

## Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement of the Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Poole October 2015

### Our Mission Statement:

Together we will do our best for Jesus

We work hard to provide an environment which is secure, stimulating and happy, and where everyone is appreciated and enabled to give of their best.

We encourage all to have respect for each individual, to be honest, tolerant, just and forgiving and to develop a closer relationship with each other and through this a closer relationship with God.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.**
2. **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

### Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School was re-constituted in 2015 and has 16 members in total. These are now made up of elected Staff Governor, the Headteacher and one Co-opted Governor, three elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor (currently vacant) and 9 Foundation Governors (currently one vacancy). Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocese of Plymouth. Governors co-opted by the Governing Body are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Our Governing Body overall actually has six members who have children in the school and three who are staff members, whilst the remaining members belong to the local Catholic community. At the beginning of this term we said a fond farewell to Father Barry Hallett as he moved to Dorchester. He has been replaced as parish priest by Fr. Christopher Findlay-Wilson who will be joining the Governing body once he has got his feet under the various tables that his new post have lead him to.

The Full Governing Body meets twice each term. We have two main committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At St. Joseph's Primary we have a Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and personnel matters, and a Teaching, Learning and Curriculum (TLC) Committee which looks at all aspects of learning and teaching within St. Joseph's including Special Educational Needs (SEN). A separate subcommittee of the TLC committee specialises in safe-guarding. We also have sub-committees that meets annually to review admissions, pay

### Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

**The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body**

Governors attend regular training which allows them to keep fully abreast of the Governor responsibilities expected of them. The Diocese also runs training courses and Governors attend these courses as appropriate.

The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. The school's budget now exceeds £1 million and is handled day to day by our Finance Manager, under the direction of the Headteacher, and monitored by members of the Resource Committee. Costs are carefully reviewed through monthly budget reports, best value and specific benchmarking exercises which allows the school to compare itself to similarly sized schools in our area.

The TLC Committee has spent time considering the introduction of the new curriculum, and governors also discuss key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our "vulnerable groups" of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes.

Nominated Governors monitor various areas of school life including, Maths, RE & Section 48 (the religious life of the school), Equality/British Values, Early Years and Foundation Stage, Lower School and Upper School.

Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding (Mark Painter) who gives a termly report to the governors about any safeguarding matters, and also monitors the effectiveness of interventions for our disadvantaged pupils. Brian Melrose is our Health and Safety Governor and he carries out termly checks of the premises with the school's site manager.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, of which there is a whole suite. Some are reviewed annually and others every three years. The frequency and date of last review are indicated on each individual policy. The Governing Body monitors and evaluates the progress of the School Strategic Plan. Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

**Future plans for the governors**

The Governing Body is looking to further develop stakeholder engagement, for example, liaising more with the pupils on School Council and trying to ensure more involvement of more parents and an even greater presence of Governors in school.

**How you can contact the governing body**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Hugh Fogarty, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors and more information about what we do on the Governors' page of the school website.