



**St Benedict's Catholic Primary School  
Governors' Impact Statement 2022 – 23  
(Written September 2023)**

**St Benedict's is a one-form entry primary school nestled in beautiful surroundings in the town of Handforth. We are a welcoming, inclusive family school with a strong Catholic ethos, a sense of community and a commitment to excellence for all children in our care.**

**We are very proud of our children – they are bright, energetic, kind and helpful and always strive to do their best for the love of God and others.**

**The Governors and team of staff all work hard, in partnership with supportive and engaged parents and alongside the parish of St Benedict's, to nurture children and to ensure they receive an excellent catholic education.**

**This is underpinned by vision and values which are based on high expectations and aspirations for every learner which support their preparation for adulthood, independent living and lifelong learning.**

We are a committed group of parents, staff and members of the community, who work collectively as the Governing Body. We identify and utilise our collective skills to support and challenge the Senior Leadership Team, ensuring that the governance and strategic leadership of the school is focused on ensuring high quality outcomes for all pupils. At the heart of all we do is the wellbeing of our pupils.

We are committed to the Church's mission in education, with spiritual and moral development a priority. The school's mission statement 'As unique individuals, we do our best at work and play, for the love of God and others' encourages pupils to celebrate the success of others alongside their own, helping to promote mutual respect and a love of learning.

The Full Governing Body meets six times a year.

What we do as a Governing Body is described in our Terms of Reference, and the principles we adhere to are outlined in our Code of Conduct. Governors' attendance at meetings is high and their contributions are constructive and supportive.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of St Benedict's Governing Board 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

**Organisation and Membership.**

The Governing Board, which meets at least six times each year, is comprised of:

Headteacher Governor  
Foundation Governors  
Local Authority (LA) Governor  
Staff Governor  
Parent Governors

More information can be found here: <https://www.stbenedicts.cheshire.sch.uk/page/governors/126866>

In addition, each governor is given a link governor role with the responsibility to monitor and support a curriculum area. You can find the information [https://www.stbenedicts.cheshire.sch.uk/serve\\_file/20656596](https://www.stbenedicts.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/20656596)

## **Strategic Direction and School Improvement Plan**

Setting the strategic direction of the school is a vital role of governors. They support the Headteacher and senior leadership team in setting the school's priorities and strategic direction.

Governors continually monitor the School Improvement Plan (SIP). They receive reports from the Head Teacher relating to the SIP and monitor the progress towards achieving targets and goals.

### **The SIP 2023-2024**

Governors have approved the SIP for this coming year and its key areas for improvement across the school and it can be viewed on the school website.

### **Policies**

Governors review all relevant policies, during the relevant committee meeting, on a programmed basis to ensure that they meet the statutory requirements and that all guidance is relevant and up to date. All policies, which are dated and set for review, are available on the school website and on Governor Hub.

### **Training**

New Governors are expected to attend Diocesan training for new Governors.

Governors are encouraged to attend any training that is relevant to the SIP in the first instance.

Governors may also attend any training that is of particular interest to them.

All Governors attended Safeguarding Basic Awareness

Some Governors attended Equality training

All Governors have completed prevent training.

### **Actions this year:**

- In September 2023, Kirsty Guite became Chair of Governors and Sean Callaghan became Vice-Chair. We thank Lucy Maudsley for her commitment for since 2019. Lucy will remain a Governor.
- In 2023, Helen Butler, Gerard McCann, Mike O'Hare, Kirsty Guite and Sean Callaghan all renewed their terms for 4 years. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to our school.
- Meeting attendance has been high. The first and last meeting of each academic year are in person and the rest are on-line. This enables higher attendance.
- The Governing Body are supported by a clerk from One Education.
- A Finance governor has attended each budget meeting with the Local Authority
- All Governors sign the CES Code of Conduct
- Strategic Governor development is driven by the annual skills audit.
- Governors are always focussed on the wellbeing of staff. They ensure that staff are well supported and as a result staff are motivated.
- The governors have been instrumental in saving money with their support in understanding insurance arrangements and school have now adopted the RPA.
- The RE governor has been pro-active in helping prepare the school for inspection
- Governors are very committed to ensuring all pupils with SEND receive an excellent education and make good progress.

#### Holding Head teacher to account

- Robust headteacher performance review alongside an external partner
- Acting as a critical friend when reviewing policies, finances, the SIP or staffing
- Pupil attendance figures are reported at each meeting. The Governors continue to set challenging pupil attendance targets and analyse trends in detail at FGB meetings and, despite the pandemic, attendance figures have improved and persistent absence has reduced
- Governors have been pivotal in ensuring the school has high standards in meeting and exceeding its obligations with the Equality Act.

#### Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

- Budget papers reviewed at FGB 6 times a year
- Finance Link governor meets the SBM to discuss and raise challenge
- Challenging questions posed at FGB meetings