



## St Winefride's Catholic Primary School Governors Impact Statement 2022-23

### INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education defines the three core functions of Governing Bodies to be:

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

At St Winefride's, Governors have the added responsibility to uphold the teaching of the Catholic faith. This report sets out how the Governing Board has fulfilled its responsibilities in the last academic year (2022-23).

#### 1. The Structure of the Governing Board

There were 6 meetings of the full Governing Board during the school year. This comprised of five regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting concerning the recruitment and appointment of a Deputy Head teacher. In addition, the Governing Board operated the following regular committees:

- **Finance & Buildings committee.** There were three meetings of this committee during the year, one per term. In addition, there was a meeting each term to review the latest financial position between the Chair of Finance & Buildings, the Head teacher, Business Manager and Local Authority Finance.
- **Standards & Progress committee.** There were three meetings of this committee during the year, with one per term.
- **Staffing & Pay committee.** There were three meetings of this committee during the year, with one per term.
- **Marketing committee.** There were three meetings during the year, with one per term.
- **Policies committee.** There were three meetings during the year, with one per term.
- **Admissions committee.** There was one meeting held in the spring term.

In addition, the **Standing committee** was convened to oversee and manage the Deputy Head teacher recruitment process.

#### 2. Core Governing Functions

##### ENSURING CLARITY OF VISION, ETHOS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In January, the Governing Board held a Strategy Day with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to review and agree the updated mission statement and values for the school. The board would like to thank





both the SLT for the successful rollout and to Pupils, Parents, Staff, the Parish and the wider community who have embraced the changes.

The board approved a new strategic plan for the next 2 years to end 2024, and the School Development and Improvement Plans (SDP) are aligned with these strategic goals. The SDP covers:

- Quality of Education.
- School Values, Behaviour and Attitudes.
- Teaching of the Catholic faith in school.
- Curriculum Professional Development.
- Leadership and Management.
- Development of an Integrated curriculum for EYFS working closely with Little Gems Pre-School

SDP reviews take place in both the relevant committee and at the full Governing Board. The improvement plan monitoring was and continues to be a standing agenda item for each committee assigned this responsibility.

## HOLDING THE HEAD TEACHER TO ACCOUNT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE ORGANISATION

The Head teacher of St Winefrides has provided regular updates on the progress made and the implementation of improvements. The Governors thank the Head teacher for the comprehensive and evidence-based reports shared at Committee and Board meetings. Following the changes implemented last year on Pupil Progress meetings between Head teacher and individual staff, Governors note the positive impact these changes have had on pupil attainment with tailored pupil action plans and additional support for pupils where required.

## SCRUTINY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING, SCHOOL CURRICULUM, PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENT

The Standards & Progress committee received a full set of anonymised data reports on pupil progress and attainment for prior and current school years. The governors received progress and attainment reports for each year group and an assessment report for Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. The governors reviewed the improvements made in EYFS with increased collaboration and sharing with Little Gems Pre-school.

One area of focus this year was the progress of SEND and DAP children, the Governors noted at school level the gap is not widening as Pupils move from EYFS through to KS2 which is sadly picture nationally; and congratulate SEND and DAP pupils who have made exceptional progress and are closing the gap to their peers.

The committee carried out a deep dive on RE with Mrs Bannister, RE lead explained how the pupil progress meetings and agreed tailored additional support is having a positive benefit on children's progress.





The Head teacher shared predicted and actual outcomes for SATS in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, and the interventions taken to support pupils prior to taking the tests. The results show an overall improvement for both KS1 and KS2 versus the previous year and are ahead of national averages.

The full Governing Board received regular reports from the Head teacher including school census data, attendance reports and safeguarding data. The Governors thank Parents for their continued support to achieving the overall high attendance level which remains above the national average.

#### HOLDING THE HEAD TEACHER TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF STAFF

The Staffing & Pay committee received termly reports which included staffing changes and sickness absence reporting and monitoring. The changes made to the performance management process and the setting of targets have been welcomed by Staff. Governors are delighted by Staff embracing CPD (continuous personal development) and the positive benefits it is having on both Staff and Pupils.

#### SCRUTINY OF BUILDINGS, HEALTH AND SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS

The Finance & Buildings committee received a report from the Department of Education Inspectors on the Building Fabric and Infrastructure. The findings and recommendations in the report were fully accepted by the Board and are being incorporated into the long-term capital plans for the school.

The annual Health and Safety inspection with the Local Authority and Head teacher was completed and corrective actions were agreed and implemented.

The approved Building capital projects within the school improvement plan monitored against budget and completed on-time.

#### OVERSEEING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SCHOOL AND ENSURING MONEY IS WELL SPENT

Each term, the Governing Board receives reports from the Chair of Finance and Buildings committee explaining the current financial position. These reports were reviewed in detail by the Finance and Buildings committee prior to presentation to the governing board. Reports considered the Income and expenditure with variances from budget; the three-year strategic financial forecast; review of supplier contracts above £5,000; and approval for purchases exceeding £2,000.

The governors noted the school continues to be in a sound financial position with sufficient reserves which are earmarked for future projects in the School Development Plan.

Governors received, scrutinised, and approved the school's Financial Value Standard (SFVS) return to the local authority. The Finance committee prepared the document; answering all questions posed within the SFVS based on evidence presented to the governors in school reports or link governor visits. The LA finance team visited the school to conduct a regular





audit and met with the Chair of Governors, Head teacher and School business manager, the audit report had not yet been received by the SLT before the end of the academic year. Governors continued to scrutinise how special purpose funding was being used, notably Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funding. Pupil Premium is additional school funding provided for disadvantaged children, to help close attainment gaps between these children and their peers. The Finance committee received termly reports showing Pupil Premium fund expenditure. The Standards and Progress committee also received a report summarizing the impact of Pupil Premium funding.

Sports Premium funding is a government-backed funding initiative aimed at helping primary schools across England improve their physical education and sport provision. The Finance committee received termly reports on how this funding was being used and note the success Pupils have at all levels in local competitions.

Reports in connection with finance and governance were also received for:

1. General Data Protection Regulation report. This advised that the school is fully compliant with current data protection legislation and that there had been no data breaches during the last year.
2. Asset Register: Chair of Finance and Buildings committee reviewed the assets reported on the register.
3. Supplier/3<sup>rd</sup> party Expenditure: Chair of Finance and Buildings committee reviewed expenditure against credit card statements and invoices.

#### APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR LEADERS

During the school year, the Governing Board, supported by the Diocese of Shrewsbury Deputy Director of Education, undertook a rigorous selection process to appoint Mrs Bannister as permanent Deputy Head teacher,

The SLT and the Chair of Governors, undertook a rigorous selection process to appoint Mrs Roberts as School Business Manager.

The Governors congratulate Mrs Bannister and Mrs Roberts on their appointments and wish them every success in their new roles.

The Governors would like to thank the SLT and the Staff for all they do to make St Winefride's such a wonderful, loving, caring and supportive school for all our children.

Dr Mark Branch, Chair of Governors  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2023