The New Walk School *Bespoke support. Brighter futures.*

Governance Policy

The New Walk School policy framework

Policy	Governance Policy	**Version**	V1
Issue date	08 May 2026	**Next review**	08 May 2027
Policy owner	Headteacher	**Approved by**	Directors of The New Walk School Ltd

1. About The New Walk School

The New Walk School is an independent specialist day school for pupils aged 7 to 19 who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, autism spectrum conditions, learning difficulties and communication difficulties. The school is located on New Walk in Leicester — a setting with a long-standing association with academic life — and is operated by The New Walk School Ltd, a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The majority of our pupils hold an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and many have experienced previous educational placements that did not meet their needs. Our offer combines a broad academic curriculum with an in-built therapeutic provision rooted in the PACE model — Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy — developed by Dr Dan Hughes. PACE is a relational approach designed to build trust, regulate distress and create the safety from which learning can take place. It informs how every adult in the school speaks to, listens to and works with our pupils.

3. Constitutional position

The New Walk School is operated by The New Walk School Ltd, a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales. The company does not currently hold charitable status. The Directors of The New Walk School Ltd act in lieu of a governing body for governance and oversight purposes set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, KCSIE and other applicable statutory frameworks.

4. Functions of the Directors

The Directors carry collective responsibility for:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for educational performance and the use of resources.
- Ensuring statutory compliance, including the Independent School Standards, KCSIE, Equality Act 2010, Health and Safety, and Data Protection.
- Approving and reviewing policies.

- Ensuring effective safeguarding arrangements, with a named safeguarding Director.
- Financial oversight, including budgets, audited accounts and reserves.
- Risk management.
- Recruitment of the Headteacher.

5. Composition and skills

The Directors include individuals with experience and skills in education, SEND, safeguarding, finance, governance and operations. A skills audit is undertaken annually and used to inform recruitment of additional Directors. Directors are subject to suitability checks set out in KCSIE Part 3 (including Section 128 prohibition checks where appropriate).

6. Roles within the Directors

- Chair of the Directors — leadership of governance and link with the Headteacher.
- Safeguarding Director — link with the DSL, oversight of safeguarding arrangements.
- SEND Director — link with the SENCO, oversight of SEND provision.
- Finance Director — oversight of financial management.

7. Meetings

The Directors meet at least termly. Minutes are recorded and made available to inspectors. Decisions outside meetings are documented through written resolutions where required.

8. Code of conduct

Directors operate under a Code of Conduct that addresses confidentiality, conflicts of interest, attendance, professional conduct and the duty to act in the best interests of pupils.

9. Self-evaluation and external review

The Directors review their own effectiveness annually and undertake an external review of governance at least every three years.

10. Relationship with the Headteacher

The Directors hold the Headteacher to account through a planned cycle of reporting on educational performance, pupil outcomes, safeguarding, finance and statutory compliance. The relationship is supportive and challenging in equal measure.

11. Statutory documents

The Directors ensure that the following are in place and reviewed: this policy suite; the Single Central Record; the safeguarding audit; the fire risk assessment; the health and safety risk assessments; the Accessibility Plan; the equality objectives; and the school's registration with the DfE and ICO.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher in consultation with the senior leadership team and the Directors of The New Walk School Ltd. It will be reviewed earlier where there is a material change in legislation, statutory guidance or the operational needs of the school. The most recent version is held on the school's policy register and is made available to parents, carers and staff on request.

Linked policies and documents

This policy should be read alongside the school's wider policy suite, including: Safeguarding and Child Protection; SEND; Behaviour and Relationships; Anti-Bullying; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Health and Safety; Curriculum; and Complaints.