informed by research evidence, referring to a range of sources, including the toolkit published by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The DfE says this in the conditions of grant. Activities should include those that:

- Support the quality of teaching, such as staff CPD
- Provide targeted academic support, such as tutoring
- Tackle non-academic barriers to success in school, such as attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional support

One of the key recommendations from the EEF regarding educational gains is the use of Collaborative Learning. The term 'Collaborative Learning' refers to an instruction method in which children at various academic levels work together towards a common goal. During Collaborative Learning, children are working and learning together. We promote and practise the Collaborative Learning culture at Parkside.

Governors have been monitoring how the Government's Pupil Premium grant is being spent to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged children and their peers. Governors have also been looking at rates of pupil progress and attainment within key groups such as children with SEND and children that are in receipt of Pupil Premium. Pupil Premium funding reports and the Pupil Premium Strategy are published on the school website. The strategy is evaluated each year and the Pupil Premium funding report is evaluated termly.

The Committees

The Finance Committee ensures that the school has a balanced budget. It monitors the budget throughout the year ensuring that best value principles are met and that the children obtain a high-quality education within its parameters.

The Curriculum Committee continually monitor policies, curriculum development and key aspects of school life.

The Environment Committee ensures the school site is well maintained, safe, secure and developed. It is also looking at the school being more energy efficient and ways to be more sustainable.

Minutes of Full Board of Governors and committee meetings are public documents. If you would like to see any of the minutes, please ask at the school office for a copy.

School Improvement

Governors work collaboratively with the head teacher and senior management in the development and monitoring the School Improvement Plan. The current SIP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SIP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SIP is monitored and reviewed termly.

2025/2026 priorities were:

- Increase the percentage of children writing at the higher standard at the end of KS2; implement new writing framework
- Increase the percentage of all pupils attaining a good level of development independently at the end of EYFS particularly disadvantaged children; implement EYFS guidance
- Maintain standards at the end of KS2
- Improve the attendance of all pupils particularly our identified key groups through continued rigorous and relentless monitoring and new initiatives. Reduce persistent absence
- Continue to ensure that teaching provides sufficient opportunities for pupils to learn and to confidently use key vocabulary in all subjects across the school (OFSTED)
- Identify and mitigate barriers to learning (including the impact of increased number of SEND children with very complex needs) and support the children's emotional well-being
- Ensure that the curriculum continues to be enriched, broad and balanced and, as always, promotes opportunities that build the cultural capital of our pupils. Ensure that new government guidance in relation to the curriculum is implemented

Awards, Activities and Events

The school is also working towards school awards as well as maintaining the ones we already have.

We expanded our music offer last year with Year 6 being offered whole school guitar tuition and Year 2 now take part in Djembe drum lessons. We will continue to explore how we can expand our provision further.

The school has continued to provide children with as many opportunities that stimulate, engage and enthuse, providing as many enriching activities and events as possible. This includes a Story book themed writing day, Maths Day, class assemblies, class trips, Cultural event where parents attended a food event and a range of sporting, music and art-based activities. The children have all taken part in cooking activities, some of which have included using the produce that the school has grown. Also, we have provided extra-curricular opportunities throughout the academic year and held our annual Musicality event and carol concert.

In June 2025 we received notification that we have achieved the Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award. We are currently working on attaining silver. We also gained the gold Primary Geography Quality Mark in September 2025.

Future Plans for Governors

Parkside is a popular, oversubscribed school and this year we have again welcomed 90 children into our reception classes bringing the total of children in the school to 676 (July 2026). We hold at least 3 school tours (and additional ad hoc tours as requested) in the Autumn term for prospective Reception parents/carers.

During the Autumn term of the 2025/26 school year, we will work with the Headteacher and the school's Senior Leadership Team to set the school's Development Plan. This sets out our targets, aims and aspirations for the year ahead. In addition, we will set a 3-year strategic plan looking closely at our long-term goals and strategic vision.

We will continue to monitor the curriculum and ensure it is broad and balanced, offering children a wealth of cultural capital building opportunities. We will continue to have an enhanced focus on raising the attainment and progress of reading, writing and maths as well as supporting the emotional well-being of staff and pupils.

Securing outstanding outcomes for all of the children at Parkside remains our ultimate goal and we work closely with the school to ensure that Pupil Premium grants are spent effectively and that interventions for disadvantaged children have a positive impact on their achievements.

Governors will monitor the use of the reduced PE and sport premium funding to ensure the following priorities are addressed within the available budget:

- Sports equipment provision – We will prioritise essential sports equipment to support PE lessons and playtimes, focusing on resources that will have the greatest impact on engaging all children, within the constraints of the reduced funding.
- Sports competitions and events – We will continue to participate in key sports tournaments, festivals and competitions where possible, prioritising those organised by the school and Waltham Forest School Sports Network that offer the best opportunities for pupil participation and development, based on available funding.
- Staff training and development – We will identify and deliver targeted training and professional development opportunities for staff, including opportunities for qualified sports coaches to work alongside primary teachers, focusing on the most impactful areas given the reduced budget.
- PE curriculum quality – We will maintain a quality PE curriculum and schemes of work for each Key Stage, making best use of existing resources and expertise to ensure all pupils continue to receive high-quality PE provision despite the funding reduction.

We will explore creative ways of ensure provision continues to be outstanding despite the significant reduction in funding.

Parkside is continuing in its drive to raise awareness about Climate Change, recycling and the environment

Governor Profiles

Bill Nisbet

In my working life I was involved with many aspects of Crime, Prevention and Community Safety. I was a Uniformed Police Officer for 31 years the last 12 years of this as the Crime Prevention Officer for Waltham Forest Police. On retirement I was employed by LBWF in the Community Safety Team where I continued my Crime Prevention role for the Borough until I retired in 2015. I became a Governor at Parkside School in February 2016.

I have previously been a Governor at Chingford School, Nevin Drive from 1993 until 2002 where I served on the Buildings, Health and Safety and Pupil Discipline Committees. I am currently Chair of Governors and also Chair of the Environment Committee.

I have a good knowledge of the Parkside School site and also the pupils and staff having worked closely with 2 previous Head Teachers and also the current Head Teacher. I am committed to providing a safe and secure environment for the pupils and staff at the school to help them maintain their high standards of achievement and progress. My late wife, Sue Nisbet worked at the school for over 20 years in numerous roles including Pastoral Manager before she sadly passed away in 2022. She leaves a wonderful legacy for the school particularly in safeguarding and promoting children's well-being.

Barbara Colossi

I am a parent of one child at Parkside in Year 5. I was a Personal Assistant for over 15 years, garnering extensive experience in working with and managing teams, before taking a break to look after my children.

I strongly believe that our young people deserve the best education reflective of the diverse and inclusive society they live in to give them the best opportunity to fulfil their potential and aspirations. To this end I am committed to constructively engaging in that endeavour in order to support the school in achieving this.

Graham Collins

I am a father to a daughter in KS2 and was elected as a parent governor in November 2022. I am a member of two sub-committees ('Environment' and 'Finance & Personnel').

My background is in financial consulting - helping companies to manage their pension schemes in partnership with multiple stakeholders.

I've been able to use this experience to help with Parkside's strategy, ensure that its finances are well managed and help the school maintain its 'Good' OFSTED rating. I continue to offer both support and challenge to the school and staff.

I can also sometimes be found in the playground at events manning a bouncy castle!

Kofi Adu

I am a Chartered Certified Accountant by profession, I was the Group Accountant for Children Services at LB of Waltham Forest and I am now the Head of Finance for Hawkswood Group, I currently serve on the Finance committee at Parkside Primary.

Deborah McDonald

As a Solicitor with expertise in Mental Health, Crime, Judicial Reviews, and Human Rights Law, I bring a commitment to advocacy and care to my role. I have been a Governor at Parkside Primary School since 2006. I currently

Previously, I was appointment by the DfE & LA as an Interim Executive Board member for a primary school that went into special measures, which was later rated GOOD by Ofsted within 12 months of our IEB governance. I hope my experience will be useful as a governor at Parkside Primary.	serve as Link Governor for Safeguarding and Wellbeing, and for Attendance and Behaviour. I am also a member of the Finance Committee. I remain dedicated to working alongside the Governing Body to ensure Parkside Primary School continues to achieve high standards and support every child's progression.
Lisa Cousins I have been the Headteacher at Parkside since September 2008. I have seen the school through many changes and watched it grow into a very successful, vibrant and thriving 3FE school. Our statement is 'Proud to Shine' and all children, staff and parents embody this. As we continue in our journey to be outstanding, children absolutely remain at the heart of everything we do.	Hannah Langdon I started my role as a parent governor at Parkside 9 years ago and have recently become a Co-Opted Governor. I am chair of the Curriculum Committee. I am also the link governor for PE, Sports Premium and Data Assessment. I was a teacher for 14 years before taking a break to look after my children. I want to be involved in my child's education and the ongoing development of Parkside Primary School.
Nicola Williams The early part of my career was spent in financial services in the City of London. After starting a family, I refocussed my career to within the education sector, and have worked at schools within Waltham Forest since 2007, where my roles have included Midday Assistant, Teaching Assistant, and SEND Teaching Assistant. Since joining Parkside in September 2021, I have been impressed with the 'Proud to Shine' motto and how this is embodied by children and staff alike. Serving on the Governing Body and as a member of the Finance Committee, I am looking to use my background in financial services to help support the school moving forward and ultimately make a difference to the children in our care.	Desiré Lubbe I am an overseas trained teacher and have been working in the UK since 2002. I have worked at Parkside since 2012 in various roles and have a good understanding of the structures and procedures that affect all aspects of the school. My aim through my contribution is to ensure that every pupil and member of staff in our care can be 'Proud to Shine'.
Claire Houghton I first became a parent governor at Parkside in 1999 when the school was known as Wellington Primary School. I joined the school staff in 2005 as a teacher and worked in Key Stage 2 and Nursery as well as serving as staff governor before becoming SENDCo in 2015. Since retiring from teaching in 2024 I have worked as a Parenting Trainer, supporting parents of	Amutha Rasapalan I have been a Governor at Parkside for the past three years and am proud to support the school community in this role. As a parent, I have been part of the Parkside community for the last ten years, and my children are in years 2& 6. I am a previous Assistant Headteacher with over 20 years of teaching experience.

under-5s in Waltham Forest who have been recently diagnosed as autistic and have undertaken adult Mental Health First Aider training. I am also passionate about outdoor learning and nature and believe all children should have access to a wide variety of learning opportunities and experiences. I am delighted to be able to support Parkside as a Co-Opted Governor as the school continues to offer a safe and supportive learning community and to have the highest aspirations for all its pupils.	In my current role as a Local Authority Adviser for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), I specialise in neurodivergence and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH). I support schools to meet the needs of individual pupils while also leading strategic, whole-school improvement in SEND provision. I am passionate about serving the Parkside community and working collaboratively with staff, parents, carers and pupils to ensure every voice is heard. As a governor, I am committed to supporting the school in providing the very best education and opportunities for all children, with a strong focus on keeping every decision child-centred.
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Lizzie Powell-Clarke

Hello, I'm Lizzie Powell-Clarke, I have a son in year 5 and two more boys under 6 years old.

Aside from being mum to Arthur, Alfie and Arlo, I'm the owner of Early Hours Ltd, a Floristry and Set Design business based in central London. I have put my heart and soul into my business and all that it entails and am proud to say it's now one of the leading Floral Design companies in the country.

Since my son started at the school I've been volunteering on various creative projects for Parkside, and utilising the resources I have access to through my work to help further enhance the experiences the children have on offer. Early Hours was able to support the production of the fabulous School Library Bus, The Pre-Loved Uniform shop, as well as help create creative green spaces around the school, along with festive decorations at Christmas and for the Prom.

I love working with Parkside, and really enjoy supporting on pushing it forward to make it one of the most exciting and rewarding educational experiences possible for all its pupils. It's been fantastic having the opportunity to be involved in Parkside and although my business is hugely important to me, nothing is more important than my children and their education experience.

Yasmin Limbada

I have been at Parkside since September 2018, initially as a SEND Teaching Assistant, then as a Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 2. I am currently a staff governor on the curriculum team and understand the workings of the school curriculum. I am also involved with activities such as organising school events including parent coffee mornings and class parties. The enthusiasm evident in the culture of the school, reflects my own determination to make a difference to the children at Parkside. My aim is to ensure every child can achieve their goals to the best of their ability and is 'Proud to shine'.

How you can contact the Governing Body

Suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and are always welcome.

Please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office or by email

school@parkside.waltham.sch.uk