The Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Committee of Alderton Junior School (AJS) November 2026	
In accordance with the responsibilities delegated from the Trustees of the Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust, the core roles of the for the Local Governing Committee are to : 1. **Carry forward the Trust's vision, ethos, values, and principles in line with AJS strategic objectives;** 2. **Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils**; 3. **Monitor the standards, safeguarding, SEND, and financial situation of the school** .	
Governance arrangements	The Local Governing Committee (LGC) of Alderton Junior School is made up of two staff governors (including the Headteacher), one Parent Governor and four Trust Governors. We are currently recruiting an additional Parent Governor to further strengthen parental representation. The full LGC meets twice each term. In addition, governors serve on panels and attend meetings as required, including the Headteacher Performance Management Review Panel, pupil discipline hearings and staffing matters. Governors provide both support and challenge to school leaders, ensuring effective oversight of educational standards, safeguarding, finance and the wellbeing of pupils and staff. During the past year, the LGC has increasingly met jointly with governors from Alderton Infant School as part of ongoing collaborative working between the two schools. This has enabled governors to share expertise, align strategic priorities and prepare for the proposed amalgamation. Joint meetings have supported informed decision-making and helped ensure that governance arrangements remain focused on securing the best possible outcomes for pupils, staff and the wider school community throughout this period of change.
Attendance record of governors	Governors generally have good 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). We use both virtual and in person meetings to enable flexibility for governors and staff.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	Throughout the year, governors have provided both support and challenge through meetings, visits to the school, engagement with stakeholders and scrutiny of school performance data. A key focus has been monitoring pupil outcomes and the effectiveness of interventions to ensure all pupils make strong progress. Governors reviewed attainment and attendance data regularly and were pleased to see positive outcomes for pupils and sustained high levels of attendance.

	The LGC has continued to strengthen its engagement with the wider school community through attendance at parents' evenings, assemblies and staff events. This has enabled governors to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of pupils, staff and families, informing strategic decision-making and helping to ensure the school's vision and values are reflected in practice. Governors have also maintained a strong focus on safeguarding, SEND provision and staff wellbeing. Monitoring activities included reviewing safeguarding arrangements, considering staff wellbeing survey outcomes and ensuring the Wellbeing Charter continues to have a positive impact on staff. During the year, governors have supported the school's commitment to providing a broad and enriching educational experience. This has included oversight of improvements to the learning environment, such as the development of outdoor classroom spaces, and monitoring the impact of the school's work to promote equality, diversity and inclusion across the curriculum and wider school life. A significant area of work this year has been the strengthening of collaborative governance arrangements with Alderton Infant School. Through joint meetings and strategic discussions, governors have played an active role in considering the opportunities and challenges associated with the proposed amalgamation, ensuring that decisions remain focused on securing the best possible outcomes for pupils, staff and families.
Future plans for the governors	The Local Governing Committee's key priorities for the coming year will be to continue strengthening governance capacity through the recruitment and induction of new governors, particularly to ensure a broad range of skills, experience and representation within the governing body. A significant focus will be supporting the Headteacher and senior leaders through the proposed amalgamation of Alderton Infant School and Alderton Junior School. Governors will work closely with school leaders, the Trust and stakeholders to support effective transition planning, ensure robust governance arrangements are in place and maintain a clear focus on achieving the best outcomes for pupils throughout the process. The LGC will continue to monitor educational standards, attendance, safeguarding, SEND provision and staff wellbeing, while ensuring that both pupils and staff are well supported during this period of change. Governors will also seek opportunities to strengthen engagement with parents, carers and the wider school community as plans for the future develop. Alongside this, governors will continue to develop their own knowledge and skills through training and collaboration with colleagues across the Trust, ensuring they are well equipped to provide strategic support and effective challenge to school leaders.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas– please contact the Chairs of Governors, Mr Andrew Jobling ajobling@ajs.efspt.org or via the school office.