



Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of St Stephen's Catholic Primary School Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

As detailed in our Instrument of Governance; in accordance with Canon Law and the teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Salford the school is to be conducted as a Catholic School and in particular:

- Religious Education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline, general and particular norms of the Catholic Church
- Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church
- At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ

St Stephen's Catholic Primary School lives by its mission

"Together we can achieve our best following the footsteps of Jesus"

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of St Stephen's Catholic Primary School was re constituted in June 2015 under the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

The Governing Body of this school consists of

- 7 Foundation Governors
- 1 Governor appointed by the Local Authority

- 2 elected Parent Governors
- 1 Head Teacher
- 1 elected Staff Governor

The total number of governors is 12.

A list of Governors, business interests and their roles can be found on the school website. Dates of all meetings held will also be on the school website.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. These committees meet at least once per term.

We have 3 committees

- Finance & Personnel
- Curriculum & Standards
- Premises, Health and Safety

We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline, admissions and staffing/appointments matters.

Governors regularly visit school to monitor key aspects of the school's development and provide support and challenge to the school and Head Teacher. Individual governors have visited the school during the year to monitor curriculum, religious life and finance:

- Shadowing key members of staff
- Moderation of pupils learning
- Safeguarding issues and training
- Analysis of data – pupil premium, sports premium, attainment overall, SEND etc
- Learning Walks
- Governor training
- RE training and Catholic Life evaluation
- Attendance at Masses, assemblies and key school events

Attendance Record of Governors

Governors have excellent attendance at all main GB meetings and Committee meetings. Meetings have to be attended by a minimum number of Governors to ensure that our decisions are legally binding (quorate). Governing Body minutes indicate the attendance at each meeting and any queries can be addressed to the clerk.

Key Issues for the Governing Body 2020/2021

- Improving standards of progress and attainment for pupils
- Development of Middle Leaders
- Devising Governing Body audit, Action Plan & review of effectiveness
- Budget Setting for 2020/2021 Internal Control and SFVS
- Securing future budget priorities and staffing
- Pupil and Sports Premium expenditure and impact
- Catholic Virtues and their continued application in our school
- Development of curriculum (ongoing)

Contacting the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact our Chair of Governors via the school office. Letters can be sent to the Chair of Governors c/o the school or St Stephen's Presbytery.

Clerk to the Governing Body

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Mrs N Ridsdale and she can be contacted c/o the school office.