



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY, CREWE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021 - 22

The government has high expectations of governing bodies. They are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child receives the best possible education.

For schools such as ours this is reflected in the law, which states that the purpose of governing bodies is to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school'.

In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on 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, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The governors bring a wide variety of experience and expertise to the school, and this helps ensure that our school is moving forward and standards are constantly raised in a way that is in line with the overarching ethos and vision of the school, along with the statutory directives from the Department of Education and the Diocese of Shrewsbury. This impact statement summarises our role in the development of our school and its pupils over the past year, and provides an opportunity to be transparent about what we do.

Membership:

For 2021 – 2022, the Governing Board comprised of the following members:

Chair of Governors: Mr J Duncan

Vice Chair of Governors: Mrs N Povey

Foundation Governors: Rev Fr J Fagan, Mrs C Fairhurst

LA Governor: Ms H Webster (up to March 2022)

Associate Governor: Mr F Lepisz (Foundation Governor as of June 2022)

Head Teacher: Mrs S Fau-Goodwin (up to January 2022, then Mrs C Wright)

Staff Governor: Mrs C Wright (up to January 2022, then Mrs N Messenger)

Parent Governor: (elect) Mrs G Bailey (up to July 2022), Mr N Murdocco (up to Nov 2021)

Clerk to Governing Body: Mrs Sarah Lomas

Governors serve a four-year term of office.

The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

In addition to the three Full Governing Body meetings that took place during 2021-22 (one at the end each term), the following committees also took place (one each term):

- Quality of Education
- Personal Development
- Personnel and Finance
- SFVS

Additional committees

- Pay – this committee meets once per year during the autumn term

The following committees take place as required:

- Admissions
- Appeals

Link Governor Visits

Governors have been assigned subject areas to act as a Link Governor for and have regular termly meetings with subject leaders to discuss progress against key objectives and have oversight of upcoming plans in each area of the curriculum.

This is important so the school can demonstrate to OFSTED when inspected that Governors play an active role in school life and have oversight of the curriculum in school.

Link Governor visits have continued this year and Governors look forward to more visits in the year ahead.

New Headteacher

Governors this year delivered the recruitment process for a new Headteacher following the departure of Mrs Fau-Goodwin from the school after many years of dedicated service.

Governors were pleased to be able to appoint Mrs Wright as our new Headteacher at St Mary's following a recruitment process.

Governors were excited to hear Mrs Wright's plans to build on the great work at St Mary's and continue to progress the school for all pupils and staff and we look forward to working with Mrs Wright as Headteacher at St Mary's in the years ahead.

Governors also undertook a recruitment process for a temporary Deputy Head role to replace Mrs Wright and look forward to progressing a full process for a permanent Deputy Head Teacher role in the coming months.

School Policies

Governors undertake regular reviews of all School Policies and this year has been no exception as we have looked to incorporate the new statutory guidance on school uniforms and other updated policy areas.

Financial Management

Governors have been pleased to see that the School Business Manager, Mrs Lee, continues to ensure robust financial management of the school and Governors have been given full oversight of the great work she has done in keeping the school budget on track in challenging circumstances ensuring that we continue to invest money wisely to promote learning in the classroom and also a productive environment across the school with well-maintained buildings and development where needed, progressing with plans to invest in our outdoor spaces.

Training and Safeguarding

Governors continue to invest in their training and development, building up skills and ensuring that they can provide useful and meaningful input in meetings by being well trained and kept up to date on developments in education.

Governors have ensured that they are all up to date with safeguarding training and procedures so the school continues to deliver on its safeguarding requirements at all levels.

Priorities for next year

Governors will be leading the recruitment process for a permanent Deputy Headteacher role early in the new school year and are looking forward to continuing to work with subject leaders in link Governor roles, seeing at first hand the great work being done by subject leaders and teaching staff across the school.

Governors will be restructuring our committees to make us more focussed on our key priorities for the year ahead.

Governors are also looking forward to welcoming new members to the Governing board, filling some vacancies and replacing members who have now left including Fr Jerome who sadly left the Parish in summer. We will be welcoming our new Parish priest, Fr. Nick Kern to the Governing board along a number of new members and also working to fill other vacancies we have.