



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2026-2027

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 2026 – 2027, the Governing Board comprises of the following members:

Chair of Governors: Father N Kern

Vice Chair of Governors: Mrs. C Lightowler

Foundation Governors: 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: Mr R Merino- (One Education)

Governors serve a four-year term of office.

Strategic Overview

During 2025–2026, the Governing Body focused on the following key priorities:

1. Embedding a New English Curriculum

- Monitored the implementation of the Ready Steady Write/Read/Spell approach to ensure coherence, progression, and improved outcomes in reading and writing.
- Supported the continued development of writing across the curriculum, with a focus on vocabulary, grammar, and editing skills.
- Ensured that all staff were confident and well supported in delivering high-quality teaching.

2. Strengthening Subject Leadership

- Worked with subject leaders to ensure effective monitoring and development of curriculum areas.
- Participated in termly Link Governor meetings to evaluate progress and support school improvement priorities.

3. Inclusion and Equity

- Developed understanding of early identification and targeted intervention for pupils with additional needs through engagement in school-based inclusion meetings.
- Ensured that Pupil Premium funding was used strategically to maximise attainment and provide enriched learning opportunities.

4. Parental Engagement

- Engaged with parents during whole-school events, strengthening home–school relationships.
- Used surveys and feedback to inform and support continuous improvement.

5. Staff Development and Well-being

- Monitored staff workload and morale through Link Governor visits and Head Teacher reports.
- Developed awareness of strategies to support staff well-being and retention.

6. School Environment and Facilities

- Oversaw and approved the allocation of resources and site improvement plans, with a focus on safety, sustainability, and accessibility.

7. Governance and Academisation

- Oversaw and supported the transition to the Our Lady Help of Christians Academy Trust, ensuring a smooth and stable process aligned with the school's mission and values.
- Undertook governance self-evaluation and continuous development.

Key Priorities for 2026–2027

1. Strengthening Governor Engagement and Strategic Oversight

- Continue regular Link Governor visits to develop a deep understanding of the school's strengths, priorities, and areas for development.
- Ensure monitoring is purposeful, strategic, and aligned with the school's attainment improvement priorities, particularly in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Use Head Teacher reports and School Improvement Partner (SIP) advice to monitor progress in raising attainment and improving attendance, particularly for vulnerable groups, including pupils eligible for Pupil Premium, those with SEND, and pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL).

2. Staff Well-being and Workload

- Maintain a strong focus on staff well-being and workload, informed by Head Teacher reports and governor visits.
- Ensure the academisation process is managed sensitively, with clear communication and strong support for staff.

3. Supporting and finalising Academisation

- Provide continued strategic oversight of the transition to the Our Lady Help of Christians Academy Trust, reflecting the revised conversion date of 1st December 2026.
- Ensure stability, clarity, and continuity for pupils, staff, and families throughout the process.

4. Community and Parental Engagement

- Strengthen relationships with parents and the wider community through active governor involvement in school life.
- Support and attend Masses, liturgical celebrations, and community events, reinforcing the school's Catholic identity.

5. Inclusion and Equality

- Ensure inclusion remains a core strength of the school.
- Continue to deploy Pupil Premium funding strategically to improve outcomes and widen opportunities.

6. Finance and Resource Management

- Provide robust oversight of school finances, ensuring value for money and sustainable financial planning.
- Support the Head Teacher and School Business Manager in budgeting and resource allocation.
- Ensure governors, particularly those with financial responsibilities, attend and contribute to finance meetings.
- Monitor capital and revenue expenditure to enhance the school environment and maximise available space.

7. Strategic Leadership During School Restructuring

- Support the Head Teacher in managing the reduction in pupil numbers from September 2026, including the planned decrease in Year 5 and Year 6 classes over the next two years.
- Contribute to strategic staffing decisions to ensure stability, efficiency, and continued high-quality provision.