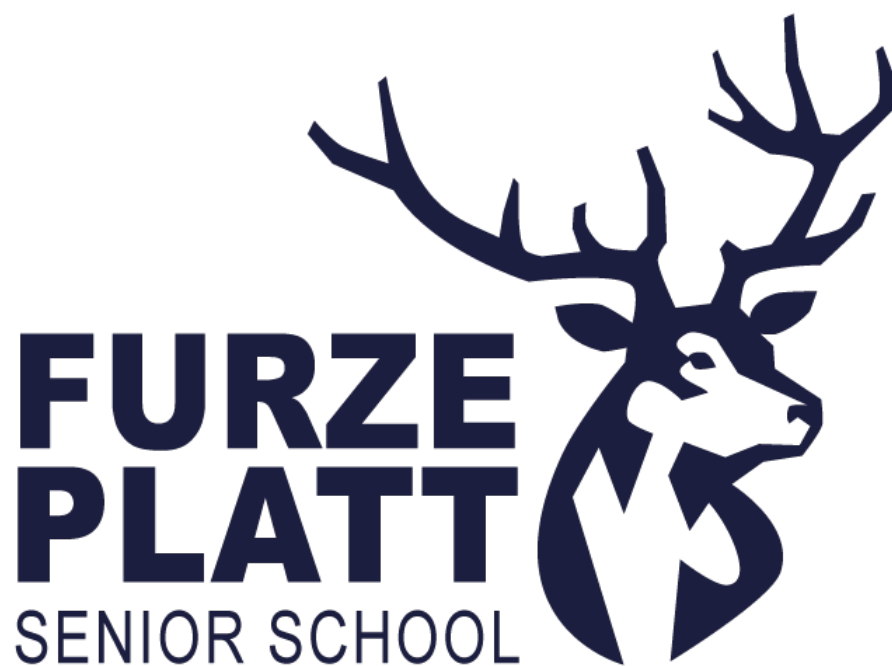




ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2026



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Message from the Chair of Governors

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding year at Furze Platt Senior School, I would like to share an overview of the Governing Board's work and the school's progress. Our role, as always, is to ensure that every decision taken by the school is in the best interests of our students, while also supporting staff and listening carefully to the views of families and our wider community.

Having finished the refurbishment of the Sixth Form Centre last summer, we were delighted that Josh Reynolds, an Alumnus and MP, formally opened the centre in November. When visiting the school, it is lovely to see how much the students are making use of the enhanced facilities.

As you will be aware, we were inspected by Ofsted in March. It was very pleasing that the inspection's outcome reflected our self-evaluation. Meeting expected standards in all evaluation areas, except Personal Development and Wellbeing, where we were awarded the strong standard.

As always, governors will continue to track progress against our strategic objectives through committee meetings, working groups, school visits and regular engagement with leaders. This work requires significant time from our volunteer governors and extensive preparation from school staff, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone involved.

I want to extend particular thanks to Dr Morrison and the Senior Leadership Team, who routinely join our evening meetings after long and demanding days in school. Their professionalism and dedication are deeply appreciated.

My thanks also go to our Vice Chair, Hugh Steed, for his service as Governor and past Chair of the Board. Hugh is stepping down as a governor at the end of this year, and we wish him well for the future.

I'd also like to thank our governors for their commitment and energy. This is a voluntary role, and we very much appreciate the time, effort, and contributions it affords us. We are supported by our Governance Manager, Jenny Knight, whose organisation and calm efficiency keep us all on track.

One of the greatest privileges of being a governor is attending school events. Whether it is an open evening, a careers fair, a celebration evening, a musical recital or the annual school production, these occasions showcase the very best of FPSS. They remind us why our work matters.

The recent Year 11 graduation was a particular highlight for me. Seeing our students celebrating this milestone and hearing from their tutors was a real testament to the relationships our young people have with the staff. There were lots of fist bumps, high fives and hugs with staff as the students collected their certificates.

Finally, I want to thank you - our parents and carers - for your continued support. Your children are at the heart of everything we do, and it is a privilege to serve this community.

If you are interested in becoming a governor or would like to learn more about the role, please contact our Governance Manager at jenny.knight@furzeplatt.net. We are always keen to welcome individuals who want to contribute to the future success of the school.



Katie Mair

Ms Katie Mair
Chair of Governors

Message from the Headteacher

I would like to thank our governing board for all their efforts on behalf of our community in the last academic year. Our governors are central in shaping the values of our comprehensive and inclusive school which is very much at the heart of our community. This year our governors have focused attention upon key areas for the school's development. These have included supporting our disadvantaged students, improving outcomes, increasing our attendance, and decreasing low level behaviour. Colleagues feel supported yet challenged to improve our school further.

Along with their oversight of key areas of school life, in the past year governors supported our move to a smartphone free school, tracking the impact of these changes to ensure success. In addition, they have invested reserves in our new Sixth Form facilities, changes which have had a noticeable impact on Key Stage 5. Moreover, governors have been sure to promote staff wellbeing, while monitoring health and safety and cyber security. This tireless work has occurred at a time when nationally school finances are causing concerns. It has been helpful to get governor support and oversight as we reduce our deficit budget and look to break even in future years.

Alongside our meeting schedule, governors provide additional support including through their school visits and representing FPSS at events within and beyond school. I am always particularly grateful when governors share their thanks and praise with our staff. Nowhere was this more evident than during and after our Ofsted inspection in March. The report says a lot about what it is to be a FPSS student and demonstrates the impact of staff and governors work. I would encourage you to read the report.

We are lucky to have such a governing board committed to all our community living our ACHIEVE values.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Morrison".

Dr Andrew Morrison
Headteacher

Full Governing Board

- Governance Manager – Jenny Knight
- Headteacher – Dr Andrew Morrison
- Chair – Katie Mair (Sep 2025 – Sep 2029)
- Vice Chair – Hugh Steed (Jul 2022 – Jul 2026)
- Nabeela Akhtar (Sep 2025 – Sep 2029)
- Georgina Bramall (Oct 2024 – Oct 2028)
- Angie Faires (Nov 2024 – Nov 2028)
- Diane Flood (Sep 2025 – Sep 2029)
- Rob Olliff (Jul 2024 – Jul 2028)
- Joshua Reynolds (Jul 2024 – Jul 2028)
- Chris Rodgers (Jul 2024 – Jul 2028)
- Daniel Siskin (Dec 2024 – Dec 2028)
- Jo Smith (Jan 2024 – Jan 2028)
- Abi Stead (Mar 2025 – Mar 2029)
- Mari Ueckermann (Oct 2024 – Oct 2028)
- Kate Winrow-Davies (Jan 2024 – Jan 2028)

Given the statutory duties we must fulfil, alongside the ongoing scrutiny of provision for our young people, much of our work is carried out through our committees. These groups enable governors to examine key areas in depth and ensure that the board fulfils its responsibilities with rigour and consistency.

As an employer, the wellbeing and professional experience of our staff remains a central priority. Governors play an active role in a range of staff-related responsibilities, including participating in recruitment processes, contributing to performance management moderation, reviewing and approving key policies, and gaining a clear understanding of staff workload, wellbeing and workplace culture.

Governors also spend time in school during the working day to observe practice firsthand. These visits generate reports for the board on areas including health and safety, SEND, safeguarding, careers education, departmental reviews, the use of pupil premium funding, attendance and behaviour across the school. These visits are an essential part of our monitoring and evaluation work and help ensure that our oversight is grounded in what is happening in classrooms and across the wider school environment.

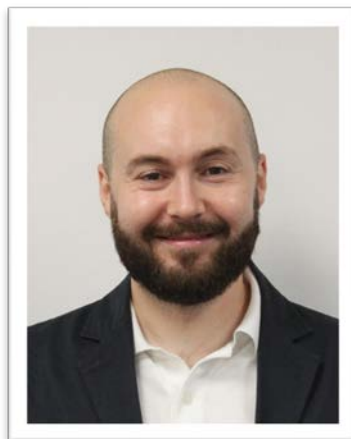
Each year, we also conduct a formal self-evaluation to assess our effectiveness and identify areas for further development.

Further detail of our work is available in the published minutes of our governing board meetings on the school website.



Quality of Education – Chris Rodgers, Committee Chair

Overall, we are very pleased with the school's academic outcomes. In 2025, students demonstrated sustained strong progress and attainment at KS4, alongside continued positive momentum at KS5 to achieve pleasing results. Encouragingly, there has also been good progress for our most disadvantaged student groups, which remains a key priority for the committee.



During 2025/26, the committee's strategic focus has been on maintaining strong academic outcomes while monitoring the impact of the KS3 alternative curriculum, Connect, for students requiring a more tailored pathway. We have been encouraged by the progress seen this year, particularly within the Year 7 cohort following refinements to the model. This adapted approach is now expected to continue, and we will maintain close oversight of its impact into the next academic year.

The committee has continued to monitor the school's key strategic priorities in Literacy, Numeracy and provision for More Able students, with an increased focus on evaluating impact. We are pleased with the progress made and will continue to encourage targeted strategies that support students in the best possible way. Governors have also contributed to the school's quality assurance processes through participation in departmental reviews. This has strengthened both oversight and constructive challenge, while also deepening governors' understanding of performance across the curriculum.

In addition, the committee has maintained oversight of the school's work to enhance careers education and work experience opportunities, supporting students in developing their aspirations and preparedness for future pathways. Overall, 2025/26 has been another year of strong academic progress. I would like to thank school staff and fellow governors for their continued commitment to securing the best possible outcomes for all students.

Pupils & Parents – Diane Flood, Committee Chair

This year behaviour within the school has continued to be one of the main areas of focus for this committee and we were pleased to see evidence that the hard work put in by all staff to ensure consistency and to embed routines is having a positive effect on behaviour across the school. There has been a significant drop in the number of suspensions and a marked reduction in



instances of low-level disruption. The trends that we have observed were borne out by this year's OFSTED inspection which observed that, "Leaders have consistently high and commonly understood expectations of pupils' behaviour. Pupils have positive attitudes towards their studies. Staff are swift to respond if pupils are not aligning with expectations. As a result, learning is purposeful and rarely disrupted by poor behaviour."

The committee has also continued to closely monitor outcomes for our Pupil Premium students by looking at measures such as attendance and wider participation, including their uptake of the wide range of enrichment activities offered at Furze Platt. Again, this was recognised in the recent inspection with the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer and the high uptake by most students contributing to the strong rating for personal development and wellbeing, "The school ensures that pupils benefit from a wide and rich set of experiences to enhance their learning and enrich their lives. Pupils are able to participate in a range of clubs and activities before, during and after school so that all pupils have access to enrichment opportunities regardless of their individual circumstances."

As reflected in the name of this committee, the voice of pupils and parents is key to our planning and evaluation. We regularly scrutinise the results of student and parent surveys, as well as inviting representatives from the 6th Form student leadership team to attend meetings to give feedback directly to governors. We are grateful to the outgoing student leaders who have provided the committee with valuable insight into the pupil experience at Furze Platt. We were also impressed to note that the student leaders have created their own strategic plan which gave a focus to their activities and should ensure that their priorities are able to be continued by the new student leaders.

Monitoring safeguarding across all aspects of school life remains one of the statutory functions of this committee. Areas of scrutiny include all aspects of safeguarding from governor checks on recruitment processes and ensuring staff receive the requisite training, to check that the necessary systems are in place to ensure the safeguarding of all students, including the early referral of any students who may need additional support.

There have been many positives this year, particularly in terms of behaviour and improvements to overall school attendance for most groups of students. This committee would like to acknowledge and thank the Senior Leadership Team as well as all the teachers and support staff for all their concerted efforts and hard work which have led to these improvements. Next academic year we will continue to monitor behaviour across the school and will scrutinise attendance particularly persistent absence among our SEND and disadvantaged students.



Resources – Rob Olliff, Committee Chair

The Resources committee provides oversight of the school's financial management, health and safety issues, capital works and maintenance of the school premises. The finance manager and her team continue to provide close and effective control of the school's income and expenditure despite the inflationary pressures and recruitment challenges faced during this academic year. The school's financial position in 2025/26 remains on a sound footing.



During the year, the Governing Board approved the budget for 2026/27, together with the forward-looking three-year financial plan. Pressures on staffing costs continue to be experienced across the education sector nationally, and Furze Platt is not exempt from these challenges. Although operating budgets are projected to remain broadly balanced over the planning period, any further investment in school buildings, information technology infrastructure or other significant areas would need to be funded through efficiencies elsewhere within the budget or from reserves.

From an estates point of view the school has been successful in its bid for Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) for new windows around the courtyard, Technology and old blocks. This is positive news and will once again support investment in our infrastructure ensuring the site is safer and even more energy efficient.

Governors undertook a formal health and safety assessment during a visit to the school in February. No significant concerns were identified, and the minor matters that were noted were addressed promptly by the school.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to extend our thanks to the Finance Manager and to the members of the senior leadership team who attend Resources Committee meetings. Their continued commitment, diligence and professionalism in ensuring that financial policies are followed and resources are managed effectively have helped to ensure that the school is well placed to look ahead to the coming years from a sound financial position.



Governing Board Priorities

The Governing Board is responsible for setting and reviewing the school's strategic aims. We are at the end of the second year of our 3-year strategic plan (2024-27) and have spent the year monitoring progress against our strategic priorities and defining priority objectives for 2026-27.

Vision: An inclusive school empowering every student to ACHIEVE excellence

Mission: The FPSS vision will be achieved through three areas of focus:

Attainment - providing an excellent, challenging, and broad curriculum

Character - developing the personal skills required to succeed, ensuring everyone feels an equal and valued part of the school community

Our School - providing a sustainable environment where everyone can thrive

Values: ACHIEVE (Ambitious, Collaborative, Happy, Integrity, Endurance, Versatility, Excellence)

We will continue to focus on attendance, behaviour, and our SEND provision. Our forecasts and predictions for this year's KS4 and KS5 exams indicate another year of strong performance, and we will continue to focus on driving progress and attainment upwards in the coming year.

Full details on the specific aspects of each focus area can be found in the [Furze Platt Senior School Strategic Plan 2024-2027, with 2026-27 priorities](#).

We are very much looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students when they receive their results in August. It is always a proud moment for the whole school community. September will also bring the excitement of welcoming new families and students to FPSS, and we continue to take great pleasure in sharing students' successes through our weekly newsletter.

We hope everyone across the FPSS community enjoys a well-deserved, restful and happy summer break.

Katie Mair, Chair
On behalf of the Governing Board

