

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of The Stalyhill Schools' Federation January 2025

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of The Stalyhill Schools' Federation Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils;**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure their money is well spent.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of The Stalyhill Schools' Federation was constituted in 2024 and is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 4 Co-opted governors.

Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the federation. On our Governing Body, all of our Co-opted governors are members of the local community, spanning a range of backgrounds from corporate business to legal. Some have links to the school, whilst others are not linked, thereby bringing an objective and alternative viewpoint. The full Governing Body meets once each term. In addition, we have a Finance committee that also meet once a term. We also have committees that meet as and when required to consider for example, pupil discipline and staffing matters.

During the 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Body created a COVID-oversight committee which met once a fortnight to make decisions on COVID related matters. This was ongoing into the 2021-22 academic year, but was ended from the start of the 2022-23 academic year.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure

	that legal decisions can be made). See the register included in the Governance section of the website.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	This year, governors have continued to oversee the work of the two schools via information provided by the Executive Headteacher, Heads of Schools and Federation Business Manager, and through visits to the schools. Governors have recently approved budget plans for the 2025-2026 financial year and are now working with Tameside Local Authority and Stamford Park Trust to hopefully move to becoming an academy in the next 12 months. Governors have a legal duty to understand how the schools are fulfilling their responsibilities to safeguard children and this is a standing item at all meetings. The Chair of governors continues to support the leadership of the school in their recruitment processes when necessary. Minutes of all Governing Body and committee meetings excluding confidential items are available on request.
Future plans for the governors	The Governing Body is looking forward to working with the Headteacher to move the two schools towards full amalgamation and then towards academy status, hopefully joining Stamford Park Trust MAT.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Buckley, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.