



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Introduction to School Governors

Welcome to the Governors area of the website. I hope you find the information in this area useful and informative. We welcome this opportunity to introduce you to the work the Governing Body undertakes to ensure that your child will receive a positive, exciting primary school education

'Adding value – Making a difference'.

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. The role of the governing body is absolutely key to the effectiveness of the school. At St Mary's we are delighted to have a group of governors from a range of different experiences and backgrounds. Everyone is encouraged to develop their skills, knowledge and experience as they work to support the school.

The Governors include parents, staff, people from the local community and the church. The school is governed by a body of 11 governors, some of whom are elected and others appointed. The Governing Body has a significant role in making strategic decisions, particularly on finance and in holding the school to account through its challenge to the Headteacher. Our Governing body works very closely with the Headteacher and the whole school community to make sure that the school is always improving. Governors can be contacted via the school office. Any correspondence to a governor should be addressed c/o the School and will be forwarded

The Governing Body has legal duties, powers and responsibilities which it must carry out. It can only act and make decisions as a body and not as individuals. They entrust the day to day running of the School to the Headteacher and staff. The governing body is the key strategic decision-making body in the school with raising achievement of all being at the heart of their strategic role. To do this the governing body will:

Establish the strategic direction, by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensure accountability, by:

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher, including their well-being.
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Ensure financial probity, by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed
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We receive the Head teacher's report termly covering the crucial areas of the school's work that we are required to monitor against the School Improvement Plan covering areas such as: teaching and learning, curriculum, assessment results, Special Educational Needs (SEND), Pupil Premium activity (how we spend additional funds from Government specifically to support our children in receipt of Free School Meals), how school challenges high achieving pupils, Early Years Foundation Stage- EYFS, PE/sport, staffing, budget, premises and more. There's a lot of 'business' to address at each meeting but the children's safety, happiness and progress is always our priority in all that we do, as it is for everyone at school.

Governors also play an active part in school life (attend performances, fundraisers, sports days etc.) and carry out regular monitoring visits in school on an area of focus (e.g. SEND, Mathematics, English, Safeguarding etc.) so you and the children should see us around and about at school.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments, we are delighted to be a part of the St. Mary's School Community and Team.