



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY, CREWE

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023 - 24

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 2023 – 2024, the Governing Board comprised of the following members:

Chair of Governors: Mr. S Tew

Vice Chair of Governors: Father N Kern

Foundation Governors: Mrs. N Povey, Mrs. D Brown, Mr. F Lepisz

LA Governor: Mr. M Takaki

Head Teacher: Mrs. C Wright

Staff Governor: Mrs. N Messenger

Parent Governor: Mrs. C Lightowler

Clerk to Governing Body: Mrs. S Garbutt

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 2023-24 (one at the end 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

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

St. Mary's ensures robust financial management ensuring resources are effectively allocated to support school priorities. The school also commits to fundraising initiatives and efficient use of grants to enhance school facilities and resources.

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 2024-2025

Curriculum and Teaching:

- Further revision of the curriculum, including essential knowledge, skills and endpoints
- Continued focus on adaptation to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

Inclusion and Support:

- Strengthening support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), ensuring inclusive education practices and bespoke targets.
- Expanding mental health and well-being initiatives to support pupil and staff welfare.

Parental Engagement:

- Increasing opportunities for parental involvement in school activities and decision-making processes.

Staff Development:

- Providing additional training opportunities to build leadership capacity at all levels.
- Supporting staff well-being through targeted initiatives and resources.

School Facilities:

- Continuing to improve the school infrastructure, focusing on creating a safe and stimulating learning environment.

Governance:

- Ensuring ongoing professional development for governors to enhance their effectiveness.
- Strengthening the strategic role of the governing body in monitoring and evaluating school performance