

## **ST OSWALD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Annual Governance Statement September 2024**

In accordance with Government requirements, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Body of St Oswald's Catholic Primary School are:

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

The Governing Body fulfils these functions by:

- Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos, and strategy.
- Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance.
- Ensuring the membership of the Governing Body is made up of people with the right skills, experience, qualities, and capacity.
- Implementing structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- Ensuring compliance with statutory and contractual requirements.
- Regular evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

#### **Governance Arrangements 2024-2025**

The Governing Body of St Oswald's Catholic Primary School is made up of 7 Foundation Governors, 2 Parent Governors, the Headteacher, 1 Staff Governor and 1 Local Authority Governor. Each member brings different skills, knowledge, and experience to the Governing Body.

The full Governing Body meets once a term with an additional meeting in the Autumn term, but much of the work of the Governors is carried out by committees that meet more regularly to consider different aspects of the school in greater detail (i.e. Curriculum, Finance & Personnel, Admissions, Premises and Health & Safety). In addition, each Governor has an area of responsibility (e.g. Safeguarding, Early Years Foundation Stage, Pupil Premium, Wellbeing, etc). Governors visit the school regularly and each Governor is linked with a year group. You can find further information on the 'Committees' on the Governance page of the school website.

#### **St Oswald's Catholic Primary School – Governing Body (2023-2024)**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Office Expiry Date</b>
Fr Dave Heywood (Chair)	Foundation Governor	31 August 2027
Mrs Sue Ellison (Vice Chair)	Foundation Governor	31 August 2027
Mr Paul Caswell	Foundation Governor	29 January 2028

Mr Stephen McNicholls	Foundation Governor	31 August 2025
Mr Moses Mui	Foundation Governor	22 March 2027
Mr Bruce Lee	Foundation Governor	30 October 2027
Vacancy	Foundation Governor	
Vacancy	Parent Governor	
Mrs Sophie Jones	Parent Governor	9 November 2025
Mrs Jill Thomason	Staff Governor	11 July 2027
Mr Matthew Bluck	LA Governor	27 April 2027
Mrs Sharon Orwin	Headteacher	
Miss Philomena Barrett	Associate Governor	

### **Attendance Record of Governors**

Governors' attendance at meetings is excellent. A detailed record of individual governors' attendance at meetings can be found in the link on the Governance page of the school website.

### **Review of the School Year 2023-2024**

In addition to an Ofsted Inspection during the Autumn Term and a Religious Education Inspection (Section 48) in the Spring Term, key tasks carried out by the Governing Body during the last twelve months include:

#### ***Finance***

- Monitoring the school budget and planning for a deficit due to the cost-of-living crisis. However, savings across the board on oil, learning resources, supply, insurance and consultancy reduced the deficit considerably.
- Ensuring the best use of Pupil Premium and the PE & Sports Grant.
- Completing the School Financial Value Standard.
- Setting the budget for 2024-2025.

#### ***Personnel***

- Recruitment of two Level 3 Teaching Assistants.
- Recruitment of two KS2 Teachers.
- Appointment of an Acting Headteacher and Acting Deputy Headteacher.

#### ***Curriculum***

- Monitoring the Curriculum and developing the School Improvement Plan.
- Analysing data and comparing it with other Warrington Schools and National performance.
- Ensuring the best provision for children with particular needs and those arriving from other countries.
- Meeting with the School Improvement Partner.

- Reviewing School Policies and Procedures.
- Introduction of new Religious Education curriculum in Reception.

### ***Safeguarding***

- Monitoring Safeguarding procedures, including the Single Central Register, EYFS systems and best practice.
- Ensuring training is up to date for Governors and Staff.

### ***Premises***

- Progressing the establishment of a Nursery for the School.
- Continuing to improve the school buildings and grounds, including repairs to the roof, asbestos removal, and the installation of a temporary heating system while plans are approved for a new permanent heating system for the school.

### ***Attendance***

- Monitoring attendance and offering support where needed.

### ***Overall***

- Headteacher's Performance Management.
- Evaluating parent surveys.
- Regular meetings with the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Subject Leads and classes.

### **Looking ahead 2024-2025**

Together with the Acting Headteacher and Staff, the Governing Body will continue to focus on the School Development Plan which summarises the Vision and Aims of the school, the Strategic Improvement Planning Process, external evaluations and internal self-evaluation processes, key priorities for the year ahead, action plans, financial position, staffing and policies.

Key areas for development include improving behaviour and attitudes to learning, to embed new schemes in different areas of the curriculum, to upskill and support staff in their roles and responsibilities, to recruit a new Headteacher, and to open a nursery for the school.

The Governors are passionate about ensuring St Oswald's provides the very best education for every child we serve under our mission that "together we love, learn, respect and appreciate". We seek to do this in a warm, welcoming, safe and stimulating environment in which children can enjoy learning and thrive. We want every child to be happy in school, grow in confidence, and aspire to learn so that when they leave St Oswald's they do so "with a love of learning, a thirst for knowledge, an understanding and appreciation of their faith and religion, and the world they live in and, above all, many happy memories" (*cf. School Mission Statement*).

The Governors always welcome suggestions, feedback, and ideas. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Fr Dave Heywood, via the school office.

September 2024