



**St. Mary's CE Primary School**  
**Governance Impact Statement 2022/23**

*Vision: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish*

*Mission: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian faith*

*Values: Endurance, Compassion, Thankfulness*

<p><b>Governance Arrangements</b></p> <p>2 x Ex officio</p> <p>Foundation</p> <p>6 x PCC</p> <p>2 x SDBE</p> <p>3 x Parent</p> <p>1 x Staff</p> <p>1 x Local Authority</p> <p>1 x Co-Opted, appointed by the governing board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Mary's governing board comprises 16 governors with the core work delegated to three committees: Resources, Pupils and Leadership &amp; Management.</li> <li>• The full governing board meets three times a year with each committee meeting termly. This academic year, all FGB meetings were held in person at the school, and Committee meetings held remotely via MS Teams.</li> <li>• The Resources Committee is responsible for finance, premises, health and safety.</li> <li>• The Pupil Committee oversees the curriculum, progress &amp; attainment, quality of teaching, pupil behaviour &amp; well-being and admissions.</li> <li>• The Leadership and Management Committee oversees performance management, staffing, governance, leadership and pay.</li> <li>• Pay is determined by a sub-group of the Leadership &amp; Management Committee and meets annually.</li> <li>• The Resources Committee scrutinises and approves the budget each year before presentation to the governing board.</li> <li>• Exceptional need applications to the school are considered by the Admissions Committee, a sub-group of the Pupil Committee.</li> <li>• The Faith Group is responsible for ensuring that the distinctiveness and effectiveness of a church school is maintained and enhanced.</li> <li>• The Head Teacher's Performance Management is carried out by a sub-group of the Leadership &amp; Management Committee – this group meets every six months and an external adviser from the Diocese joins the end of year appraisal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Attendance Record</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The governing board has an excellent attendance record. All meetings are quorate, which ensures that all necessary decisions can be taken.</li> </ul>

<b>Overall aims of the Governing Board:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction</li> <li>• Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of pupils and the performance management of staff</li> <li>• Overseeing the financial management of the school and making sure its money is well spent.</li> </ul>
<b>Ofsted Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the year, Governors continued to support the head teacher as she led the embedding of the curriculum which HM Inspector described as ‘ambitious’ in December 2021.</li> <li>• Co-chairs meet with the Head Teacher on a fortnightly basis and continuously evaluate and reflect on the school vision and strategic direction.</li> </ul>
<b>External Reviews</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governors were able to read and question the Head and other key staff on the reports and recommendations of key reviews. The Wandsworth Link Adviser visits the school on a regular basis and reports are shared with governors.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment of effectiveness</b>	<p><b>Overall effectiveness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Mary’s governing board is comprised of dedicated individuals with a broad and balanced range of skills that enable us to perform our role effectively.</li> <li>• We complete a skills audit for new governors and allocate responsibilities accordingly. This year the board leveraged the audit to appoint two new governors.</li> <li>• We expanded the governor oversight model this year, inviting all governors to three governor working mornings where we explored specific curriculum topics e.g. SIAMS, Science and Early Years. This new model allows all governors to be conversant in the key strategic focus areas within the school’s vision. Governors have an opportunity to meet the senior team, relevant staff and undertake a learning walk of classes. An invitation to school lunch provides governors with an enjoyable chance to engage with children and hear pupil voice.</li> <li>• We provide a strong mix of support and challenge, holding the school to account at governor meetings and interrogating performance data, targets, school evaluation, budget setting and staff development to ensure that the school meets its overall objectives.</li> <li>• Governors have also supported many events, such as FOSMS occasions, sports day and the Year 6 Leavers Service, some governors, notably parent governors, were in attendance.</li> <li>• Governors participated in celebrations such as the Easter Service and Mothers’ Day.</li> <li>• The skills balance of the governing board is assessed to ensure, where possible, that vacancies are filled by candidates with appropriate expertise.</li> </ul>

**Key governor contribution to the School Development Plan for 2022/23**

- The head and co-chairs meet at least fortnightly to review progress, discuss wellbeing and monitor safeguarding.

**Strategic Direction**

- Co-chairs, committee chairs and members of the SLT were invited to a planning session at St Mary's Church in June 2023 which was facilitated by our diocesan partner. The purpose was to establish the pillars of the School Development Plan for the year ahead.
- Governors undertook online training with the local authority, SDBE and other providers including Educare and The Key throughout the year.
- Governors worked with a network of partners during the year to share and learn from examples of best practice. This included proactive engagement in the school resource management advisers (SRMA) programme which provided advice on using revenue and capital resources to deliver the best possible educational outcomes for pupils.
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**Celebrating the school's Christian Values**

- The school has a rich and close link with St Mary's Church and we are very grateful to the Parish team vicar for his support throughout the year.
- A majority of governors are active worshippers in the Parish of Putney, evidence of how the school lives out its Christian distinctiveness is sought as we monitor the school's progress.
- Governors participate actively in school worship and Christian celebrations.

**Overseeing financial and resources management**

- The resources committee reviews the school budget at termly meetings. The committee reviews and approves the annual budget in the spring term and commends it to the full board.
- The School Financial Values Statement is completed annually by the chair of the resources committee which approves the statement.
- The resources committee also benchmarks expenditure against similar and local schools.
- A termly review of the premises plan is also carried out by the resources committee. Members of the committee with specialist professional competencies have provided ad hoc guidance to senior leaders on certain projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governors review the annual health and safety audit, carried out by an external provider.</li> <li>• The school's use of both the Pupil and PE premiums are monitored annually.</li> <li>• Governors approved expenditure on the first phase of the playground redevelopment – to be undertaken during the summer holiday of 2023</li> </ul>
<p><b>Specific governor actions during 2022/23</b></p>	<p>In addition to the activities above, governors also undertook the following during 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The co-chairs, chair-elect, committee chairs and head teacher worked closely with our diocesan adviser to draft the school's School Development Plan for the year ahead.</li> <li>• Expenditure was approved and progress made on the new outdoor learning environment for the Early Years</li> <li>• Governors approved expenditure on Phase 1 of the new outdoor learning environment, which will hopefully begin in the summer holiday of 2023</li> <li>• Representation on the school fund raising body FOSMs.</li> <li>• Governors greeted new parents at welcome presentations.</li> <li>• Governors undertook termly learning walks with a specific focus: autumn term – RE, collective worship and the SIAMs framework; spring term – Science and outdoor environment; summer – Early Years</li> <li>• Pupil Committee took a deep dive into the progress data that is presented at Governor meetings to better understand the challenges facing pupils and staff and the strategies that are being used to support pupils whose progress in reading writing and maths is falling behind</li> <li>• Pupil Committee received presentations on how the school supports children who have SEND and those who have EAL</li> </ul>