Governor Impact Statement

St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

2025

Governors' Whole School Aim

Governors at St Mary of the Angels Primary School believe in our school mission statement:

"Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life."

Our mission is to nurture our children, through an excellent education and our core values reflecting our identity as a Catholic community, to reach their full God-given potential.

Governors' Role

The role of the Governing Body is an intrinsic part of the leadership of the school. In our strategic role, we monitor and support the school ensuring that:

- pupils enjoy school, feel valued and part of the school community
- ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- pupil attainment is monitored and maximised
- oversee and approve the school's budget
- ensure systems are in place to support the staff as needed
- approve policies and procedures
- work co-operatively with the Headteacher and senior management in writing of the School Development Plan

FULL GOVERNING BODY AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Governor	Gov Role	SDP Link	Class Link	Committee *or proposed committee*	Other
Helen Thorpe	**Headteacher**				
Francis Kwateng – Chair of Governors	Foundation	RSE Safeguarding	**Year 2**	Pay and HTPM	Cyber security
George Broughton – Vice Chair	Foundation	Mental Health & Wellbeing,	**Year 3-**	*Pay appeals - proposed*	School Grounds
Janet Hamer	Foundation	Food Hygiene	**Year 4**		Website Compliance
Joanne Lyness	Foundation	EYFS	**EYFS**		Attendance Analysis
Kate Dixon	Foundation	Teaching & Learning, English,	**Year 6**	*Pay appeals - proposed*	Pupil Premium
Chris Wilson	Parent	Curriculum Development	**Year 5**	*Exclusion - proposed*	306 Governance Review
Jon Turley	Parent	SEND	**-**		Training Records
Angela Devaney	LA	**GDPR**	**Year 5**	*Exclusion - proposed*	
Matthew Campbell	Staff	*n/a*	*n/a*	*n/a*	GDPR
Tracy Mills	Foundation	*Finance*			Attendancefrom Sept 25
Emma Donohoe	Foundation	*Safeguarding- from Sept 25*			

There is a Clerk to Governors (Annette Jones) who minutes the meetings and offers advice and support. The School Business Manager (Amanda Beaumont) is an observer.

Governors attend two FGB meetings each term. There is also a Pay Committee and Performance Management Committee. Pay recommendations follow the CWAC Council Pay Policy.

Governors are linked to areas of the School Development Plan. Each governor is expected to conduct monitoring visits to review their area and produce governor visit reports identifying strengths and next steps. The Governors' Action Plan within the SDP shows how governors are going to monitor the quality of the school's self-evaluation (SEF) and implementation of the broader SDP.

The school budget is scrutinised and reviewed in detail at each FGM. Through working closely with the School Business Manager, who voluntarily attends all meetings, and the Headteacher, the governors support the school and hold it accountable to ensure effective budgeting.

Governors review and approve school policies annually and they are updated on the school website.

Governors challenge the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team on Progress and Attainment data which is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions.

Governors review the annual safeguarding audit and monitor the actions identified in this as specified in the SDP. The Headteacher presents termly safeguarding reports. There is a safeguarding governor and this governor monitors the work of the safeguarding team.

Governors are responsible for ensuring the Data Protection policy is in place and is being followed and that the school has a Data Protection Officer. GDPR is a standing agenda item at all meetings. There is also a Governor for Cyber Security.

Governors approve capital projects involving the allocation of Diocesan funds and DFE funds to improve school facilities.

Training

All members of the Governing Body have, and continue to have, suitable training. The impact of this is that governors are kept abreast of their responsibilities regarding the latest requirements and expectations. This year the following training has been undertaken:

- Basic Safeguarding
- MAT (Academisation)
- Cyber Security
- SEND for Governors
- Financial Management
- Curriculum
- Prevent training
- Diocesan annual and termly meetings.

We access CPD through Diocesan Governor training, Modern Governor and Edsential.

Statement from the Board

By carrying out our strategic monitoring role, the Board have continued to enable the Senior Leadership Team to focus on the day to day running of the school and fully supported its vision for the continuing improvement of St Mary of the Angels. The result is that there is a very positive, supportive, respectful and faithbased ethos throughout the school community. This was reinforced by Ofsted in the very successful ungraded inspection in November 2024 which concluded that the school "has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection" and " the school's work to promote pupils personal development is extensive". It was also noted in the report that "Governors are fully involved in the life of the school and provide appropriate support and challenge". The full report is on the website.

As a Board, we have continued to access training in many areas to enhance our experience, knowledge and skills and have recruited two new members to the Board who again bring valuable experience. The governor plan for carrying out a 360 degree self-evaluation process is now in action and is being led by a named governor. The year group link governors and named governors who can provide direct links for key areas, continue to regularly monitor and challenge. A “Meet the Governors” and governor actions and visits are now included in the weekly newsletter.

Following instructions from the Bishop, the Board has this year begun working towards Academisation. Governors have attended meetings and training and the first steps in the process are in place.

Much of our work is centered on the continued monitoring and challenging of the SDP. Mental Health and Wellbeing of all stakeholders continues to be a priority and as a Board we are pleased to see staff, pupil and parent feedback through questionnaires, Google forms etc. continues to be consistently strong and very positive. SEND provision has continued to be a focus this year and there has been significant training in many areas and we are pleased to see the support offered to the wider school by both the SENDco and Learning mentor. The My Happy Mind programme continues to be enjoyed by all pupils and SMOTA received the Bronze accreditation award in September 2024.

Through working closely with the SBM and the Headteacher, we’ve monitored the school budget to ensure the school can meet the constant challenge of rising costs. Governors have ensured that best value has been applied and this has seen new ipads and additional reading books across school. We have continued to approve Capital Projects and use Diocesan Building funds. The erection of the new climbing equipment, the new accessibility gates and the replacing of the pathways at the entrance to school have all been exciting developments this year.

The strong, effective and stable staffing structure in school has continued to drive the progress and attainment of our children and the Board continue to fully support the systems which hold teachers to account for the progress children make. The recent KS2 SATS results indicate how well the children have benefitted from QFT and the Recovery curriculum/measures, put in place after Covid, in their attainment and most especially progress. SMOTA is also rated a “Universal Support” by the Local Authority for the lowest level of support.

The curriculum at SMOTA is designed to give all pupils the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. There are residential visits, experiences off site and visitors to school. The school has achieved numerous national awards for curriculum delivery including Artsmark Silver and LOTC Silver.

This year Governors have continued to scrutinise the evidence of impact on the outcomes for Pupil Premium children- details of this can be found on the website. The Board also monitor the Sport Premium funding which aims to achieve improvement in all areas of P.E -this year a dance specialist teacher was introduced-and provides the Forest School experience for all pupils. This year school has once again achieved the Gold Sports Mark. Details of the impact of Sports Premium spending can also be found on the website. The continuing expansion and development of the Sensory Garden and the growing of vegetables also highlight the provision of good LOTC learning opportunities for the children.

Good attendance and punctuality are always high priorities at SMOTA . The Board has been very pleased to see the effective impact of the systems in place and the targeted support measures available to parents and pupils which have resulted in school being one of the top attended schools in CWAC.

As a Board, we continue to review policies and procedures to ensure these are fit for purpose and not only meet our legal requirements but also our vision and aims for the school and our pupils.

The Board is pleased to see the website has developed significantly this year to celebrate curriculum practices and provide more pertinent information and signposted support for parents and digital visitors.

We are grateful to all stakeholders for their continued support as we endeavour to provide the best educational and pastoral environment for them at St. Mary of the Angels.

Governor Action Plan 2025/2026

1. Working towards Academisation
2. Embed 360 degree self-evaluation process.

3. Continue to review and develop training matrix.
4. Continued challenge and monitoring of SDP and SEF- particularly RE, Pedagogy and Curriculum and Oracy.
5. Parish engagement.