

**Governor impact statement**  
**St. Mark's Catholic Primary School**  
**July 2023**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of St. Mark's Primary School's Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Your Governors monitor and evaluate a wide range of matters covering the whole of school life. These include the general and financial management of the school; the delivery of the curriculum taught in the school; the progress and attainment of pupils in key subjects; the provision of teaching to those pupils with special educational needs; the school's special responsibilities as a Catholic school; compliance with all health and safety standards; and the provision of child safeguarding and behaviour standards in the school. The Governors are responsible for implementing and monitoring the wide range of policies applied to all areas of school life and for reviewing those policies on a regular basis to ensure that they comply with current best practice and experience.

Your Governors monitor and evaluate not only through regular full governing body meetings but by visiting the school during the school day, attending parent's evenings, attending special events and attending staff meetings.

There are 8 governors. Between us we represent a range of experiences and backgrounds and several of us are from the local area and Parish so having an understanding of the diversity of St. Mark's community.

**As a board, this year we have done the following:**

- Had 6 full board meetings.
- Additionally, the Chair has attended briefings by BBCET and Local Authority Governor Services and in school meetings of SLT.
- Monitored in the following areas: reading, phonics, safeguarding.
- Held catch up meetings between the headteacher and chair prior to board meetings and as necessary.
- Governors, both as individuals and as a group, have been on the following training: induction, safeguarding, phonics update, new Trust finance procedures, NGA Learning Link modules.
- Been involved in the recruitment of 2 teachers and 1 learning assistant.
- Been involved in the appraisal of the headteacher.

- Reviewed a range of policies.
- Recruited 2 new governors

We have had the following impact:

- Questions relating to finances, particularly since joining the Trust, led to our new Trust finance officer attending a meeting to brief us and answer questions.
- The regular Headteacher's reports enable us to monitor issues relating to many areas including growing need for SEN provision and attendance.
- We took decisions to focus budget spending on addressing phonics and reading for pleasure which included developing the library. There were also changes to the layout of the reception area and the development of an area for wraparound provision.
- Our training helped us to understand the new phonics programme; to monitor the implementation of phonics and reading for pleasure; ensure safeguarding compliance; identify priorities for 23-24.
- We made the following suggestions to senior leaders: staff wellbeing survey; ways of working more closely with the new parish priest.
- The regular catch ups between the Chair and the Headteacher provided opportunities for the chair to support the headteacher during her first year in post.
- Consistent and high-quality engagement by governors in meetings resulted in good discussions which were helpful to the headteacher.