

St. Mark's Catholic Primary Governing Body Vision Statement.



Our values are rooted in the belief that Christ is at the centre of our daily lives. Our aims are: -

- Provide a Catholic setting for the development of the curriculum
- Develop and maintain in each individual their faith as a personal, living experience.
- Ensure that the pupils' experience of love and respect within the school has a formative and significant influence on their understanding of relationships.
- Encourage active partnership with home, parish and school and so prepare children to be responsible, caring members of the community.

This is what is distinctly Catholic about our school and is the vision behind our mission to make St. Mark's a place where proudly and joyfully every child loves, lives and learns as God's children.

We value our children and aim to be proud of them to ensure every child can develop unique talents and gifts. We aim to make our school a place where we hope to enrich every child with the spiritual awareness and social skills needed to become caring, confident, responsible and valued members of our ever changing society.

Our vision is to succeed in making St. Mark's a place which we place great emphasis on developing the skills of respect, sharing and cooperation that we believe are essential to every child's development.

Our vision is to succeed in achieving excellence, the very best provision for our children and the very best contribution from our children.

Our aim is that success will be achieved with high expectations by all stakeholders of themselves and each other (children, staff, parents, governors, parish community, Local Authority, Diocesan Education Service and other service providers).

Our aim for our children and staff is to achieve success through their ability to: solve problems by applying thinking skills; be independent; be creative; to challenge and be challenged; be literate; be numerate and be ICT able. Underpinning this will be the aim for high level effort, emotional intelligence, physical health and mental wellbeing, together with a resilient attitude all based on their RE and faith development.

Our aim as staff and governing body is to work together to a high level of consistency to ensure regular delivery of excellence through the implementation of the School Development Plan. We value teamwork support from our staff, parents, families, governors and our wider community essentially based on high quality modelling and coaching the skills and attitudes needed to achieve our learning outcomes.

We value our successes recognising them through effective, ongoing monitoring and self-evaluation, rewarding them and celebrating them with all stakeholders.

When our children leave our school community our aim is to be able to say that our children achieved success, their very best and that we did it because of our calling to lead a life of faith where Christ is at the centre.



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Governors Annual Statement to Parents

2015-16

The Governors of St. Mark's oversee the work of the school. We are very fortunate to have a Governing Body with a variety of skills and experience and I would like to thank them for the time they give so freely in the role.

The major aspect of the Governors role is to ensure that pupils progress well in their education, and appreciate that for this to happen, all pupils must be supported by a well lead, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff, all working together within a safe, supported and stimulating learning environment.

Governors appreciate too, the requirements of their children's parents and carers, and their need to be satisfied about the overall leadership of management of the school, and how it affects safety, learning and the enjoyment of their children.

To achieve their objectives, Governors too must continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties. This statement to parents is part of that evaluation and publication process.

What have been our successes this year?

- The school was awarded the National Support School Status, March 2016
- The Headteacher was commissioned as a National Leader in Education, March 2016
- All staff and children have been updated with new ICT equipment
- Attendance has continued to improve as we continue to strive to be above the national average.
- EYFS, KS1 and KS2 have continued to be in line or above national expectations.
- Phonics results have continued to improve, year on year, both in Year 1 and Year 2
- We continue to enrich and teach the whole child, paying particular attention to their Catholic education and formation. We do this through our teaching, the liturgy, school masses and sacramental preparation. This year has been particularly significant as it is the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The school has taken part in and contributed to many Diocesan events to mark this meaningful year.
- Continue to be a model school for Read Write Inc. (RWI)
- Continue to be a model school for and Maths Makes Sense (MMS).
- Headteacher is now a National Pupil Premium Reviewer.
- Resurfacing of the Staff Car Park.
- First Stage of the Roof Project completed.
- New outdoor play area completed for KS1 and KS2.
- Children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding have made favourable progress.

- Outcomes were judged to be outstanding.
- One NQT was appointed and successfully passed their NQT year.
- There has been an improved range of after school activities for children to participate in.
- The Governors have continued to direct funding to subsidise school visits as it places high importance to children having opportunities to experience learning in other settings.
- Feedback from parent questionnaires remains extremely positive and is extremely supportive of the school and its direction to achieve the best outcomes for our children.
- Classrooms were redecorated and new carpets were laid.
- New equipment was purchased for many different areas of the curriculum.
- An updated and fully functioning website for children and parents to access.

Our successes this year have been the result of a strong team ethos, with excellent leadership from the Headteacher, the Senior Team and the Governing Body and by all staff, no matter what area they work in school, working together collaboratively.

I also fully recognise that we could not have achieved all that we have if it were not for all your support and providing us with such amazing pupils to teach.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team to write and monitor the School Development Plan. The plan then sets out the priorities for the school in the forthcoming year.

The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and our previous OFSTED Priorities. The SDP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims, and success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed at termly governors' meetings, regular staff meetings/senior leadership meetings. The school also uses a school improvement advisor to evaluate progress.

The current priorities of the SDP are: -

Priority One – Outcomes - To continue to work to improve standards of achievement across the school so that it is in line or above the national average.

Priority Two – Teaching, Learning & Assessment - All teaching is at least good with key groups of children achieving effective outcomes.

Priority Three – Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare – To improve attendance so that it is in line with national expectations or above and lower the rate of persistent absence.

Priority Four – Effective Leadership & Management – To strengthen the newly formed senior leadership team to ensure continuous improvement.

Priority Five - Religious Education – To continue to have outstanding religious education throughout the school.

Cooperative working on preparation and implementation of the SDP follows considerable research, preparation and input from the Senior Leadership Team and Lead Teachers within school, as well as all other members of staff. The plan is also evaluated at the end of the academic year, in preparation for creating priorities for the following year.

Governors Visits

Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP; named governors have a responsibility for reporting on the progress of specific priorities in the SDP. The Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors have regular meetings with the Headteacher, which are at least termly and Governors with specific curriculum responsibilities meet with Lead Teachers and Senior Staff throughout the year.

Data Analysis

Data is analysed and discussed as an agenda item at Governors Meetings, on at least a half termly basis. Governors receive termly training in analysing performance data through the SIPS and/or the Local Authority. In this way, Governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally, to ensure the school's standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised to ensure good progress is made. It is this level of data analysis, which informs and leads school improvement planning.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups, including vulnerable groups, and the effective use of pupil premium.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis, to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. These policies can be found in the school website.

Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list.

Financial Management

Our Governing Body contains several Governors with significant expertise in financial management.

Working with the Resources Committee, they drive the financial management of the school. In recent years, the Governors have worked with school staff on an annual basis to achieve the School Financial Value Statement (SFVS).

The impact of the Governors' role in school ensures that the school's budget is managed well; improvements are effective and continuous and contribute strongly to positive pupil outcomes.

Staff Recruitment

The Headteacher, Chair of Governors are trained in 'Safer Recruitment'. Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection of all teaching staff and use the appointment process to ensure that high quality staff, who share the schools' ethos and aims, are appointed.

Governor Meeting Attendance

Governor attendance has continued to be of a very high level, with all absences being fully explained, accepted and approved by the Governing Body.

Impact Statements Review

Governors have listened to parents and have ensured that the school offers high quality, timely information through its school website, and that a greater range of school clubs is offered.

Governors have ensured that Pupil Premium funded is deployed effectively, resulting in disadvantaged children making good progress.

Governors have ensured that's staffing is deployed effectively resulting in all children making good progress by the end of each key stage.

Complaints

We have duty to report to parents about complaints made to school. In 2015-16, there were no formal complaints made to the Governing Body.

Thank you for taking time to read this statement, as always if there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Governing Body or myself via school office.

Mrs. M Naughton
Chair of Governors

September 2016