

# St Winefride's Catholic Primary School

## Governors Impact Statement 2023-24

### 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 (2023-24).

### 1. The Structure of the Governing Board

There were 5 meetings of the full Governing Board during the school year. 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 two meetings of this committee during the year: one per term, during the summer term the full governing board reviewed the SATS results instead.
- **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 once (comprising of the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors, Committee Chairs and Headteacher)

### 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 the progress made in the previous 12 months and approve the strategic plan for the next 3 years.

The board would like to thank the SLT and Staff for successfully rolling out the updated mission and core values. We are pleased to note children, and staff are living out these values every day in school.

The board note the strategic plan, and the School Development and Improvement Plans (SDP) are aligned. The SDP covers:

- Quality of Education.

- Curriculum Professional Development.
- School Values, Behaviour and Attitudes.
- Teaching of the Catholic faith in school.
- Leadership and Management.
- Rollout of an Integrated curriculum for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) working closely with Little Gems Pre-School

SDP reviews take place in 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 timely 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. Governors note pupil attainment has continued to improve 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 has 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 note the integrated approach to EYFS curriculum with Little Gems Pre-school is making good progress.

The Standards and Progress committee has completed deep dives in several subject areas in addition to continuing to monitor the progress of Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and Disadvantaged children (DAP). The Governors noted at school level the gap for SEND and DAP pupils is not widening as they move from EYFS through to KS2 which is sadly the picture nationally. We also note some SEND and DAP pupils who have made exceptional progress and are closing the gap to their peers.

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 in line with national averages.

The full Governing Board received regular reports from the Head teacher including school census data, attendance reports and safeguarding data. The Governors note the overall high attendance level remains above the national average. Governors remain committed to supporting Staff in addressing persistent absenteeism and working with Parents and children to address the underlying reasons.

#### 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 in the previous academic year on the performance management process and the setting of targets are now fully embedded and working well. Governors remain committed to supporting staff in their CPD and are delighted by the number

of staff who have completed CPD (continuous personal development) this year and note the positive benefit it is having on both Staff and Pupils.

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

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 received 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; on-going 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 School Business Manager 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 audit report was received at the start of the academic year, the recommendations were agreed and have now been implemented.

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. The school business manager has implemented an improved purchase authorisation process.

### **3. Inspections**

During the spring term, the school had a section 8 ungraded Ofsted inspection, and the school continues to maintain its Good rating. The Governors noted in the report: pupils are proud of their school, enjoy their lessons and pupils do well. The board reviewed the recommendations and noted these were already included in the current School Development Plan. A copy of the report can be found on the school website:

<https://www.stwinefrides.cheshire.sch.uk/page/ofsted-reports/3839>

The school received a section 45 inspection from the Catholic Schools Inspection (CSI) in the spring term, which was rated Outstanding. The Governors were delighted to note the report highlighted we have inspirational senior leaders; pupil behaviour was impeccable and prayer and liturgy are integral to the school.

<https://www.stwinefrides.cheshire.sch.uk/page/csi-report/147137>

The Governors noted the SLT and Staff were well prepared for both inspections and would like to thank, the children and parents for their support and positive feedback to inspectors. The inspectors did comment on the outstanding feedback from parents and children in support of their school.

#### **4. Concluding Remarks**

The Governors recognise St Winefrides is a loving, caring and supportive school because of the amazing work the SLT and Staff do with the support of parents and their children. Thank you for making St Winefrides such a wonderful school for all our children.

Dr Mark Branch, Chair of Governors

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024