

Governors' Role

All schools in England have a Governing Body which is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school. A key role is to act as a 'critical friend': to support, to challenge and to ask questions that help the school to perform to its very best.

The Governing Body works in close partnership with the headteacher, staff, the Diocese of Westminster, and the local authority. Whilst the headteacher is, of course, responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved with such things as staffing, curriculum, school buildings and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains the proper range of academic and social objectives.

Our Governing Body consists of 14 members:

- Eight foundation governors appointed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster (*of whom two shall, at the time of appointment, be eligible for appointment as parent governors*)
- The headteacher
- One elected staff governor
- One appointed local authority governor
- Two elected parent governors
- One co-opted governor

If you would like more details about our governors please see the governors' grid and the biography section.

The standard term of office for a governor is four years. The chair and vice-chair are elected annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

The full Governing Body meets at least four times each year. Topics covered in meetings may include planning the school's long-term vision through the School Improvement Plan, target setting and monitoring, and the school budget. The Governors make important, collective decisions and the Governing Body is answerable to parents and the community. If you wish to know what is discussed at Full Governing Body meetings (FGB) please read our minutes.

Much of the work of the Governing Body is done by committees to ensure the workload is dealt with effectively. The main committees, Pupils and Curriculum and Finance, Staffing and Premises, meet at least once every term. The Admissions committee convenes in the Spring term for the admissions process and may meet at other times throughout the year if necessary. Other committees which are statutory, such as Pupil Discipline and Staff Grievances meet when required and all governors are prepared to serve unless circumstances require that they do not.

The Committees of the Governing Body

Pupils and Curriculum: *this committee discusses and monitors all aspects of the school's work around pupil attainment thus ensuring that the school's curriculum is broad and balanced and meets statutory*

requirements. It has various 'link governors' for Literacy, Numeracy and Early Years.

A second vital role of this committee is to discuss and monitor all aspects of the school's pastoral work which includes areas such as attendance, behaviour, safeguarding, health, and spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) provision.

Link governors include ones for Literacy, Numeracy, Religious Education and Child Protection.

Finance, Staffing and Premises: *This committee's main purpose is to ensure that the school spending remains within budget and that all funds are spent wisely to best meet the needs of the pupils. Health and safety of the school site is part of this committee's remit.*

Specific responsibilities of Governing Bodies include:

- ensuring that the school is conducted as a Catholic School and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Westminster;
- setting the school's aims and values
- planning the school's long-term future
- promoting high standards of education and achievement
- setting, agreeing and overseeing budgets

In all types of schools Governing Bodies should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

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 and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

To reiterate, governors, along with the headteacher and senior school team, form the leadership team of the school. They have a crucial role in ensuring the school is successful in meeting the needs of all its pupils and in achieving high standards. They are, along with all other categories of governors, under a legal duty to conduct their school with a view to promoting high educational standards (Education Act 2002) and to promote the well-being of pupils at the school, promote community cohesion, have regard to any relevant Children and Young People Plan and to have regard to the views espoused by parents/guardians of registered pupils. A Catholic school is not one which merely follows the secular National Curriculum with Catholic religious education and liturgical worship bolted on, but rather an institution where Gospel values and the Catholic faith are at the heart of everything and permeate every facet of its work.

If you wish to contact the Governors please do so via the school – leave your contact details at Reception and we shall get back to you.