



## **ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY**

### **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025-2026**

As the Governing Body of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to supporting and challenging school leadership to ensure the highest standards of education, well-being, and personal development for every pupil in our care. Rooted in our Catholic ethos, we work in close partnership with staff, parents, and the wider community to nurture a welcoming, inclusive, and aspirational learning environment.

#### **Membership:**

For 2025 – 2026, the Governing Board comprises of the following members:

**Chair of Governors:** Father N Kern

**Vice Chair of Governors:** Mrs. C Lightowler

**Foundation Governors:** Mrs. D Brown, Mr. F Lepisz, Mrs A Edge, Mrs V Ng, Mr J O'Connell

**Head Teacher:** Mrs. C Wright

**Staff Governor:** Mrs. N Messenger

**Parent Governor:** Mr. S Tew

**Clerk to Governing Body:** Mrs Helen Parkinson-Sykes

Governors serve a four-year term of office.

#### **Strategic Overview**

Throughout 2024–2025, the Governing Body has focused on the following key areas:

- **Curriculum and Teaching:** Supporting the curriculum, with an emphasis on deepening pupils' engagement and retention of knowledge.
- **Subject Leadership:** Ensuring that subject leaders across the wider curriculum are equipped and supported to embed a rich, knowledge-led curriculum that builds pupils' understanding over time and prepares them well for the next stages of education.
- **Inclusion and Support:** Continuing to prioritise equity and inclusion, ensuring all pupils – especially those with SEND, disadvantaged pupils, and those with EAL – have access to high-quality teaching, tailored interventions, and support to thrive.
- **Parental Engagement:** Strengthening relationships with parents through regular communication, information sessions held in school, and opportunities for involvement in school life to ensure a shared commitment to pupil learning, safety and well-being.
- **Staff Development and Well-being:** Promoting a culture of continuous professional

growth for all staff, while prioritising their well-being and workload balance in recognition of the vital role they play in delivering high quality teaching and learning.

- **School Facilities:** Supporting improvements to the learning environment, including investment in classroom resources, digital tools, and site maintenance to ensure the school is a safe, stimulating, and inclusive place to learn.
- **Effective Governance:** Enhancing our own effectiveness through ongoing training, regular monitoring visits, and robust committee structures that hold the school to account and ensure transparency in decision-making.

### **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 level

## **Priorities for 2025–2026**

Looking ahead, the Governing Body will continue to focus on strategic development and sustained school improvement, with specific priorities including:

### **1. Embedding a new English Curriculum**

- Fully implement the new English curriculum- Ready Steady Write/Read/Spell, ensuring coherence, progression, and strong outcomes in reading and writing.
- Develop writing across the curriculum with a sustained focus on vocabulary, grammar, and editing skills.
- Ensure all teaching staff are confident and well-supported in delivering the curriculum effectively.

### **2. Empowering Subject Leaders in the Wider Curriculum**

- Ensure subject leaders have dedicated time, training, and support to monitor, evaluate, and lead their areas effectively.
- Embed long-term planning and assessment systems that focus on key knowledge retention and application.

### **3. Inclusion and Equity**

- Strengthen early identification and intervention for pupils with additional needs.
- Continue to ensure pupil premium funding is targeted strategically to improve outcomes and enrichment opportunities.

### **4. Parental Engagement**

- Continue to encourage home-school links through accessible communication channels and curriculum workshops held in school.
- Use regular surveys to understand and respond to parental feedback.

### **5. Staff Development and Well-being**

- Embed a professional development offer aligned to school priorities, including coaching and collaboration opportunities.
- Monitor staff workload and morale, and implement responsive strategies to support well-being and retention.

- Continue to grow leadership capacity within the team through succession planning and targeted CPD.

#### **6. School Environment and Facilities**

- Effectively manage funding and projects to improve classrooms, shared spaces, and outdoor learning areas.
- Develop a phased site improvement plan to ensure sustainability, safety, and accessibility.
- Invest in digital infrastructure and learning technologies aligned to curriculum needs.

#### **7. Governance and Academisation**

- Successfully oversee and support the planned academisation of St. Mary's into the Our Lady Help of Christian Academy Trust with an intended conversion date during 2026-2027. This will be achieved through ongoing strategic planning, effective collaboration with the Trust and provision of continued support and guidance to the Headteacher and staff throughout the transition process to ensure stability, clarity and smooth integration aligned with the school's mission and values.
- Undertake a governance self-evaluation and development plan.
- Continue stakeholder transparency through regular reports and community updates.