Ruskin Community High School

Governance Statement 2026-27

1. Introduction

This Governance Statement summarises how the Governing Board of Ruskin Community High School has carried out its responsibilities across the 2025–2026 academic year. It demonstrates how governance supports the school's vision, values, strategic direction, educational quality, and financial stewardship on behalf of pupils, parents, staff, and the wider community.

2. The Governance Role

The Governing Board's key responsibilities include:

- Setting and reviewing the school's strategic direction, vision and ethos.
- Governors will support and enable the leadership team to meet strategic objectives to further develop the school
- Holding senior leaders to account for the quality of education, student welfare, safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, and curriculum.
- Overseeing the school's resources, finances and environment to ensure effective use of public funds and safe, appropriate facilities.

3. Governance Structure

The Governing Board comprises 14 governors, including a Chair and Vice-Chair, and operates through a Full Governing Body (FGB) and smaller specialist committees. Regular meetings of FGB are held each term, and committee meetings follow a termly cycle.

Committees include at least:

- Leadership, Management & Environment Committee
- Teaching, Learning & Assessment Committee
- Student Development, Behaviour & Welfare Committee

Governors also serve in link roles (for example, Safeguarding, SEND, PP, Attendance, Educational Trips and Visits and Subject/Department links) to provide oversight and expertise.

4. Key Activities and Focus Areas 2025–2026

During the past academic year, the Governing Board has:

- demonstrated its strategic role by providing robust challenge and support to school leaders across key areas of school improvement, educational performance, financial sustainability, safeguarding and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the three-year strategic plan.
- fulfilled its responsibility for financial oversight by approving the 2026/27 budget, staffing structure, annual contracts and service-level agreements. Governors scrutinised future financial risks, questioned procurement arrangements and received assurances regarding the management of public funds, thereby supporting value for money and the long-term financial stability of the school.
- promoted the school's vision and strategic direction by reviewing progress against key priorities, including attendance, inclusion, curriculum development, enrichment opportunities and collaborative working through the Wheatsheaf Alliance.

- continued to prioritise safeguarding through its scrutiny of attendance, pupil welfare, behaviour, inclusion and educational visits.
- ensured that stakeholder voices were considered. Governors received feedback from pupils through the School Improvement Partner's reports, considered parental feedback and reviewed arrangements for reporting pupil progress and attainment to families. The Board's discussion demonstrated a commitment to understanding and responding to the views of students, parents and the wider school community.
- Governors challenged leaders on attendance, attainment and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, ensuring that the school remains focused on improving achievement for all learners and addressing gaps in performance.

5. Priorities for 2026–2027 (as identified by the Governing Body)

- Inclusion is the golden thread throughout all areas of the school, enabling all students, regardless of any barriers, to thrive and achieve well at the school.
- Continuing work to raise further attainment in core subjects.
- Sustaining improvements in attendance and punctuality and working to reduce the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students.
- Further strengthening provision for SEND students
- Raising the attainment and progress of disadvantaged students and SEND students.

6. Conclusion & Statement of Approval

This Governance Statement was reviewed and approved by the Full Governing Body of Ruskin Community High School on 7th October 2026.

Chair of Governors: John Rhodes
Headteacher: Dean Postlethwaite