



## **St. Mary's CE Primary School**

Parent governors play an important role in a school, bringing the parent voice and perspective to the governing body. Governing bodies are the key strategic decision makers in any school. They play a vital part in the overall system for school accountability, ensuring that resources are used well to give every child the best possible education.

The key roles of the governing body, as outlined by the Department for Education, are as follows:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and the strategic direction of the school;
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

St Mary's governors meet four times a year, twice in the Autumn term and once a term thereafter. Meetings are held in the evening, starting at 7pm. Papers are circulated in advance of the meetings and governors are expected to have a detailed knowledge of the school's aims and objectives and related strategies. Our governors' meetings provide the opportunity to monitor the school's progress against its stated objectives.

In addition, we encourage governors to visit the school during the academic year and to develop more detailed knowledge of one subject area or key area of school development. The majority of governors are also members of at least one committee, which looks at a designated area of school development in detail. Each committee meets once a term and reports back to the full governing body.

Training on a wide range of aspects of school governance is provided by Wandsworth Council and the Southwark Diocese Board of Education.

Parent governors are elected to serve the needs of all the children in the school. It is important, therefore, that they keep any issues concerning their own child separate from the business of the governing body.

St Mary's governing body is a dedicated and hard-working team. We challenge and support the school in equal measure, working well with the head, the senior leadership team and all staff.