



## St Benedict's Catholic Primary School Governors' Impact Statement 2023-2024

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 four times a year to review progress against the School Improvement Plan.

We organise our work through a structure of committees, working parties and designated lead governors.

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  
Co-opted Governors

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

In addition, each governor is given a link governor role. With the responsibility to monitor and support a Curriculum area

Lucy Maudsley	Chair Foundation	Head Teacher Performance Management Humanities Link Governor
Kirsty Mitchell	Vice Chair Foundation	Head Teacher Performance Management Training Liaison Data & Curriculum Liaison Maths Link Governor
Lisa Jones	Foundation	Safeguarding Link Governor Reading & Writing Link Governor
Helen Butler	Foundation	Head Teacher Performance Management Pupil Premium Catholic Life & RE Link Governor
Gerard McCann	Foundation	PE Link Governor
Mike O'Hare	Foundation	MFL Link Governor
Louisa Joyce	Foundation	SEND Governor
Alistair Revell	LA	Science Link Governor
Sean Callaghan	Parent	Finance Link Governor
Licia McDonald	Parent	Equality and RSE Link Governor
Ruth Browne	Staff	Health and Safety

### **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 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.

At the end of the academic year 2023/24 the SDP was reviewed and further actions identified.

#### **The SDP 2024-20254**

Governors have approved the SDP 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 Trust Governor.

#### **Training**

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

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

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

All Governors attended training in the Equality Act

All Governors have completed prevent training, which will be refreshed in Autumn 2024

Governors will attend basic awareness training in November 2024.

### Actions this year:

- In September 2023, Kirsty Guite became the Chair of Governors and has been supported by Sean Callaghan as Vice –Chair.
- Sean Callaghan became a Foundation Governor replacing Louisa Joyce. Ruth Browne was re-elected as staff governor. Lisa Jones was re-appointed as Foundation governor.
- We thank Louisa for her time as SEND governor during which her knowledge had an impact on provision and outcomes for SEND pupils
- Kirsty was present at each budget meeting and ensured that the budget was balanced at that decisions were made with the children at the centre
- Governors met with Mark Mountcastle – CEO of the Our Lady Help of Christians MAT. After much deliberation, governors decided to start the conversion process.
- The Governing Body is supported by a clerk from One Education.
- Link governor visits were made by the governor with responsibility for safeguarding to support with a parent who was banned from site and a LADO referral; the PE governor, RE governor and Equality governor. The link governor for health and safety made a site visit and identified actions.
- The chair supported with a complaint and a parent who was banned from site.
- All Governors sign the CES Code of Conduct
- Governors have been focussed on the wellbeing of staff. They ensure that staff are well supported and as a result staff are motivated.

### Holding Head teacher to account

- Robust headteacher performance review alongside an external partner
- Acting as a critical friend when reviewing policies, finances, the SDP 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

### 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