

Marlpool Federation of Schools

Governors' Annual Statement

2026 – 2027

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the four core strategic functions of the Marlpool Federation of Schools Governing Board are:

- ***ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction;***
- ***holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;***
- ***overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent; and***
- ***ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.***

Governance Arrangements

The Instrument of Government for the Marlpool Federation of Schools is as follows –

1. *The name of the federation is The Marlpool Federation of School.*

2. *The names and categories of the schools in the federation are –*

   Marlpool Infant School a community school, and Marlpool Junior School a community school.

3. *The name of the governing body is 'The governing body of Marlpool Federation of Schools'.*

4. *The governing body consists of –*

   a. *Two (2) parent governors (Marlpool Infants 1 and Marlpool Juniors 1)*
   b. *One (1) Local Authority governor*
   c. *One (1) staff governor*
   d. *One (1) Head Teacher*
   e. *Four (4) co-opted governors*

5. *The total number of governors is nine (9).*

6. *The term of office of all governors is four years.*

7. *The Instrument of Government comes into effect on the day of making, replacing the Instrument of Government made on 1st September 2015.*

8. *The Instrument was confirmed by the Local Authority 10th October 2025.*

Skills of the School Governor

The school governor is a key member of the strategic management and direction of a school. Governors need a strong commitment to making sure there are high aspirations for the all the children in the school and a commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for all the pupils. Governors should be naturally inquisitive and have the ability to question and analyse. It is important that governors have a willingness to learn, and there are opportunities for further training and development. School governors should have good inter-personal skills. The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors do not get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement. Governors attend seven (7) full governing board meetings per year. Being a school governor is a commitment and a holds significant responsibility but offers the chance to see first-hand the impact that can be made on improving education for children in the community.

Meetings of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has programme of meetings throughout the school year, and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance.

The programme of meetings for the Governing Board for this year is –

	Autumn 2026	**Spring 2027**	**Summer 2027**
Full Governing Board Meetings	*16th September 2026*	*27th January 2027*	*28th April 2027*
	14th October 2026	*17th March 2027*	*7th July 2027*
	16th December 2026		

The Governing Board of the Marlpool Federation of Schools is –

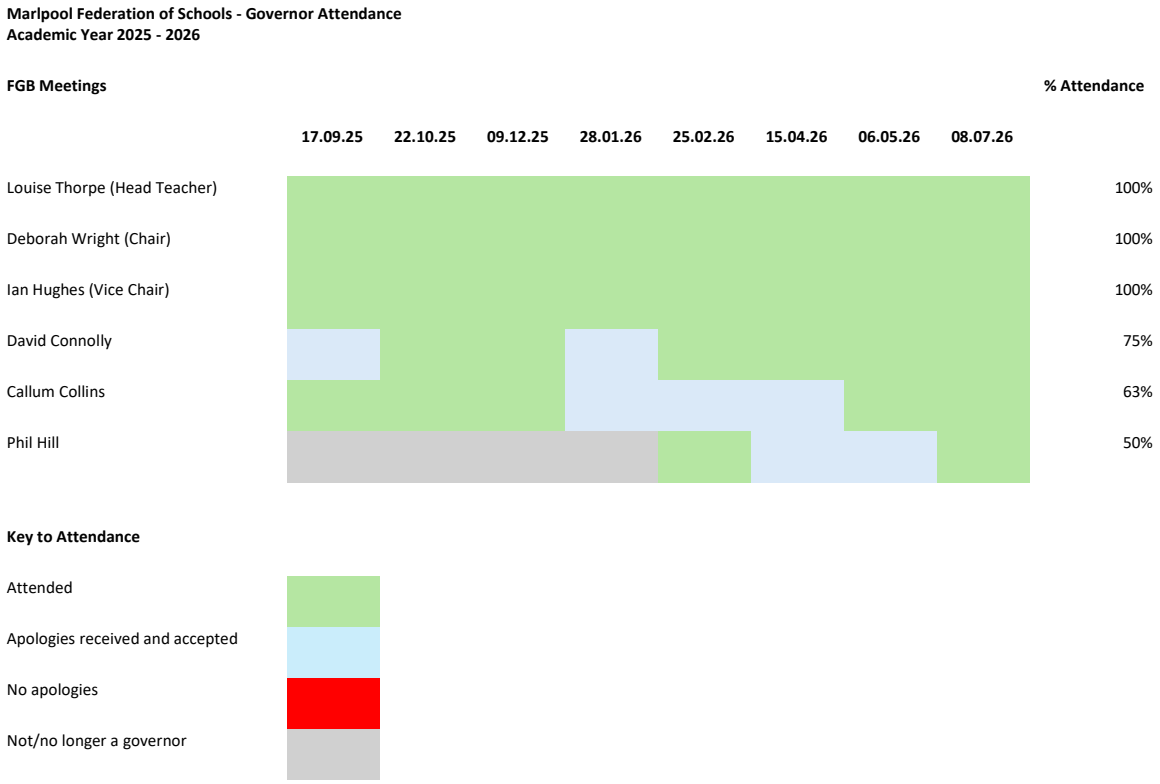
Governor Name	***Governor Designation***	***Date of Appointment***	***End of Term of Office***	***Business, Pecuniary & Personal Interests***
Mrs L Thorpe	*Head Teacher*	*N/A*		*None*
Mr C Collins	*Local Authority*	*09.07.25*	*08.07.29*	*Membership of Royal College of Nursing*
Vacancy	*Staff Governor*			
Mr D Connelly	*Parent Governor*	*05.09.23*	*04.09.27*	*None*
Mr I Hughes	*Parent Governor*	*03.04.23*	*02.04.27*	*None*
Mrs D Wright	*Co-opted Governor*	*16.09.26*	*15.09.30*	*None*
Vacancy	*Co-opted Governor*			
Vacancy	*Co-opted Governor*			
Vacancy	*Co-opted Governor*			
Mrs D Hill	*Clerk to Governors*	*N/A*		*Vice Chair of Governors, CJS & Chair of Governors, RJS*

Ad Hoc Clerk for
Embark MAT

Derbyshire
Leader of
Governance

Attendance Record of Governors

The attendance of governors at meetings in ***the academic year 2025 - 2026*** *is detailed below, expressed as a percentage of the total number of meetings.*



Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made. This means there must be 50% of governors at a full governing board meeting, and a minimum of three members attending each of the committees.

The work we have done in the Governing Board meetings

The Governing Board has had a number of challenges through the last year to ensure the school can set a positive budget and that the children are given the resources necessary to enjoy a positive experience in school. Governors have worked to support the Head Teacher and all staff in the implementation of the School Improvement Priorities, and focussed their link visits on those key priorities. The Safeguarding Governor has worked with the Head Teacher and the school's SENDCo to complete the S175 Audit and Review and to address the Action Plan arising from this. Meetings have targeted key issues on safeguarding and on behaviour across the Federation and have reviewed plans to ensure the Head Teacher and staff address issues raised in the recent Ofsted Inspection at Marlpool Infant School. Governors and staff are working towards the requirements of the new Ofsted Framework in anticipation of a visit by Ofsted to Marlpool Junior School.

Strategic Planning for the future

The defined aims of the governors are that all children in our school can –

- *i) the governors seek to support the increasing needs of all pupils, and to ensure that safeguarding of all pupils remains a priority;*
- *ii) to address increasing financial pressures of the reducing resources (physical and financial) across the federation of schools;*
- *iii) to continue to maintain high quality of education in this reducing resource environment;*
- *iv) to ensure pupils achieve at each stage of their development; and*
- *v) to explore all alternative ways of working to ensure the federation sustains a high quality of education and provision despite the challenges presented by local and/or national changes or needs.*

To meet these aims in our practice –

- *i) leaders and governors demonstrate awareness of key challenges, changes and priorities;*
- *ii) governor visits are structured, reported and discussed to ensure focus and support;*
- *iii) to ensure the link governors role is fully understood and implemented; and*
- *iv) to ensure that governor training is identified and completed to support the leadership of the school.*

In May 2025, Ofsted Inspectors visited the infant school, and their report identified the school as continuing to be 'Good' in all areas. The report states –

The school has designed an ambitious curriculum for all pupils that is reviewed regularly. In most subjects, the curriculum identifies what pupils need to know and remember and when this should be taught. Where this is the case, teachers deliver the intended curriculum well. Pupils talk about their learning with confidence and demonstrate a depth of understanding.

The school is passionate about helping pupils to love reading. The phonics programme begins as soon as children start in the Reception Year. Pupils read books that are well matched to the sounds that they know. They also have a book to share with their families for enjoyment. Teachers read to pupils daily. The school makes sure that all staff have the training to be reading experts. Staff frequently check how well pupils are learning to read. They ensure that pupils at risk of falling behind are supported to keep up with their peers. Pupils become confident, fluent readers.

Pupils' behaviour throughout the school is good. The school's expectations for their conduct are clear and consistently applied. The playground is lively and busy, and pupils enjoy socialising together. The school has prioritised improving how well pupils attend. New processes have secured a positive improvement in attendance.

The school ensures that pupils have additional opportunities to enhance their time in school. Pupils value their role in the community. For example, they enjoy raising money for charities, including the local hospice. Pupils have developed their understanding of working with different people through the intergenerational project. Pupils dance with the elderly on a regular basis. Pupils are clear about the impact of these activities. They say that the 'older people think back to when they were young, and it makes them smile'.

The report states that staff and governors understand what is working well in the school and what needs to improve. Staff are proud to work at the school and respect the consideration given to their workload and well-being.

The elements of the work of the Board on which members will focus in the coming academic year are –

i) record keeping on safeguarding – Ofsted Inspectors commented that "In some cases, safeguarding records do not fully document the actions that the school has taken to keep pupils safe. This reduces the school's ability to check on the impact of its actions over time. The school should ensure that records fully document the steps taken in relation to safeguarding." This will be addressed as a matter of urgency to ensure that all Safeguarding practices are as secure as possible.

ii) that pupils are prepared as well as possible to ensure pupils understand British values and differences between people. Ofsted commented that "Pupils have a limited understanding of the fundamental British values and the differences between people. Consequently, they are not prepared as well as they could be for life in modern Britain. The school should review its personal development provision to ensure that pupils develop their understanding of fundamental British values, equality and diversity appropriate to their age." Staff will work together to ensure that this is an integral part of the curriculum across the schools of the Federation and Governors have identified a strategy for supporting the school in addressing this issue.

Governors discussed the feedback received from the Ofsted Inspection team following their visit and have agreed a strategy to support the Head Teacher and staff in addressing these issues. Part of this will be to ensure that challenge to the Head Teacher, visits to school to meet with staff and pupils, and analysis of all sources will ensure that the Board can document its challenge on the progress being made in the school.

The Governing Board acknowledge that the coming academic year will be a period of significant change as a new Head Teacher is appointed for the Federation. It is anticipated that the appointment will be effective 1st January 2027. Governors recognise their role will be to support the new Head Teacher in ensuring an effective & smooth transition that will provide consistency and continuity for the children.

Contacting the school's Governing Body

Information about the School's Governing Body is available on the school's website. To contact a member of the governing body, you should email the Clerk to Governors via email on clerk2govs@marlpool-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk *or by telephoning the school on 01773 717647.*