

Annual Statement for the Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic Primary School

September 2023

The Governing body of St Mary's Catholic Primary School works with the Headteacher to promote and maintain high standards and high expectations so that all children are able to 'let their light shine'. This annual statement outlines how the Governing Body has fulfilled its responsibilities and how it has met the core strategic functions of the school's Governing Body set out by the Government and The Department for Education.

As Governors, we are accountable for the performance of our school and are measured by three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure the money is spent well.

Training

All members of the Governing body have to commit to significant training at the start of their time as a governor and to commit to further development throughout their tenure. This is to ensure that all the board members are kept up to date with their responsibilities in regard to the latest requirements and expectations. This is reviewed regularly by the board to identify any skills gaps.

Committee Meetings

Each year, relevant Governors (dependent upon their sphere of expertise/area of interest) are invited to attend three committees which meet termly:

- Resources Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Pastoral Committee

In addition, there is a 'Pay Committee' and an 'Admissions Panel' which meet to complete specific work.

The impact of the committee meetings together with the monitoring visits is that Governors understand and gain knowledge in areas of strengths and focuses for development within the School. This enables Governors to challenge and support the Head Teacher appropriately, targeting such challenge and support to focus on key targets/milestones identified throughout the academic year, in the SIP.

Full Governing Body

Full Governing Body meetings are held 3 times each academic year. At all Full Governing Body meetings, Governors receive copies of minutes from the respective committees/a verbal summary of the points discussed at those meetings (with opportunities afforded for questions), including a written report from the Head Teacher on all aspects of the running of the school. This report deals with safeguarding; school values; quality of teaching and learning; attendance; admissions; behaviour and safety. Governors review the report in advance of the meeting. The report is then discussed in brief at the meeting, with

an opportunity afforded for questions/discussion. This process allows Governors to improve their knowledge and understanding of the school as well as holding the Headteacher to account in respect of the School Improvement Plan and the milestones detailed therein, checking on all aspects of the School's performance.

Linked Governor Roles

Within the structure, governors may also be responsible for an area of school work and a year group. This allows governors to have deeper insight in to such things as curriculum subjects, SEND, Pupil Premium, safeguarding, cyber security, GDPR, wellbeing and the lived experiences of pupils in our school.

We also, as Governors, undertake learning walks, class observations, periodic reviews of SEND practices and drop in sessions in particular areas to ensure we have a good understanding of day to day life in the school. This further helps us to celebrate the good practice taking place, be a critical friend, asking questions and delving deeper as well as identifying areas requiring development. We use various sources of information from the school, the Local Authority, the Diocese and benchmarking data from around the country to assess the performance of the school. Linked governors feedback any work they have done at full governing body meetings.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be of paramount importance. The school's policies are reviewed and approved by the Pastoral Committee and they ensure they meet the full requirements. Our Safeguarding Governor meets with the Headteacher regularly to offer support, advice and challenge. The Single Central Record is checked by the Headteacher every half term and the Safeguarding Governor ensures that this has happened. All governors have completed up to date safeguarding training and it is discussed at each meeting. The headteacher completes the safeguarding audit and any recommendations are shared with governors. Safeguarding reports are presented at Pastoral and FGB meetings to facilitate discussion and challenge around the provision in place. The school continues to alert and inform parents and carers of how they can protect their children online. Children are given regular reminders how to keep themselves safe, especially on-line.

Performance Management

The Pay Committee holds responsibility for carrying out the Headteacher's appraisal annually. The headteacher has to provide evidence to the committee that objectives have been met. In addition, the headteacher reports to the Pay Committee on the staff at the school to ensure that their development objectives have also been met. Governors scrutinise this report and use evidence to approve pay recommendations suggested by the head teacher.

School Improvement Plan

As in previous years the Governing Board supported the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and the staff to advance the School Improvement Plan. As a reference point, the School Improvement Plan is based on the priorities identified from school self-evaluation. The School Improvement Plan is set out with clear aims, targets and key tasks, which will be completed in order to achieve the identified areas

so the school can move forward. The School Improvement Plan is a working document and reviewed on a regular basis. The areas identified this academic (2023-2024) year were:

QUALITY OF EDUCATION	BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE	PASTORAL COMMITTEE
To clearly identify the most important knowledge that all pupils, including those with SEND, need to know and then ensure that assessment is effective to check that pupils remember this knowledge.	To improve the consistency of approach to further enhance the positive behaviour culture in school.
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
PASTORAL COMMITTEE	CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
<p>To promote the extensive personal development of pupils so that they have access to a wide, rich set of experiences by:</p> <p>a) developing and enhancing roles and responsibilities of pupil groups (prefects, mini-Vinnies, school council)</p> <p>b) developing pupil's play experiences at lunchtimes so that they are engaged in co-operation, imagination, initiative, collaboration, resilience and risk taking.</p> <p>c) widening the opportunities available to pupils, especially disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND, so that talents and interests are developed through a rich range of experiences.</p> <p>d) enhancing the Shine programme by inviting external speakers, undertaking visits to develop understanding of school and British Values</p>	To improve the quality of teaching and learning by focussing on developing teachers' subject, pedagogical and pedagogical content knowledge

The Governing Body at St Mary's Catholic Primary School continually seek improvement for the provision of education. We are outward looking and take a holistic approach when considering the development of all our pupils. Working closely with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and all members of staff, we are constantly striving to improve and develop the school in all areas.

The relationship between the Governing Body, the Senior Leadership Team and the staff is based on trust, respect and support. The results of which are a good education with many aspects of the school being outstanding. This continues to serve as a highly successful model with continued improvement in pupil progress, pupil attainment and pupil well-being.

Assessment of the impact of the Governing Body 2023-2024 has been that:

Curriculum

The curriculum is monitored on a regular basis to ensure a seamless transition between year groups and key stages but also to ensure the curriculum is adapted to the needs of the children and is relevant for them. Furthermore the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and staff ensure the curriculum provides all children with what they need to know for the future, it's ambitious and what the children learn is inspirational and exciting. This year the school has purchased resources and equipment to support the enhancement of the curriculum.

Resources

The Governors' Resources Committee specialises in school finances and meets with the Head Teacher and School Business Manager to ensure best value. The Governors are committed to ensuring that the school budget is spent wisely and for the benefit of the pupils. Governors are responsible for the monitoring and the impact and the use of the Pupil Premium Grant. Detailed information regarding the use of this funding is available on the school website. The impact of the Sports Premium Grant is also monitored by the Governors and in conjunction with the Headteacher. A full report on spending and impact is also available on the school website.

Pastoral

The Pastoral Committee ensures that the school's Catholic ethos shines through in all relationships within the school. It works hard to listen to pupils and ensure that they feel safe in school and are protected from bullying and harassment. This committee also looks after staff wellbeing ensuring that they are well supported and able to fulfill their roles effectively.

We are a multi skilled dynamic Governing Body, with a wide range of experience in all walks of life and the business environment. We utilise these skills to enable us to meet and overcome the challenges we face to secure success for the children of St Mary's Catholic primary School.

We look forward to a productive year ahead and will continue to work with the Headteacher and staff for the benefit of all the pupils, staff and the school community of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Mr. Mario Santoro

Chair of Governors