



'Striving together for excellence and enjoyment'

**GOVERNORS' STRATEGIC PLAN
JANUARY 2026 – JANUARY 2030**

REVIEWED AND UPDATED ANNUALLY AT THE SPRING TERM MEETING.

SCHOOL CONTEXT, HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Context

Pirton School is a small school located near Hitchin in Hertfordshire. It draws children from the village of Pirton itself with a small number of pupils from surrounding areas including Shillington, Hitchin, Holwell and Beachwood Green. The nearest schools geographically are in Central Bedfordshire where the three-tier system still operates. This factors into some parents from central Bedfordshire choosing Pirton School as their preferred placement. However, Pirton also ties closely with Hitchin in Hertfordshire, with the vast majority of children going to secondary schools in Hitchin. It is worth noting that the number of houses in Pirton has increased by 30% over the last five years with planning permission currently being sought for a further increase of 25%.

The catchment area is not one of low deprivation, neither is it one of no deprivation. The proportion of Pupil Premium pupils over recent years has increased to 14%. The number of children with EAL is 3.6% and SEND pupils make up approximately 28% of the pupils.

History

The original school building was opened in 1877. However, formal education in Pirton began before this, growing out of the early straw plaiting schools which were started locally to meet the demands of the hat making industry, centred in Luton and Dunstable.

School Development

The current Head teacher has been in post since September 2022 alongside the current governing body. Following an Ofsted Inspection in October 2023, the school received an 'Requires Improvement' judgement for Curriculum. All other areas were evaluated as 'good.'

There are currently 136 children on roll in 6 classes; both mixed and single year groups. The PAN of 25 can be difficult for class organisation and it is hoped that the numbers on role will continue to rise to enable the school to operate a more sustainable model.

The teaching staff are all experienced, the classes are all supported by Teaching Assistants with the exception of a small Year One class. There is a part time SENCO (0.3) and an Assistant Headteacher who currently teaches across the school.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The vision and values statement was developed in 2023 and has been used to guide strategic planning since then. Following an external review of governance at the end of 2025, it was agreed that a new plan would be drawn up using the current statement as a basis for a way forward. Governors took into account feedback from parents' annual questionnaire, pupil voice, all governors (including staff and parent representatives) and a staff wellbeing exercise conducted by governors in December 2024.

VISION AND VALUES

Vision statement:

The school seeks to provide a rich and varied curriculum that ensures that all children are challenged to achieve their best and become confident and independent learners. Therefore we will:

- inspire lifelong learning;
- celebrate and value the individual strengths of ourselves and others;
- develop and value high aspirations for all;
- understand how we can positively contribute to the diverse world we live in.

VALUES

As well as the five British values promoted in all UK schools (Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect, and Tolerance of those with different faiths) Pirton School values are:

- ❖ Build a thriving school at the centre of the community by offering all the opportunities of a large school within a small school, and ensuring a highly supportive learning environment.
- ❖ Every child is known and respectfully treated as an individual, with their strengths and talents celebrated and nurtured to support them in reaching their full potential.
- ❖ Through a clear set of shared learning behaviours, children’s progress and achievement is at the heart of everything we do.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Strategic Plan sets out what governors need to do to ensure the implementation of the school’s vision, mission and values. Our plan is structured around six areas of strategic development and our objectives are set to ensure the school consistently:

- Ensures that exemplary safety and safeguarding practices underpin all aspects of school life.
- Focus on developing the quality of teaching and learning and raising standards of achievement.
- Clearly communicates the shared vision and values and continued striving for excellence.
- Demonstrates financial probity and honest and transparent reporting.
- Meaningfully involve parents/carers in the life and work of the school to support children’s learning.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1.	LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE
For all governors to be confident in their ability to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the FGB and consistently challenge and support the school to grow and develop and for leaders at all levels to work together to provide strong and robust governance and leadership.	
2.	FINANCIAL STABILITY
Maximise the use of school funding to achieve strategic aims, meet the essential needs of all children, ensure good value for money and effective and appropriate use of PP, Sports Funding and other grants. Governors will make sound and reasonable decisions that ‘future proof’ for children yet to come to Pirton.	
3.	SCHOOL STAFFING AND STRUCTURE
Develop and maintain a stable, high quality and high performing staff team that will support the school with the efficient deployment of staff and focus on providing high quality teaching and learning for all pupils.	
4.	PUPILS AND STAFF WELL BEING
Provide an enjoyable working and learning environment that supports staff development, resilience and retention through positive, professional engagement with leaders and role models. Continue to implement a whole-school approach to address issues such as high workload, stress, anxiety and burnout and ensure staff feel valued, supported and equipped to deliver high quality teaching and learning to all pupils.	
5.	SCHOOL SITE AND FACILITIES
Ensure the school premises, playground, field and facilities (including IT, connectivity and essential infra-structure) are designed to be suitable and safe for pupils, staff and visitors, adapting to modern educational needs as far as feasibly possible.	
6.	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
School and Governors will play an active role in the local community by engaging positively with all stakeholders. There will be clear expectations between the school, parents and pupils through our home school agreement and school and Governors will engage with and promote (appropriate) local events that support a variety of enrichment activities for all pupils.	