



**GOOSEACRE
PRIMARY ACADEMY**

Astrea Academy Trust
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

Gooseacre Primary Academy Local Governance Committee

Annual Impact Statement 2022 – 2023

Role of Gooseacre's Local Governance Committee

Local Committee Members are volunteers, chosen for their skills, experience and insights, to whom certain responsibilities are delegated for oversight of individual schools. Local committees are not legally responsible for the schools, so committee members are able to focus on school improvement by supporting and challenging the Principal and the wider school leadership team. Since committee members are drawn from the local community and will usually include parents and staff members, their input serves an essential part in informing Trustees' understanding of the local context and individual school performance. The committee is also a supportive forum in which the Principal can have access to the insights of people with professional and voluntary experience outside the education sector.

Our five accountabilities

Local committees act on behalf of the Board of Trustees within the school. We have five main accountabilities:

1. To ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of Astrea is maintained within each school.
2. To hold school leaders to account for educational performance of the schools, the inclusion of all pupils and the offer of a knowledge-rich and broadly-based curriculum.
3. To work with the school's leadership and central team to ensure that high standards of safeguarding are maintained.
4. To promote positive parent, community and stakeholder engagement and to drive school-to-school partnerships for improvement within the Trust.
5. To identify, understand and report to Trustees any strategic risks facing the school.

During the 2022 – 2023 school year, the LGC has met at the school on **five** occasions and members have visited to provide support and challenge on particular aspects of the school's work on **two** occasions.

To ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of Astrea is maintained within each school.

Evaluating the impact of the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school is a vital role of the committee. The chair liaises with the principal and clerk to draw up agendas for meetings responding to issues highlighted in the Astrea Trust's 2025 strategic plan, focusing on key issues such as a knowledge-rich curriculum; excellence in teaching; behaviours for learning; excellent professional practice underpinned by research; and staff and student well-being. The Principal, Mr Moore, along with other members of the senior leadership team, have reported on these areas throughout the year and have been challenged by members through questioning at meetings and during academy visits.

Members of the committee have different responsibilities (for example, Safeguarding, SEND, Fundraising, Behaviour and Attendance, and Quality of Education) and link with key members of school staff so that they learn about policy and procedure as well as seeing staff and pupils in action during visits.

In addition, the Trust provides governance training to extend knowledge and increase understanding around key issues such as the role of being a committee member, SEND, behaviour, curriculum, and preparation for Ofsted. Some committee members have benefitted from this training during the year.

The Principal has shared the School Evaluation Form (SEF) and School Development Plan (SDP) with the committee. The SEF is framed by the Trust and based around the Ofsted framework. This document is one that committee members have paid keen attention to as the school readied itself for inspection by Ofsted earlier in the year. Access to the SEF and SDP alongside analysis of data provides the committee with the opportunity to monitor, question and assess progress towards the improvement of the school.

The Chair keeps in touch with the Principal between meetings to ensure support is provided as well as giving an opportunity to catch up on successes, challenges, and any other issues.

To hold school leaders to account for educational performance of the schools, the inclusion of all pupils and the offer of a knowledge-rich and broadly-based curriculum.

At the start of the school year, the Principal presented the school's intended targets for pupil achievement at the end of the Reception Year, in Year 1 Phonics and Year 6 Key Stage 2 Test outcomes. Committee Members provided challenge to ensure that the aspiration for achievement was as high as possible, and continued to receive updates from which further support and challenge were based across all three terms.

Members shared particular interest in Y6 achievement, with visits taking place to view the work of the school in this area. The responsible member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) was also invited to present to the committee on the impact of the school's work, where members further explored the challenges faced by the school as well as the success being created.

The committee has also provided support and challenge with regards to:

- Pupil outcomes with a particular focus on KS2 results
- Strategies to improve attendance and reduce PA
- Safety in and around the school site
- How Personal Development is contextualised
- The implementation of the Pupil Premium strategy
- The school's investment in Year 6 academic intervention
- Support for new DSL and management of heavy workload

To work with the school's leadership and central team to ensure that high standards of safeguarding are maintained.

All committee members have completed the statutory training required for School Governors. Miss Cooper serves as the link member for safeguarding and has shadowed the DSL to help better understand Gooseacre's safeguarding strengths and methods.

The safeguarding link member and committee chair have both signed off the annual safeguarding audit. This academic year, Gooseacre completed the annual local audit, the findings of which were followed up by Miss Cooper in liaison with the DSL.

Safeguarding data is presented at every meeting and processes are discussed, questioned and clarified, enabling members to build a picture of strengths and concerns. The committee is aware that safeguarding is a main priority at Gooseacre and significant staffing resources and focus is placed on the responsibility of keeping children safe.

To promote positive parent, community and stakeholder engagement and to drive school-to-school partnerships for improvement within the Trust.

Our committee has now grown to include a single parent member, providing a valuable insight into our community. Recruitment of a second parent member has not yet been successful this year and we look forward to recruiting again in the coming school year. It is important that families are represented in the support and challenge that the committee offers the school.

We have successfully recruited an additional community member to the committee, providing yet further engagement with the Gooseacre community in the life of the school. This member has only recently joined but has already indicated that they would like to focus on SEND support and provision.

The Committee continue to be pleased to recognise the work of the school in engaging the pupils in numerous local and regional activities and opportunities which are always proudly presented in the half termly Principal's Report.

To identify, understand and report to Trustees any strategic risks facing the school.

The committee is fully aware of the strengths and weaknesses that Gooseacre has in terms of its site and facilities. The committee sees that the academy is run by committed, professional staff who enjoy rewarding relationships with colleagues and pupils. The academy has a fair behaviour policy which is consistently applied, a clear commitment to meeting the range of needs presented by the pupils on roll. In addition, the committee sees that a high level of care and pastoral support is provided to the school's most vulnerable pupils and their families.

Committee members are made aware of risks for Gooseacre through the Principal's Report, which is presented in each meeting. Where appropriate, members follow up in developing their understanding of risks through visits to the academy.

Attendance across the academy continues to be a key area of focus for Gooseacre, with members noting the dedicated work of the school in ensuring that pupils' good attendance is secured.

We would like to thank all the pupils, families, staff and other local stakeholders for their continuing support for Gooseacre Primary Academy and look forward to continuing our work with the school next academic year.

Charlotte Cooper
Chair of Local Governing Committee
July 2023