

Local Governing Body Structure

January 2023

What is the Local Governing Body?

The Local Governing Body (LGB) of Saint Mary's has 9 members. It consists of people drawn from all areas of life, who are responsible for every aspect of Saint Mary's school including the curriculum and the standards achieved by the pupils, the staff employed to deliver an outstanding Catholic education and the environment in which the children learn.

Governors are appointed for a term of four years, apart from the Headteacher, who is always on the Governing Body (an ex officio member).

Governors do not manage the school or the staff, nor are they responsible for making operational decisions. The Head of School, Mr Merrick, leads and manages the school and is responsible for delivering the school's aims and priorities. He is supported by the Assistant Head of School, Miss Small.

The LGB exists to support the Headteacher and his team, to ensure that academic and financial standards are well maintained and that the school is continually striving to reach the next level to provide strategic direction. In consultation with the Headteacher, they ensure that they understand the school well, i.e. its strengths and areas for development, in order to determine how the school is currently performing and where it needs to be.

How is the Local Governing Body made up?

The Local Government consists of :

4 Foundation Governors - these are appointed by the Bishop of Shrewsbury to ensure that the Catholic ethos of the school is at the heart of everything we do.

2 Staff Governors – the Headteacher plus one other member of staff elected by the staff.

2 Parent Governors – elected by the parents at the school.

1 Community Governor – appointed from the general community but normally with links to the school, for example, the parent of a former pupil at the school.

Committee Structure

Following reconstitution, we no longer have committees of the LGB. This is because we are members of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and various elements of the work previously undertaken by the LGB has moved up to the MAT level. Other elements of the former committee's work is now being undertaken at the LGB level.

Local Governing Body Meetings

The LGB now meets five to six times per year in order to ensure that all areas of responsibility can be maintained. Minutes of all the LGB meetings are available to view at the school.

Key areas of responsibilities of the Local Governing Body are :

Educational Standards

Monitoring what is taught, how it is taught and most importantly, the results achieved by our pupils. It also monitors such areas as safeguarding, behaviour and attendance.

Finance

Monitoring how our school funding is spent. It ensures that we are always striving for 'best value' and that the money spent is directed towards achieving the school objectives.

Strategic Direction

Agreeing the school priorities, its value and its ethos.

Staffing

Responsibility for the performance management of the Headteacher, monitoring arrangements for staff, including the recruitment of staff.

As a Catholic School, our key purpose is to ensure that we deliver an outstanding Christian education firmly based on the ethos and values of the Catholic Church with Christ at the centre of everything we do.

Saint Mary's Governors

As well as contributing to the LGB, Saint Mary's governors are also highly involved in other areas of school life. You can read more about what we do in the Governing Body section of the website by reading the annual Governor letter to parents.

You can also find out more about each of our Governors in the 'Meet the Governors' section of the website.

Multi-Academy Trust

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School joined the Holy Family Of Nazareth Catholic Academy Trust in April 2015, becoming partners with fellow members, All Hallows Catholic College in Macclesfield, St Paul's Catholic Primary School in Poynton, St Alban's Catholic Primary School and Christ The King Primary School, both in Macclesfield.

This enables us to share resources and best practice, for the benefit of all the children in our care.

You can find out more about the Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Academy Trust by clicking on the links on the Saint Mary's website.

Finally

Being a Governor requires a significant and substantial input of time, effort, skill and enthusiasm but also brings great rewards. It is a varied, challenging and fulfilling role and many Governors go on to serve more than one term of office. Full training is offered by the Local Authority, the Diocese and a variety of other external partners.

The Local Authority also provides specialist support for Governors.

P.V.Fagan

Chair of Governors

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School