



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School and Nursery

GOVERNOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

'LEARNING AND LIVING TOGETHER THROUGH FAITH AND EDUCATION'

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to work together in the way of Christ, to develop learners who are respectful, responsible, educated young people who will contribute positively to the world wide community and grow with a faith that will underpin their adult lives.

We believe at St Mary's that each person is gifted, unique and loved by God. By working in partnership we aim to create a challenging, stimulating and effective learning environment where Christ is our inspiration.

WHAT DOES A BOARD OF GOVERNORS DO?

'Governing boards are the strategic decision makers and vision setters in every school and academy. They play a vital role in ensuring the best possible education for every child by creating robust accountability for school leaders. Crucially, that means using and being familiar with objective data on the performance of pupils, teachers and finances to ask the right questions and ensure resources are allocated to school priorities.' - Lord Nash, **Governance Handbook**

2015

THE THREE CORE STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS OF ANY BOARD OF GOVERNORS IS TO:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Hold the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff;
3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Canon law (Church law) also requires that Catholic schools are "...at least as academically distinguished as that in the other schools of the area" (Canon 806§2).

Governors do not get involved in the day to day management and operational detail of the school.

WHO ARE THE GOVERNING BODY?

Governors are ordinary people with a varied mix of knowledge and experiences, who are united by their shared passion and commitment to provide an excellent environment for all pupils and staff to enjoy, an environment where all pupils can feel safe and can be encouraged to achieve their

potential, whilst offering them a rich and diverse education in an atmosphere of warmth, care and hope.

Our members are drawn from parents, staff and the local community.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

As a full Board we meet three times a year. In order to carry out our responsibilities effectively we use committees; these meet, on average, once a term. All the committees have terms of reference that clearly lay out their responsibilities and delegated powers. All minutes are circulated to all governors.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

This committee monitors and evaluates the School's Improvement Plan ensuring it is effectively moving the school forward and consistently improving academic outcomes for all pupils. They ensure that there is a broad and balanced curriculum that inspires pupils to learn. We are ambitious for our children and committee members systematically challenge the Head and other senior leaders in order to monitor and evaluate standards and progress

in all subjects and for all pupils. They also review, approve and monitor school policies to ensure they meet statutory guidance and they are being applied consistently throughout school. This committee is also responsible for monitoring cultural capital, progress and attainment. This committee also focuses on promoting opportunities for children within a broad and balanced curriculum. A curriculum which encourages healthy life styles, achievement both academic and sporting, and ensures that children are well supported in RE and PSHE. The committee also ensures that SEN provision is in place and vulnerable children are also well supported and catered for. The committee monitors provision across the school, sets and agrees aspirational targets and ensures that reporting arrangements are met by the school.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & WELFARE

This committee focusses on the personal development, safety and well-being of pupils.

We do this by ensuring pupils' voices are heard and taken into account, through meetings with the school council on a regular basis and learning walks around the school. This committee has the responsibility to ensure the school has a member of staff (usually the Head Teacher) and a governor appointed to promote the duty to safeguard every child. This committee considers the totality of the pupil experience at St Mary's and all matters relating to pupil behavior, attitudes to learning, attendance and well-being. This committee ensures that policies and procedures are in place to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children and to promote British Values, it monitors how the school deals with Racism and Equality issues.

This committee also receives reports on SMART club, our before and after school club.

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee monitors and evaluates the school's finances and expenditure in order to hold the Head teacher and Senior Leaders to account for the financial performance of the school. The committee members systematically challenge the Head teacher, senior leaders and School Business Manager, so that the effective deployment of staff and resources, including the pupil premium, the primary PE and sport premium and SEN funding, secures excellent outcomes for pupils. The School Business Manager supports the committee by providing detailed information to ensure governors can effectively understand and monitor the financial health of the school. We focus here on ensuring that the school sets and uses its budget appropriately, making sure that staffing levels meet the needs of the children, that the school premises are kept in good condition and the school grounds are developed to enhance the learning experiences of the children.

This committee is also responsible for Teaching and non-teaching staff appointments. It also ensures that the

Performance Appraisal Policy is in place and considers the staffing structure of the school.

The Schools Financial Value Standard is completed annually by the Committee in line with Government legislation.

HOW CAN YOU CONTACT THE GOVERNING BODY?

You can contact the Governors through Mrs H Cummings, Clerk to Governors by email:

hilary.cummings@cheshireeast.gov.uk

A list of serving Governors, their categories, responsibilities, committee membership, and terms of office, together with attendance records and declarations of interest are on the school website.