

Governing Body Newsletter

Spring and Summer term 2023

Welcome to the latest Local Governing Body newsletter, the purpose of which is to advise parents and carers of the work that the Governing Body has undertaken during the last 12 months.

Let me say at the outset that the Governing Body together with all the staff at Saint Mary's have continued the commitment to ensure that the school provides excellent education and learning for all the children at our school. From September 2022, Mr Merrick assumed the position of Head of School, with Miss Small taking the position of Deputy Head of School. They settled in well to these positions and have worked very hard to ensure that its high standards continue to be maintained, and that the school provides excellent education for all the children. However, from September of this year Miss Small has decided to step down from her Deputy's position and to focus on full time teaching. The Governing Body will at the appropriate time indicate how this vacancy will be resolved.

Whilst reviewing the staff position in the school, this academic year has been stable, with very few changes in staff. The Governing Body feel that the required staffing levels have been achieved and are confident that the next 12 months will continue to provide the necessary stability in the school. However financial restraints affect us all and the school is not immune from these difficulties. I would therefore like to assure you that the Governing Body will take whatever steps are available to it, should the need arise, to ensure that the best interests of the school and its pupils are maintained.

I would like to express my thanks to all parents and carers for the support that they provide to the school. Last year in July we had our first summer fair for 3 years, this was very well attended and in July this year we are having the fair again. Hopefully this can be as financially successful as last year's fair. Thanks to the PTA for all the organisation and work that went into these events.

Over the last 12 months the full Governing Body has met on 5 occasions and continued to function supporting the school and staff in whichever way it could, ensuring that Saint Mary's continued to meet its high standards. All Governing Body meetings took place on a face-to-face basis and on the school premises. At the end of this term one of our Foundation Governors Mrs Mary Wallace is stepping down to spend more time with her family and we thank her for the time and expertise she has provided during her terms of office. During the year there have been two new parent governors appointed these being Mr Peter Wilbraham and Mr Darren New. Hopefully they will enjoy their time on the Governing Body and we can benefit from their input.

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority in school and new regulations have come into force pursuant to Keeping Children Safe in Education, and, during the last 12 months seminars and lectures have been provided to staff and Governors and this will continue.

As previously, I would like to congratulate our Foundation Governor Mrs Patti Pinto for the continued success in ecology, environmental issues and Forrest School, outdoor learning is exceptional at Saint Mary's. In particular I would like to congratulate Mrs Pinto and the children for receiving the Eco Council Team Rotary Star Certificate presented by The Rotary Club of Congleton in June of this year... the Certificate hangs with pride in Mr Merricks office.

As you will be aware Saint Mary's is part of an Academy Trust. In April of this year the Trust changed its name to Our Lady Help of Christians Multi Academy Trust. Save for the name change nothing will alter and Saint Mary's will continue to derive the appropriate benefits that being a member of the Trust will bring.

The staff at Saint Mary's are dedicated, exceptional and very hard-working people, who always have the best interests of all the children they teach at heart. The Governing Body wishes to thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm and for providing excellent education and learning for all the children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Local Governing Body for all their hard work, commitment and dedication. Being a school governor demands a great amount of time and I appreciate the unselfish involvement shown by my fellow Governors.

We are proud of our strong teachers and the quality of leadership at Saint Mary's and look forward to continuing success in the forthcoming academic year.

Finally, I wish all of you a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Paul V Fagan
Chair of Governors on behalf of the Local Governing Body of Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School
July 2023