



St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Annual Review of Governance 2018-19

I am pleased to write to our school community with this review of governance for the last school year. On the following pages I have tried to summarise the work done by the Local Governing Board under headings for its main areas of responsibility.

Aside from these, last year we began a focus on communication and engagement. It was great to speak with many parents at their consultation evenings during the year, and I hope to continue with this in the new school year. We also conducted and reported back on our first governance survey, and now have a dedicated Twitter feed to share our work informally with the school community.

Internally we spent time reflecting on our model of governance, and decided to disband all our sub-committees. For the new school year we will have ten full GB meetings, and the agenda for each one has been planned to ensure nothing is missed. Having meetings frequently also means that we can be flexible with these agendas, so everything is discussed at the right time and with everyone fully prepared.

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 our GB, 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 2019

VERITAS

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



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Catholic Ethos

Governors were delighted to see the development of the school chapel over the course of the year. The old meeting room was transformed by the considerable efforts of many members of staff, using sustainable and recycled materials wherever possible, in line with the school's vision. Generous donations from several families made the final result more impressive than we ever imagined!

At Easter we said farewell to our Assistant Headteacher and RE Coordinator Mrs Cath Wildey on her retirement after 20 years at the school. We were very grateful that Bishop Paul, Fr Fortunato, Fr Pat and Fr Terkura were able to take time from their busy schedules to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving. It was also fitting that after the Mass Bishop Paul was able to dedicate the new chapel to Mrs Wildey, as a tribute to her service to the Catholic life of St Catherine's.

For the new school year our focus will be on building relationships between the GB and our new RE Coordinator, and how we can develop further the teaching of RE and the Catholic life of the school.

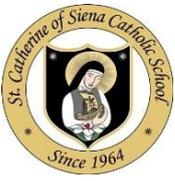
Vision and Strategy

The year began with the annual review of our vision for the school, and the strategy to achieve that vision. This was held on a Saturday morning in October, separate from our planned GB and committee meetings, and brought together governors and school leaders. Deacon Paul led an enlightening session where we were able to consider our vision for the school in a peaceful and spiritual environment.

A question we posed was: how do we know that the strategy to achieve our vision is working? For many years governors have been invited to the Year 6 leavers' celebration, and we have opportunities for pupil voice from our link visits.

However an innovation this year was to invite the head pupil and deputies from the Junior Leadership Team to present their work at the final GB meeting of the year. It was wonderful to see them present to us with confidence and to answer our questions. We look forward to continuing with this in future years.

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Educational Performance

Governors were very pleased to review the excellent results from the statutory tests at the end of the year:

EYFS: GLD (Good Level of Development) was in line with Herts and above national. Although the figure was down on last year for the school, this was expected as the cohort has significant number of pupils with SEND. Phonics was slightly below national for the same reason.

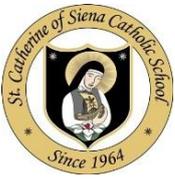
KS1: Pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths were in line with Herts; pupils achieving greater depth were significantly above Herts in reading and maths.

KS2: Pupils reaching the expected standard were significantly above national in all areas; pupils achieving greater depth were in line with national for reading and maths, and significantly above national for writing and SPaG.

At the start of the new school year governors will review a detailed analysis of these results to support and challenge the school leadership on the allocation of resources to close any gaps in progress and attainment. As the first double intake class reaches Year 6, governors will also focus on the progress of these pupils, given the different demographic of this cohort compared to previous years.

In addition, governors will support the evolution of the curriculum in light of the new Ofsted framework (Intent, Implementation and Impact) and there will be a focus on staff well-being.

VERITAS



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Financial Performance

Over the last two years significant capital funds have been used to replace the water distribution system (over the summer holiday 2018) and then the boiler in the last summer holiday. While this work is mostly unseen, it was essential to ensure a healthy and safe environment for children and staff, and to avoid long periods of closure should the heating or hot water fail and not be able to be repaired.

The challenges facing schools to balance their budgets have been well-rehearsed in local communications and the wider media, and so we will not dwell on repeating the message here. Suffice it to say that the governors continue to provide support and challenge to the school leadership as difficult decisions are made to achieve a balanced budget.

However in these challenging times, the governors would again like to thank those parents who contribute to the School Development Fund, and support the events put on by our talented and committed PTA team. Governors have enjoyed attending these events, and congratulate the PTA on raising in excess of £13,000 for the children over the course of the year. We can't stress enough how much difference this makes to the education the school can provide.

Admissions

Following a great deal of effort from the school leadership to fill vacancies, and the support of the governors' Admissions Committee, the school had the highest roll in its history this year, with 292 children and only two vacancies on census day October 2018. This is critical for our planning, as it is the figure used for our pupil-based income for 2019-20.

For the new school year the focus is to maintain this roll, and to market the 60 places that will be available for September 2020 as the first of the double-intake years rolls round into Reception.

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Governing Board Membership

Governor	Appointed by	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Business Interests	Attendance at Full GB (and at all meetings)
Daniel Atherton	Elected by staff	01/09/2015	4 years	31/08/2019	Director - Stick Mark Boom Ltd (Educational Resources)	100% (93%)
Margaret Davidovitz	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2014	4 years			100% (70%)
Oscar Fernandes	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2018	4 years			100% (62%)
Selina Janmohamed	Governing Board	18/11/2016	4 years			60% (67%)
Nicola Kane	Ex officio				Director - Stick Mark Boom Ltd (Educational Resources) Director - Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust	100% (86%)
Patricia Morton	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2018	4 years			80% (70%)
Michael Pargeter	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2017	4 years		One family member employed by the school Director - Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust	100% (100%)
Paul Quinn	Diocese of Westminster	01/05/2015	4 years	16/05/2019	Director - Learning in Harmony Trust	0% (50%)
Hayley Rees	Elected by parents	26/06/2019	4 years			80% (78%)
Christopher Waters	Elected by staff	01/09/2018	4 years	31/08/2019	Owner - Spark Resources	100% (100%)
Patricia Whitham	Diocese of Westminster	01/09/2016	4 years			20% (14%)
Vera Woolls	Elected by parents	18/11/2016	4 years			80% (70%)

In May we said farewell to Deacon Paul Quinn who stepped down after twelve years of service as a governor, nine of which were as our Chair. At the end of the year we also said farewell to our staff governors: Danny Atherton and Chris Waters. We thank all three for everything they have contributed to governance at St Catherine's, and wish them well for the future.

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