



NEWSLETTER

“A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love”

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 6th September 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

What is the role of the Governors - Unless you have been a school governor or had a direct involvement in education, then this might well be a question you have asked yourself. So what lies behind the title, School Governor? And what role do we play at St Mary's?

The role of governors is set out clearly in education law. Essentially we have a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement and more broadly to ensure that our children stay safe, are healthy, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution whilst they are in school. Simple? Not really. There is a wide range of policy, practice and performance within a school for which the governing body, as a group, is ultimately responsible. Also as an aided school, we are responsible for funding 10% of any capital projects, such as the new classroom recently added to the school.

This can seem a daunting task, but, of course, a great deal of the implementation is carried out by the Head and her staff, be they in teaching, support or administrative roles, utilising the wealth of knowledge and experience they possess. Consequently, much of our time is spent asking questions, reviewing the impact of policies and practices and assessing the progress being made against targets and plans.

The key responsibilities considered at the regular meeting of the full governing body and of its sub-committees cover:-

- Target-setting for pupil achievement;
- Managing the school's budget;
- Ensuring the curriculum is balanced, broadly based and in line with national requirements;
- Reporting National Curriculum assessments to parents;
- Appointing and monitoring the performance of the headteacher and a range of staff related matters, including policies on performance, grievances and pay;
- Ensuring provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs;
- Responding to findings of school inspections.

There are many practical aspects we get involved in as well. In normal times, you will often find governors in school helping in the classroom, getting their hands dirty in various working parties – we find our arms twisted like everyone else! – and enjoying seeing the children excelling at both academic and extra-curricular activities.

St Mary's governors come from a wide range of backgrounds. A number have educational experience, but others bring knowledge from and links with business and other walks of life. A significant number are parents whose children attend or have attended St Mary's. Overall we share a common commitment to delivering the best possible education and a nurturing environment in which the children can learn and grow.

The Governors oversee the School Improvement Plan and this year we have different areas that we are focussing on and are looking to improve further for the children at St Mary's:

- 1) Oracy and speaking and listening across all areas of the curriculum
- 2) Deepen and broaden a progressive curriculum to ensure that it is engaging and purposeful with knowledge and skills for the children
- 3) Improve stamina for extended writing across all curriculum areas
- 4) The West Inclusion framework for SEND children to be fully included and receive Quality First Teaching in all the classrooms
- 5) Contemplating Toolkit – looking at the mental health and wellbeing of staff and children at this challenging time.
- 6) The introduction of a new reading scheme for Early Years and KS1 that is linked to our phonics and high frequency word focus.

The Governors know that parents may have key questions about the school at this time. If you wish to ask a question then fill out the tear off slip below and put this in the post-box or hand to Mrs Copus at the gate or you can come to a Tea and Chat on the field on Friday 24th September at 2.15pm where there will be Governors available to chat with

Tear off slip -----

I would like to know more from Governors about
