



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VA HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022-2023

The Governors have the pleasure of presenting their annual governance statement. (Governing Board membership and guidance documentation references updated 18th October 2022)

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 the conduct of staff and governors.

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

2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the performance management of staff

Governors must provide challenges 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 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 the best value for money.

Governing Board Membership 2022/2023 (as of 18.10.2022)

The Co-Chairs 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/HT Appraisal/ Admissions/Ethos/Curriculum
Mrs Kerry Thornton (Co-Chair)	Local Authority	14 th July 2022 - 13 th July 2026	Personnel & Finance/Pay/HT Appraisal /Admissions
Mr Joseph Parker (Vice Chair)	Foundation	6 th July 2022 – 5 th July 2026	Facilities Management
Ms Kita Amos	Foundation	2 nd December 2021- 1 st December 2025	HT Appraisal/Curriculum
Mrs Julie Bodin	Foundation	23 rd November 2020- 22 nd November 2024	Personnel & Finance/Curriculum/HT Appraisal/Admissions
Rev John Bridge	Foundation	Ex-Officio	Personnel & Finance/Ethos
Mr Ian Goldby- Timmis	Parent	21 st June 2022 – 20 th June 2026	Pay/Facilities Management
Mr Ken Hadley	Foundation	27 th June 2021– 26 th June 2025	Personnel & Finance/Facilities Management
Mrs Christina Handy-Rivett	Headteacher	Ex -Officio	Personnel & Finance/ Curriculum/Facilities Management/ Admissions/Ethos
Mr Dan Jarvis	Foundation	As of 18.10.22, pending appointment by the Diocese	
Ms Katarzyna Kujawa-Sogbesan	Parent	7 th January 2021- 6 th January 2025	Curriculum/Pay
Mr Lee Mole	Staff	12 th October 2022- 11 th October 2026	Facilities Management
Mrs Abigail Rumano	Foundation	1 st January 2020- 31 st December 2023	Curriculum
Mr Simon Smith	Parent	30 th November 2021- 29 th November 2025	Curriculum

In year resignations during the academic year 2021-2022

Mrs Karen Huxtable – resigned 4th October 2021

Mr Edward Williams – resigned 9th November 2021

Mrs Angela Gibson – resigned 26th May 2022

Special Responsibility Governors

Governors have the following named responsibilities within the school:

Safeguarding/Child Protection Governor (including attendance)*	Colin Nicholls
Pupil Premium	Kerry Thornton
SEND Governor	Ken Hadley
Health and Safety Governor	Ian Goldby-Timmis
Safer Recruitment Governor	Kerry Thornton/Kate Kujawa-Sogbesan/Colin Nicholls
Computing Link Governor	Kate Kujawa-Sogbesan
Business Studies Link Governor	Abby Moyo
Humanities Link Governor	Colin Nicholls - Geography and History
	Reverend John Bridge - RE
Looked After Child Governor	Kerry Thornton
Maths Link Governor	Kate Kujawa-Sogbesan
Modern Foreign Language Link Governor	Kerry Thornton
ECT Link Governor	Colin Nicholls
Performing Arts Link Governor	Kerry Thornton
Science Link Governor	Simon Smith
English Link Governor	Joseph Parker
PSCE/RSHE	Kita Amos
Mental Health/Wellbeing	Reverend John Bridge
Quality Assurance/Data Outcomes	Simon Smith

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

Other committees when required are:

- Pay Committee
- Admissions Committee
- Pupil Discipline & Complaints Committee
- Appeals Committee
- Headteacher Appraisal

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

A skills audit is carried out each year and helps us to identify where we need to develop knowledge, skills, and behaviour to deliver our functions effectively. All new governors are required to complete the audit on joining so that suitable training can be suggested to help them fulfil their roles.

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

- **School Action Plan (SAP)** – Governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring of the School Action Plan. The School Action Plan 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 reviewed 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 SIP and specific issues. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of statutory link governors is provided to relevant governors and regular training is available in order to up-skill our team.
- **Data analysis** - Data is 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 student progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and 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' roles 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 students, and the staff in depth. Governor visits always have a specific area of focus and link into the SAP.

Activities

Governors also attend school events such as:

- GCSE Success evenings
- Science Fair Exhibition
- Student Voice Celebration
- Awards Evening
- Music, Drama and Dance productions
- End of term services

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 students and staff of St Michael's Church of England High School and will continue to support the Headteacher, staff, and students to achieve the very best for every child.