

ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY

PURPOSE OF GOVERNANCE



The Governing Board is made up of a group of people who share collective responsibility for the school. They strive to promote high educational standards and support staff in the fostering and preservation of the school's Catholic ethos. The Governing Board aims to ensure that children attend an effectively led school which provides them with a good education and supports their spiritual, health and emotional well being. The Governing Board is accountable to parents and the wider community.

THE GOVERNING BOARD'S ROLE IS TO:

- Promote high standards of achievement
- Ensure clarity of vision and strategic direction
- Oversee the school's aims, values and ethos
- Set performance measurement indicators & targets
- Hold the Head Teacher to account and monitor the performance of the school
- Provide challenge
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure that money is spent effectively

The Governors at St Raphael's work on different committees covering:-

- Curriculum and Standards (Strategic Curriculum Group)
- Finance and Personnel
- Health and Safety

All Governors attend three full Governing Board Meetings a year. They also visit the school regularly and each has a link to a specific class and particular areas of the School Development Plan.

THE ROLE OF A GOVERNOR

In law the Governing Board is a corporate board therefore:

- no Governor can act on her/his own without proper authority from the full Governing Board;
- all Governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made
- the overriding concern of all Governors has to be the welfare of the school as a whole.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of St Raphael's Catholic Primary School, January 2017.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Governing Board of St Raphael's Catholic Primary School is now made up of 7 Foundation Governors (appointed by the Diocese of Shrewsbury) 2 Staff Governors (including the Head teacher), 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor. This was reviewed in the Autumn Term of 2014-15.

In addition we have co-opted governors who are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. Currently we have no Co-opted Governors.

The full Governing Board meets at least once each term. We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in more detail. This includes the newly formed Strategic Curriculum Group, a Finance Committee and a Health & Safety Committee. Each of these committees has an elected Chair and meetings are clerked; minutes are shared with all Governors at each full Governing Board meeting. We also have committees which meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

ATTENDANCE RECORD OF GOVERNORS

Governors have good attendance at meetings and we ensure that we have a "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made is 3).

If a Governor is unable to make a meeting, apologies are sent beforehand and recorded in the minutes. A copy of the attendance of Governor's is on the GB profile document in this section.

THE WORK THAT WE HAVE DONE ON OUR COMMITTEES AND IN THE GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board has had a productive year, focusing on responding to the feedback from the Ofsted Inspection Report given in October 2013. An Interim Strategic Group (ISG) was formed immediately after Ofsted's visit in order to create a focus group who would meet more frequently and spend time considering key data and all areas surrounding pupil achievement and progress. The ISG has been a real success as can be seen by our latest inspection and we have seen all the hard work come to fruition in the final results of 2015. The good work has also been evidenced by the External Review of Governance, the results (see website) and is highlighted further in the school's monthly St Raphael's News. Now the school is categorized as good, the ISG will continue to meet on a half-termly basis throughout the year but has been re-named the Strategic Curriculum Group, working on the areas previously covered by the Curriculum & Standards Committee.

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE GOVERNORS

This year's School Development Plan, incorporates many points which have been discussed and formalized for action by the GB. Actions have been planned and this is reviewed in the GB meetings each term. A summary of the School Development Headings and success criteria is alongside this document.

HOW YOU CAN CONTACT THE GOVERNING BOARD

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Clare Stewart, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors and their statements on the Governors' page of the school website. We also have photographs in the entrance to the school to help put names to faces.