
St Catherine of Siena Primary School Annual Governance Statement for 2022 - 2023

(Autumn Term)

As chair of the governing board, I am pleased to report that we have had a good year in supporting the work of our school. The impact of COVID-19 is still with us, but during the whole academic year, the governors have had a visible presence in school again and enjoyed joining many of the school's calendar of events.

OUR FOCUS IS TO FULFIL OUR THREE CORE FUNCTIONS, Which are :-

- Ensuring clarity of vision, Catholic ethos, and strategic direction of the school.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent.

To enable the board to fulfil these functions, the board members have attended Committee meetings and Full Governing Board meetings throughout the year. (The meeting attendance log is on the Governor pages on the school website and the committee's 'Terms of Reference' / Full Governing Board meeting minutes are available from the school office). The board membership has a four year term, so new members are recruited as vacancies arise. Two new governors have joined our board this academic year and they are encouraged to complete induction training and offered support to understand their governance responsibilities.

As governors of our Catholic school, we have the responsibility to ensure school provides an education with Gospel values central to all learning, in partnership with the Archdiocese Schools Department. Along with the school community, we are involved in setting our mission statement and vision & values for the education we provide for our children. We encourage & promote our Catholic ethos in every aspect of school life and receive termly reports on the RE provision within school. We attend school Masses, 'stay and pray' events and class and school assemblies throughout the year. We attended the 'First Holy Communion' celebration Mass on the 20th of May, rejoicing in this milestone for our year 4 and year 5 pupils with their families. We support the children's charity, 'school council' and 'eco warrior' activities as they demonstrate striving to make our school and world a better place. (E.g. fundraising for CAFOD, working towards the 'Live Simply Award' and recycling / sustainability & litter picking).

Each of our school governors has a specific area of responsibility assigned to a particular subject area and some of the governors also monitor key areas of responsibility such as

Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs. (See the governor pages on the schools website)
The governors attached to these specific responsibilities / subject areas have been able to meet with their senior leads over the school year to discuss provision, compliance and resources in detail. This has been very helpful to give governors a much clearer overview of particular aspects and individual subject areas, allowing us to carry out our strategic monitoring more effectively.

To ensure compliance and proficiency, the governing board is supported by Liverpool Archdiocese Schools Department, Wigan Local Authority and Wigan Governor Services. We purchase an annual service level agreement (SLA) from Governor Services which includes efficient clerking of the board to enhance our strategic function. To ensure the board is equipped to fulfil its role, governors complete a skills matrix annually and access training events held both locally and nationally. It is important that we have the correct knowledge and understanding to provide effective and efficient governance for our school.

[The Following Training Has Been Completed By The Governing Board During This 22/23 Academic Year:-](#)

- Safeguarding training level 2 & 3
- Safeguarding briefing.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education- on line training.
- E - Safety
- Prevent on line training.
- The DfE safeguarding- single central record.
- Equality and diversity.
- Mental health and well-being in young people.
- Tackling education disadvantage.
- Early years foundation stage.
- Governors Forum / Chair's Forum
- School admissions and appeals.
- OFSTED inspection and governance.
- Responsibility of the pay committee.
- Succession planning for governing boards.
- Being strategic.
- Safer recruitment.
- New to governance.
- Headteacher performance management.
- Special Educational Needs training.
- Refresher training for experienced governors.
- Mental health affecting attendance.
- Responding to school complaints.
- Improving governing boards / Self evaluation.
- The local Authority's Educational Briefings.

Over the year, the board has complied with our legal requirements and has focussed on our vision and aims for school. We have worked closely with Mrs Leck and the senior leadership team, in our strategic role, to ensure continued progress and improvement of our school. We have reviewed and monitored the school development plan. We have reviewed and approved policies and procedures, including performance review. We have overseen and approved the many facets within the school budget, which has been challenging due to the financial situation nationally. Most importantly, we have continued to strive to support our pupils and staff to achieve best outcomes and gain a positive experience within school. As the focus of our role is to encourage the success of the school, we are delighted that the Ofsted inspection we had in March confirmed St Catherine's is a 'Good School' and we will continue to support the school to fulfil the recommendations made within the report. Furthermore, with the hard work by our year 6 pupils and our dedicated staff in school, we are very pleased to confirm that the Key stage 2 results were again well above the National level.

Our Breakfast and After school clubs have proved to be very successful again this year and as a result we have employed a dedicated member of staff starting in September '23 to facilitate the running of both clubs.

Part of our remit is to oversee the structural integrity of the school building in partnership with the Archdiocese. Ongoing repairs / monitoring of the school drainage system has needed to continue during this year. Plans for enhancement of the school premises is in ongoing discussions with the archdiocese although hampered by financial constraints. However, we will continue to strive to improve the school environment for the wellbeing of both pupils and staff.

The governing body has been notified of a change to the legal structure of the Archdiocese. From the 1st of January 2023, the Trustees of Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trust Incorporated (Trust) took the decision to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The new CIO is called the Archdiocese of Liverpool and has a different charity number. As a voluntary aided school in the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, this change will not alter the relationship with the Archdiocese or the Archbishop of Liverpool and will have no impact on the operation of the school.

We are very grateful to our parents and families who support school throughout the year. The partnership between home and school is vital to ensure good outcomes for all our children. We are also very grateful for the fantastic work that the PTA do to raise funds to enhance the children's experience in school. We have again been able to purchase IT equipment this year from the funds raised, which is crucial in preparing our children for a world of technology. School attendance has been and remains a focus for school. The Governing Board continues to support the attendance strategies put in place to ensure our children succeed in reaching their full potential and don't have gaps in their knowledge & learning.

This 22/23 academic year has been a very busy year and each class has had the opportunity to be immersed in many new exciting learning activities and experiences. For this, we are very grateful to Mrs Leck and all the dedicated staff in school for their continued efforts and diligence. The Governing Board will continue our strategic oversight throughout the new academic year and we will encourage our school to be the school the children deserve.

Christine Henshall
Chair of Governors.

