



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School and Nursery

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY, CREWE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022 - 23

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 2022 – 2023, the Governing Board comprised of the following members:

Chair of Governors: Mr. J Duncan

Vice Chair of Governors: Mrs. N Povey

Foundation Governors: Mrs. C Fairhurst, Mrs. D Brown, Father N Kern, Mr. F Lepisz

LA Governor: Mr. M Takaki

Head Teacher: Mrs. C Wright

Staff Governor: Mrs. N Messenger

Parent Governor: Mr. S Tew, Mrs. C Lightowler

Clerk to Governing Body: Mrs. S 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 2022-23 (one at the end of each term), the following committees also took place (one each term):

- Curriculum and Welfare
- Staffing and Resources

Additional committees

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

The following committees take place as required:

- Admissions
- Appeals

School Inspections

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School successfully underwent an OFSTED inspection in June 2023 and achieved a GOOD judgement, affirming the commitment to high educational standards. The Governing Body played a vital role, demonstrating sound judgement and contributing to the school's success. The report states:

"Governors know the school well. They hold leaders to account effectively and provide appropriate support when required. Staff share leaders' determination to provide a high-quality education for all. Leaders are mindful of staff workload and well-being"

Furthermore in March 2023, the school achieved an OUTSTANDING judgement in the Denominational Inspection, showcasing the school's commitment to its Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school. This accomplishment reflects the collaborative efforts of the leaders, staff, pupils and Governing Body in fostering an environment that aligns with the school's values.

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.

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

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

In the academic year 2022-2023, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School faced a transitional period during the summer, as the school encountered a vacancy in the position of the School Business Manager. Responding to this challenge, and in adherence to guidance from the Local Authority, external support was sought to ensure the continued effective operation of the school.

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 are pleased to announce that Mrs. T German has been appointed as the new School Business Manager, and eagerly anticipate her commencement of duties in September 2023.

Governors will be leading the recruitment process for a permanent Deputy Head teacher role early in the Spring Term 2024.

Governors 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.