

St Winefride's Catholic Primary School

Governors Impact Statement 2024-25

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 (2024-25).

1. The Structure of the Governing Board

The governing board comprises 6 Foundation, 2 Parent, 1 Local Authority governors with voting rights and an Associate member, the Head and Deputy Headteacher.

There were 5 meetings of the full Governing Board during the school year, the attendance was as follows:

	September	November	April	May	July
Attending	11	11	11	11	12
Apologies	2	2	2	2	1

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 committee, 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, one per term.
- **Marketing committee.** There were three meetings during the year, one per term.
- **Policies committee.** There were three meetings during the year, one per term.
- **Admissions committee.** There was one meeting held in May 2025.

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 update the strategic plan for the next 3 years.

The board would like to thank the SLT and Staff for successfully implementing the strategic plan over the last 12 months and we note the children, and staff are living out the mission and values every day in school.

The board noted 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 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 changes in teaching and the resulting improvements. The Governors thank the Head teacher for the concise evidence-based reports shared at Committee and Board meetings and note these are aligned with the Ofsted framework. Governors are pleased to note pupil attainment continues to improve and the use of 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 has benefited the children's development.

The Standards and Progress committee as well as reviewing overall attainment, each term conducts a deep dive in one subject area. The committee have actively monitored the progress of Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and Disadvantaged children (DAP) and pleased to note some pupils have made exceptional progress and are closing the gap to their cohort.

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. For KS1, the Phonics results were far above the national average. The results show a significant improvement for KS2 versus the previous years and are far above national average for ALL subjects except Maths which is inline with the national average. The Year 4 multiplication results were also far above the national average. We congratulate all the children on their wonderful achievements.

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 at 96% for the academic year. 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 on the performance management process and the target setting are 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 no corrective actions were required.

The approved Building capital projects within the school improvement plan were monitored against budget and timescales. Governors are frustrated by the delays to starting building works which are outside of the control of Staff and Governors.

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 £10,000.

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.

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 continued success St Winefrides teams 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/3rd 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. 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

September 2025