

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Annual Review of Governance 2019-20

I am pleased to write to our school community with this review of governance for the last school year.

It has been the most extraordinary year, and there are few words that are able to do justice to describe how all our lives have been affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This time last year closing schools to all but a small minority of pupils would have been unthinkable, as would the additional pressure on school leaders and staff to comply with constantly changing guidance from the authorities.

We are very grateful for everything the school has done for our community during this most difficult of times, and especially the pastoral support provided to the most vulnerable. It has been wonderful to see the Gospel values lived out in this way.

For governors some of our business had to carry on as normal during lockdown, such as approving the school budget for the next year. However our primary focus was always to support the leadership team and whole school community in whatever ways we were able.

We began the year with our revised annual plan of ten governing board meetings, each with an agenda balanced across our various areas of responsibility. From the start there was a positive effect on attendance and more frequent link visits. We will continue in this way for the coming year with minor adjustments: one less meeting, agendas focussed on a particular area, and around half the meetings held on-line to support the work-life balance of all governors.

We are also planning a "governor day" in March for governors to come in for link visits, as well as opportunities to meet with children, staff and parents, and including a governing board meeting. It's still too early to say how much of this we will actually be able to do this particular year!

Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire.



St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Throughout the autumn term there was a focus on communication with a working group of governors set up to work closely with the senior leadership team, and foundation governors meeting our new teachers. We are very appreciative of all the efforts made to conduct surveys with staff and parents, to analyse the results, and to recommend actions. Feedback on communication throughout lockdown has been overwhelmingly positive.

Another focus for the autumn term was the new Ofsted curriculum: intent, implementation and impact. The intent of the curriculum (cross-curricular, practical application and outdoor learning) was well embedded before lockdown. This will continue in the coming year, with the necessary adjustments to support the children's return to the classroom after lockdown.

Over the course of the year there have been several changes for our academy trust, with a new Chair and the appointment of an interim CEO, a CFO and a new Company Secretary. With a central team there will be changes to the delegated functions of local governing boards, however we look forward to continuing to support the trust and contribute to shaping its vision and strategy over the next year.

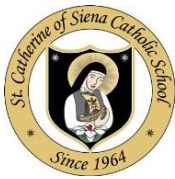
At the end of the year we said goodbye to the first of our double-intake classes and we wish them well in their new schools. We are delighted to welcome the new children and families in our double Reception class this year.

I would like to thank all our governors for the energy and enthusiasm they bring to the role, and I look forward to working with them again in the new school year. For anyone in our community who would like to join us, we currently have vacancies for foundation governors; please contact the school office to make an appointment if you would like to find out more about the role.

Mike Pargeter
Chair of Governors

October 2020

Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire.



St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Governing Board Membership 2019-20

Governor	Appointed by	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Business Interests	Attendance
Margaret Davidovitz *	Diocese of Westminster					33%
Oscar Fernandes	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2018	4 years			56%
Selina Janmohamed	Governing Board	18/11/2016	4 years			56%
Nicola Kane	Ex officio				Director - Stick Mark Boom Ltd (Educational Resources) Director - Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust	100%
Patricia Morton	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2018	4 years			67%
Michael Pargeter	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2017	4 years		One family member employed by the school Director - Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust	100%
Hayley Rees	Elected by parents	26/06/2019	4 years			100%
Dawn Reidy	Elected by staff	12/09/2019	4 years			63%
Sarah Stanton	Elected by staff	12/09/2019	4 years			89%
Patricia Whitham	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2016	4 years			0%
Catherine Wildey *	Diocese of Westminster					100%
Vera Woolls	Elected by parents	18/11/2016	4 years			89%

* Associate members, pending (re-)appointment by the Diocese of Westminster.

We welcomed Miss Stanton and Mrs Reidy as new staff governors. We were also very grateful that Mrs Wildey, former Assistant Headteacher and RE Coordinator who retired at Easter 2019, joined us as an associate member while her application to become a foundation governor was being processed by the Diocese of Westminster.

Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire.