



GOVERNOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School our mission motto is:

'Working 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 at the centre of all we do.

THE 3 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"

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

WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE?

Clear Vision and Mission: Governance should be aligned with the school's Catholic values, vision, and mission, ensuring that all decisions support the overall educational and spiritual goals of the institution.

Strategic Planning: A strategic plan that outlines long-term goals, priorities, and actions is essential. This plan should be regularly reviewed and updated to respond to changing circumstances and educational standards.

Accountability and Transparency: Clear roles and responsibilities for governors and staff members should be defined. Regular reporting and transparent decision-making processes help maintain accountability to stakeholders, including parents, staff, and the diocese.

Effective Leadership: The leadership team, including the headteacher and governors, should work collaboratively to provide strong and effective leadership, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and high standards.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engagement with parents, staff, pupils, and the local community ensures that governance is inclusive and considers diverse perspectives. This can be achieved through regular communication, surveys, and involvement in school activities.

Financial Oversight: Sound financial management practices should be in place to ensure resources are used effectively and sustainably. Regular audits and budget reviews are crucial for financial health and compliance.

Compliance and Risk Management: Governance must ensure compliance with legal and educational requirements, including safeguarding policies and risk management strategies, to protect pupils and staff.

Professional Development: Continuous professional development opportunities for governors and staff enhance their skills and knowledge, improving governance effectiveness and educational outcomes.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation of school performance, teaching quality, and pupil progress help identify areas for improvement and ensure that educational standards are met.

WHO ARE THE GOVERNING BODY?

Governors are ordinary people with a varied mix of knowledge, skills 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.

The Chair of Governors is Father Nick Kern
The Vice Chair of Governors is Mrs Clare Lightowler

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

As a full Board we meet three times a year. In order to carry out our responsibilities effectively we use committees; meetings take place 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 via an online system called Governor Hub.

Teaching and Learning Focus

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, balanced and ambitious curriculum that inspires all pupils to learn and encourages cultural capital, healthy life styles, wider achievements and support in areas such as sport, RE, PHSE, SMSC and British Values. They ensure that SEND provision is in place and vulnerable children are also well supported and catered for.

There is also a focus on the personal development, safety and well-being of pupils. We do this by ensuring pupils' voices are heard and considered, through meetings with the school council on a regular basis and learning walks around the school, including governor responsibility to monitor and promote the duty of effective safeguarding. The Governors considers the totality of the pupil experience at St Mary's and all matters relating to pupil behaviour, attendance, equality and attitudes to learning. This committee also receives reports on SMART club, our before and after school club.

The committee monitors provision across the school, sets and agrees aspirational targets and ensures that reporting arrangements are met by the school. They also review, approve and monitor school policies to ensure they meet statutory guidance and they are being applied consistently throughout school.

Finance Focus

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, sports premium and SEND 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 and resources 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 ensuring that all procedures to the recruitment, selection and appointment of staff are in place and that they are kept under review following any changes in legislation. 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 Helen Parkinson-Sykes, Clerk to Governors by email: Helen.Parkinson-Sykes@cheshireeast.gov.uk

A list of serving Governors, their categories, responsibilities, committee membership, and terms of office, together with statutory information, policy and protocol are on the school website.