

# Children First Academy Trust

## Governors & Trustees Newsletter

### Spring Term 2026

#### House of Lords Visit – 20 March 2026

A visit to the House of Lords offered a valuable opportunity to explore national perspectives on Parental Engagement and its powerful role in improving outcomes for children. The session focused on how strong partnerships between families and schools can enhance attendance, reduce barriers to learning, and strengthen community connections.



We also took part in a roundtable discussion, contributing insights from Children First Academy Trust and gaining practical strategies to bring back to our trustees and governors. The visit concluded with a well-prepared lunch that offered time for reflection and discussion with fellow education professionals.

#### Annual Governance Conference – 11 March 2026

This year's Joint Governor and Trustee Conference was very valuable for strategic leadership across Children First Academy Trust. The agenda centred on the forthcoming SEND reforms, the Children's White Paper, and Ofsted's new inspection toolkit—each carrying significant implications for how governors and trustees provide oversight, ensure compliance, and maintain a sharp focus on improving outcomes for all our pupils, with inclusion at the core of what we do. We also reviewed the new Trust Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

Discussions highlighted why these national developments remain high strategic priorities for the Trust, shaping everything from curriculum design to resource planning. Attendees also explored effective approaches to strengthening community engagement, recognising its role in building trust, improving attendance, and supporting families more effectively.

The session underscored the importance of sustained professional learning for governance. To support this, further Ofsted-focused training will be offered, and we strongly encourage even greater attendance next year so that all our local governing boards benefit from shared insight and consistent understanding across the Trust.



## National School Governors Awareness Day – 12 February 2026

A big thank you to you all for your time and dedication to improving the school experience of all our pupils and staff.



### Ofsted – Categories for you to become familiar with at LGB meetings

#### Ofsted will report on:

- ▶ safeguarding
- ▶ inclusion
- ▶ curriculum and teaching
- ▶ achievement
- ▶ attendance and behaviour
- ▶ personal development and well-being
- ▶ early years in schools
- ▶ leadership and governance

#### What is the focus in the Leadership and Governance area?

Key for Ofsted inspectors in the area of Leadership and Governance:

**“Do pupils thrive from the right systems, processes and levels of oversight, so that they are kept safe and are able to flourish, whatever their background or level of need?”**

**Leadership, inclusion** and an **open and positive safeguarding culture** are key areas of focus when inspectors gather evidence.

They will try to find out if pupils are **achieving academically and personally**.

They will be looking for whether **pupils feel they belong to and are valued as part of the school community**.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you at the next Governor visit days.