



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VA HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021-2022

The Governors have pleasure in presenting their annual governance statement. (Governing Board membership and guidance documentation references up-dated December 2021)

In preparing this statement, Governors have taken into account the Department for Education's statutory guidance on "The Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools" (August 2017), the Governor's Handbook (October 2020) and "A Competency Framework for Governance" (January 2017).

The Governing Board fully supports the principles of transparency and accountability set out in those documents.

The Governing Board has three core strategic functions which are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals. They are also responsible for setting a school ethos of high expectations of behaviour, progress and attainment of all students and of conduct of staff and Governors.

St Michael's has a strong Christian ethos, which is evident throughout the school including Governor meetings.

2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the headteacher and senior leadership team to account for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance. This is done through questioning and through regular monitoring and analysis of data on students' performance and progress. Governors hold the headteacher to account for the performance management of teachers. (The headteacher's performance management is conducted by Governors).

3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent Governors regularly look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money.

Governing Board Membership 2021/2022 (as at 15.12.2021)

The Co-Chair of Governors, Mr Colin Nicholls or Mrs Kerry Thornton can be contacted via the school. The clerking service to the Governors is provided by SIPS Education.

Governor Name	Type of Governor	Term of office	Committee involvement
Mr Colin Nicholls (Co-Chair)	Foundation	29 th September 2021 – 28 th September 2025	Personnel & Finance/Facilities Management/Pay/HT Appraisal/Admissions/ Ethos/Curriculum
Mrs Kerry Thornton (Co-Chair)	Local Authority	6 th June 2018- 5 th June 2022	Personnel & Finance/Pay/HT Appraisal/Admissions
Mrs Julie Bodin (Vice Chair)	Foundation	23 rd November 2020- 22 nd November 2024	Personnel & Finance/Curriculum/Pay /HT Appraisal/Admissions
Mrs Christina Handy-Rivett	Acting Headteacher	Ex -Officio	Personnel & Finance/Curriculum/Facilities Management/Admissions/Ethos
Mr Ken Hadley	Foundation	27 th June 2021– 26 th June 2025	Personnel & Finance/Facilities Management
Mrs Abigail Rumano	Foundation	1 st January 2020- 31 st December 2023	Curriculum/Facilities Management
Ms Katarzyna Kujawa-Sogbesan	Parent	7 th January 2021- 6 th January 2025	Curriculum/Facilities Management
Mrs Angela Gibson	Parent	5 th October 2020- 4 th October 2024	Personnel & Finance
Mr Simon Smith	Parent	30 th November 2021- 29 th November 2025	TBC
Mr Lee Mole	Staff	12 th October 2018- 11 th October 2022	Facilities Management
Ms Kita Amos	Foundation	2 nd December 2021- 1 st December 2025	TBC
Rev John Bridge	Foundation	Ex-Officio	Personnel & Finance/Ethos
Vacancy	Foundation		
Vacancy	Foundation		

In year resignations during academic year 2020-2021

Mrs Karen Huxtable – resigned 4th October 2021

Mr Edward Williams – resigned 9th November 2021

Special Responsibility Governors

Governors have the following named responsibilities within the school:

Business Studies Link Governor	Mrs Abigail Rumano
Child Protection/Safeguarding	Mr Colin Nicholls
Computing Link Governor	Vacancy
English Link Governor	Mrs Angela Gibson
Health & Safety Governor	Vacancy
Geography & History Link Governor	Mr Colin Nicholls
RE Link Governor	Rev John Bridge
Looked After Child Governor	Mrs Kerry Thornton
Mathematics Link Governor	Ms Katarzyna Kujawa-Sogbesan
Modern Foreign Languages Link Governor	Mrs Kerry Thornton
ECT Link Governor	Mr Colin Nicholls
Performing Arts Link Governor	Mrs Kerry Thornton
Safer Recruitment Governor	Mrs Kerry Thornton, Ms Katarzyna Kujawa-Sogbesan
Science Link Governor	Vacancy
SEND Governor	Mrs Angela Gibson
PSHE/RSE Link Governor	Mr Colin Nicholls

The full Governing Board meets once per term in spring and summer and twice in the autumn. The committees meet once per term. The committees are:

- Finance & Personnel Committee
- Pupil & Curriculum Committee
- Facilities Management & Health and Safety Committee
- Pay Committee
- Admissions Committee

Other committees when required are:

- Pupil Discipline & Complaints Committee
- Appeals Committee

During every meeting, the Governors focus upon aspects of the School Action Plan (SAP) and monitor the progress against rigorous targets. We receive detailed reports from the headteacher, the School Improvement Advisor and other agencies.

The following are some of the ways in which the Governing Board impact on the strategic management of the school:

- **SAP** – Governors work co-operatively with the headteacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring the SAP. The SAP sets aims for the school. The current SAP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SAP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SAP is monitored and review termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to Governors within the HT report.

- **Governor visits** – The Governors are invited to visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SAP and of specific issues. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of statutory link Governors are provided to relevant Governors and regular training is available in order to up-skill our team.
- **Data analysis** – Data are made available to Governors through termly meetings, with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the headteacher and members of the senior management team; thus, the 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. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium.
- **Policies** – Governors review all relevant policies on an annual basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the local authority recommended list.
- **Financial management** – Members of the Governing Board have been trained in school finance management. The impact of the Governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous.
- **Governor expertise** – The Governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.
- **Governor Meeting Attendance** - Governor attendance has been of a good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted and approved by the Governing Board. There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the Governing Board.
- **Review** - The Governing Board, the headteacher and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school.

How Ofsted viewed governance at St Michael’s at the last inspection -

“Governors ensure that they are well informed about the school’s performance”

“Governors reflect on their own performance and seek to improve their effectiveness”

“The governing body has a good level of knowledge and expertise, which it is using increasingly well to question leaders and hold them to account”

“Statutory duties are carried out with diligence”

Governors regularly visit the school (or meet virtually) and these visits are key to getting to know the school, its pupils and the staff in depth. Governor visits always have a specific area of focus and this year these have included:

Activities

Governors also attend school events such as:

- Science Fair Exhibition
- Student Voice Celebration
- Awards Evening
- Drama productions

Training

All members of the Governing Board have undertaken training as part of their commitment to continuous professional development. This year, this has included courses on:

- Safeguarding
- PREVENT
- Safer Recruitment training
- Providing Professional Challenge
- Pupil Exclusions and Appeals
- Strategic Direction
- Advanced Finance
- Valuable Visits
- NGA Leading Governance 'Development for Chairs'

The Governing Board is immensely proud of the pupils and staff of St Michael's Church of England High School, and will continue to support the headteacher, staff and pupils to achieve the very best for every child.

NB: Due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19, it has not always been possible for Governors to meet face-to-face or visit the school. However, to ensure continuity, safe running of the school and to meet their obligations, Governors have continued to meet virtually via Microsoft Teams. Where visits have been made, they have been carried out following government guidelines and school risk assessment.