

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

### **PURPOSE OF GOVERNANCE**



The Governing Board is made up of a group of people who share collective responsibility for the school. They strive to promote high educational standards and support staff in the fostering and preservation of the school's Catholic ethos. The Governing Board aims to ensure that children attend an effectively led school which provides them with a good education and supports their spiritual, health and emotional well-being. The Governing Board is accountable to parents and the wider community.

#### **THE GOVERNING BOARD'S ROLE IS TO:**

- Promote high standards of achievement
- Ensure clarity of vision and strategic direction
- Oversee the school's aims, values and ethos
- Set performance measurement indicators & targets
- Hold the Head Teacher to account and monitor the performance of the school
- Provide challenge
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure that money is spent effectively

The Governors at St Mary's work on different committees covering: -

- Catholic Ethos, Performance and Standards
- Finance and Personnel
- Safeguarding Health and Safety
- COVID-19

#### **THE ROLE OF A GOVERNOR**

In law the Governing Board is a corporate board therefore:

- no Governor can act on her/his own without proper authority from the full Governing Board;
- all Governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made
- the overriding concern of all Governors has to be the welfare of the school as a whole

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

### **Academic Year 2019-20**

#### **Governor Attendance at Meetings – Academic Year 2019-20**

This year was affected significantly by the COVID-19 virus and its consequences in terms of cancelling meetings and holding virtual meetings. Secondly, family illness, personal illness and work commitments meant that the governing board was deprived of four governors for the whole year.

#### **Governing Board Meetings**

There was no governing board meeting in the spring term and a virtual meeting in the summer term. At the autumn term meeting we had 8 governors present and at the summer virtual meeting there were 6 governors present.

#### **Committee Meetings**

The Finance & Personnel committee met in each of the three terms and Mrs Broadhurst was co-opted on to this committee for the full year. The Catholic Ethos, Performance & Standards committee met in the autumn term and the spring term only. The Safeguarding, Premises, Health & Safety Committee also met in the first two terms only and Mrs Broadhurst was co-opted to this committee for the autumn term meeting.

The maximum number of full governing body meetings was **two**. The maximum number of committee meetings was also two except for Finance & Personnel where the maximum was three. With Mrs Broadhurst having been co-opted to other committees as explained above her maximum number of committee meetings was 6.

#### **Attendance Record**

	Governing Board	Committee
Fr O'Doherty	2 out of 2	5 out of 5
John Storey	2 out of 2	3 out of 3
Arlene Broadhurst	2 out of 2	6 out of 6
Samantha Foster	1 out of 2	2 out of 2
Sarah Dickinson	2 out of 2	2 out of 2
Paul Turner	1 out of 2	1 out of 2
Janet Robinson	2 out of 2	1 out of 2
Lisa Kelly	2 out of 2	7 out of 7
Mike McDonough	0 out of 2	0 out of 3
Clare Porter	0 out of 2	0 out of 2
Linda Mason	0 out of 2	0 out of 2

## Committee Membership for 2019-2020

### **Finance & Personnel**

*Fr O'Doherty (chair); John Storey; Mike McDonough; Linda Mason; Arlene Broadhurst (co-opted); Lisa Kelly*

### **Catholic Ethos, Performance & Standards**

*Arlene Broadhurst (chair); Samantha Foster; Paul Turner; Janet Robinson; Lisa Kelly*

### **Safeguarding, Premises, Health & Safety**

*Fr O'Doherty (chair); Clare Porter; Sarah Dickinson; Lisa Kelly*

## **The work carried out by the committees and the full governing board**

Despite the inevitable disruption caused by the global pandemic, the Governing Board has had a productive year, beginning with the appointment of an Executive Headteacher and Head of School for the academic year 2019-2020. A temporary teacher was appointed for Year 3, as the teaching post is to be held open in view of the necessary appointment of a teaching deputy. A Headteacher was appointed to take up post in September 2020 and the post of Deputy Headteacher was advertised. Candidates were shortlisted, but the process was put on hold due to the global pandemic. Following the resignation of our Administrator and Attendance Officer, an appointment has been made and this will begin in September 2020. The Governing Body was successful in supporting the school through a global pandemic and National lockdown. Ensuring that school was open to children of key workers and vulnerable children and that systems were in place to support the wider opening of the school in September.

## **Future plans for the Governors**

This year's School Improvement Plan incorporates many points which have been discussed and formalised for action by the GB. Action have been planned and this is reviewed in the GB meetings each term. Key priorities for the GB this year, will be to ensure the safe return of all children to school, following the global pandemic, appointing a Deputy Headteacher to support the newly appointed Headteacher in the day-to-day running of the school and supporting a 'catch-up' curriculum for all pupils and in particular, the most vulnerable.

## **How you can contact the Governing Board**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Rev Father Oliver O'Doherty, via the school office.