



Annual Summary of Actions & Achievements for the Local Governing Board of Emmanuel College

2025-26

A Message from the Local Governing Board (LGB)

This report shares the work of Emmanuel College Local Governing Board during the 2025–26 academic year. Governors are volunteers who support school leaders, ask thoughtful questions and help ensure decisions are made in the best interests of students, staff, families and the wider community.

It has been another strong and purposeful year for Emmanuel College. Governors have celebrated the College's continued academic strength, the permanent appointment of Nat Ogborn as Principal, the ongoing growth of the Associated Sixth Form and the continued commitment to inclusion, character and student flourishing.

Across the year, the LGB has provided support and challenge across safeguarding, SEND and inclusion, attendance, behaviour, curriculum, teaching, pupil progress, personal development, careers, sixth form development, staff wellbeing, finance, health and safety and the future sustainability of the College.

Governors remain proud to serve a school rooted in Christian ethos, high expectations, strong relationships and ambition for every student to thrive.

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

Meet the governing board

Name:	Role/Responsibility:
Ross Smith	Chair - Monitoring: Stakeholder & Community Engagement, Leadership & Management, and Quality of Education & Extra Curricular.
Judith Sword	Vice Chair - Monitoring: SEND, Pupil Premium and KS3.
Joy Evans	Monitoring: Student Development and Personal Development; Behaviour & Attitudes including attendance.
Jonathan Harness	Monitoring: Safeguarding, Looked After Children and Child Protection.
Ali Bianchi	Monitoring: Ethos & British Values
Crystal Hicks	Monitoring: Careers Education & Guidance and Sixth Form.
Gladys Mante-Nyadu	Monitoring: Behaviour & Attitudes including attendance; Pupil Premium shadowing.
Regular Attendees	
Nat Ogborn	Principal
Rose Hall	Vice Principal
Darren Warburton	ESF Finance Director
Kelsey Stoddart	Governance Professional

Key Achievements and Actions

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding remained a central priority, with governors reviewing training, reporting, CPOMS recording, online safety, cyber security and link governor monitoring.
- The appointment of a non-teaching Designated Safeguarding Lead strengthened capacity and helped the school refine safeguarding categories, trend analysis and pupil-level reporting.
- Challenge focused on how safeguarding work supports students' engagement, behaviour, attendance and mental health, including where external support is harder to access.

Inclusion

- SEND and Pupil Premium information was reviewed regularly, with attention given to attendance, behaviour, curriculum access, progress, provision, staffing and wider opportunities.
- The Board monitored the rising SEND profile, including increasing EHCP numbers and the development of in-school inclusion spaces such as the Welcome Room.





- Governors welcomed evidence that disadvantaged students continue to perform strongly locally and that current data shows some gaps narrowing, while maintaining challenge on attendance and individual barriers.

Curriculum and Teaching

- Curriculum and teaching were reviewed through updates on quality assurance, lesson visits, coaching, adaptive teaching, literacy, oracy, numeracy and Everyday Excellence.
- The LGB welcomed the collaborative teaching review model, including peer-to-peer visits, student voice and feedback to Heads of Department.
- Governors supported strategic curriculum adjustments for 2026–27, including additional teaching groups, broad KS4 choices and developing KS5 pathways, while monitoring resource and staffing implications.

Achievement

- Governors celebrated another strong outcomes picture, including impressive KS4 results and positive progress for disadvantaged and SEND students in trial examination data.
- Y10 progress was challenged closely during the year, with governors welcoming the rapid improvement shown in AP3 data and the strong response from subject leaders.
- Reports on KS3, Y11, Y12 and Y13 helped governors scrutinise progress, intervention, higher grades, subject variation, destinations and readiness for next steps.

Attendance and Behaviour

- Attendance and behaviour were monitored throughout the year, with challenge focused on below target attendance, family engagement, illness, leave of absence, resilience and pupils facing barriers.
- The Board welcomed a calm and purposeful school culture, increased positive recognition and reductions in suspensions, removals, detentions and classroom warnings.
- Alternative Provision was reviewed as part of behaviour and inclusion oversight, including suitability, cost, pupil progress and opportunities to strengthen internal provision.

Personal Development, Ethos and Wellbeing

- Christian ethos, belonging, character, student flourishing, student happiness and stakeholder voice remained important themes across governor discussion.
- The LGB reviewed personal development, RSE, careers, enrichment, Activities Week, Camp Emmanuel, Cultural Emmanuel, Duke of Edinburgh, Medical Society and wider co-curricular opportunities.
- Staff wellbeing, absence, workload, recruitment, succession planning and leadership capacity were reviewed through personnel and leadership updates.

Sixth Form and Careers

- The continued growth of the Associated Sixth Form was monitored closely, including class sizes, student pathways, pastoral support, attendance, UCAS, apprenticeships and destinations.
- Governors welcomed the positive sixth form feedback following Grace College's inspection and the transformational impact of recent investment in sixth form facilities.
- Careers provision remained strong, with governors encouraging continued development of business links, university engagement, next-steps guidance and wider aspiration work.

Finance, Estates and Sustainability

- Finance was reviewed carefully through budget monitoring, reforecasting and approval of the 2026–27 budget and three-year plan.
- Governors challenged leaders and Trust colleagues on value for money, sixth form assumptions, alternative provision costs, lagged funding, CTC status and possible academisation implications.
- Health and safety and estates oversight included fire risk, lockdown procedures, critical incident planning, off-site visits, boiler replacement risk, IT replacement, refurbishment, LED lighting and wider capital works.

Leadership and Governance

- Governors worked with Trustees to support the Principal recruitment process, congratulated Nat Ogborn on his permanent appointment as Principal, and continued to support leadership transition, staffing structures and succession planning.





- Governor visits, action point reports and focused questioning helped strengthen preparation, live challenge, follow-up and assurance at meetings.
- The Board reviewed and approved key policies and reports, including admissions, RSE, SEND-related information, medical conditions, finance, safeguarding, health and safety and governance updates.
- Work began to align governor roles, the Cycle of Business and the Governor Development Plan with the developing Ofsted framework and College priorities for 2026–27.

Looking Ahead

As Emmanuel 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 students, families and staff. Governors will maintain close oversight of safeguarding, inclusion, SEND, attendance, behaviour, curriculum, outcomes, sixth form growth, personal development, careers, staff wellbeing and financial sustainability. The Board will also continue to champion the College's Christian ethos, high expectations and commitment to student flourishing.

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 to ensure governor time is used well, challenge remains purposeful and oversight is directed towards the areas where Emmanuel College most needs support and assurance. Governors will also support leaders and Trustees in ensuring that the College and its leadership remain anchored in the community it serves, with strong relationships across students, families, staff, local partners and the wider Foundation. This will help governors continue to ask the right questions, follow up agreed actions and align local governance with the College's priorities, Trust assurance and the developing Ofsted framework.

Emmanuel College Local Governing Board currently stands at six governors; this is below the target of nine. The board continues to benefit from strong experience across education, public health, safeguarding, SEND, stakeholder engagement, equality and inclusion, leadership and community engagement. A definite governor is due to join the board next academic year, with a further potential candidate also to be approached. Recruitment will therefore remain a focus in 2026–27 to strengthen capacity and address any remaining skills gaps.

Looking ahead, governors are excited to see the next stage of Emmanuel College's journey under its permanent Principal, with continued focus on inclusive provision, strong academic outcomes, sixth form development, ambitious destinations, enrichment and the conditions that help students love school and thrive. The Board remains proud to serve Emmanuel College and to celebrate the care, expertise, ambition and community focus shown by staff throughout the year.

