

St. Margaret Mary Primary School



Governors Statutory Responsibilities and Functions

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The Curriculum

1. Every learner receives the full statutory curriculum that the school must provide.
2. The school provides teaching of religious education for all learners in accordance with the agreed syllabus or otherwise and has told parents of the right to withdraw their children.
3. The school provides a daily act of collective worship for all learners and has told parents of the right to withdraw their children.
4. The governing body has agreed the content and organisation of its programme of sex and relationships education and has told parents about it and the right to withdraw their children.

Equality and Diversity

5. The governing body does not discriminate unlawfully against learners, job applicants or staff on the grounds of sexual orientation, race, disability, gender, religion and belief, or age.
6. The governing body has agreed a written policy on race, disability and gender equality, arrangements to monitor its implementation and assess its impact on staff, learners and parents, and communicates the results of monitoring and assessments of impact to parents/carers and the governing body.
7. The governing body complies with its general duties under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (as amended), Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended) and Equality Act 2010 and specific duties in subordinate legislation made under those Acts and the requirements of the statutory codes of practice made under those Acts.

Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

8. The school meets its requirements in Part IV of the Education Act 1996 and has regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice when meeting learners' special educational needs, makes its policy known to parents/carers and reports annually on the success of its policy.
9. The school meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and any subsequent requirements and has regard to the (Disability Rights Commission) code of practice for schools (2002). The school informs parents/carers of its accessibility plan and disability equality scheme and reports annually on progress made on these.

Learners' Care and Well-Being

10. The governing body has procedures of ensuring the provider meets all relevant health and safety legislation.
11. The school has a child protection policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with local authority guidance and locally agreed interagency procedures, (and the policy is made available to parents/carers on request).
12. Where the governing body provides school lunches and/or other school food, they ensure that they meet current Department for Education (DfE) standards.
13. The governing body fulfils the requirements to promote the well-being of pupils at the school.

Informing Parents/Guardians

14. The governing body ensures that all statutory assessments are conducted and results are forwarded to parents/carers and appropriate bodies.
15. The governing body ensures that each year a report on each learner's educational achievements is forwarded to their parents/carers.

Leadership and Management

16. The governing body has an appraisal policy and ensures that all teachers, including the Head Teacher, are appraised in accordance with statutory requirements.
17. The governing body has all relevant complaints and appeals procedures, as set out in the DfE guide to the law for school governors.
18. The governing body fulfils the requirements to promote community cohesion.
19. The provider meets the current government requirements regarding safeguarding children and safer recruitment.

In all types of schools, governing boards should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- b) Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, the performance management of staff; and
- c) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

(Extract from Governors Handbook November 2015)

Governors' Handbook

Please refer to the governors' handbook published on the Department for Education website. See web link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governors-handbook--3>

Review of committees and delegation

The governing board must review the establishment, terms of reference, constitution and membership of any committee annually. In addition, the governing board must review the delegation of functions to committees and individuals annually.

Terms of Reference

The following committees established by the governing board comply with The School Governance (Role, Procedures and Allowances)

The Head Teacher can attend all meetings of any committee established by the governing board but in some instances this may only be in an advisory capacity. When an issue is being discussed which directly affects the Head Teacher they must, as with any other governor in a similar position, declare an interest and physically withdraw from the meeting.

In maintained schools the quorum for a meeting of the full governing board and for any vote on any matter at such meeting, is one half (rounded up to a whole number) of the membership of the governing body. In the event of equal votes the Chair has the casting vote.

Committees

The legal minimum quorum for committee meetings is three voting governors.

In maintained schools the governing board can appoint associate members to serve on one or more committees. Associate members can attend full governing board meetings but may be excluded from any part of a meeting where the business being considered concerns a member of school staff or an individual pupil, they can be appointed for a period of between one and four years and re-appointed at the end of their term. Associate members are not governors and they are not recorded in the Instrument of government.

No vote on any matter can be taken at a committee meeting unless the majority of members present are members of the governing board.

The appointed clerk will undertake the clerking of the committee.

The committee minutes shall be included as an agenda item for consideration at the next meeting of the full governing board where appropriate.

All decisions made by committees with delegated powers should be reported to the next full meeting of the governing body. If the minutes are not finalised a brief statement of the conclusions reached should be given.

The chair of the committee will be appointed at the first committee meeting of the academic year.

All governors are encouraged to attend training regularly & review training needs annually.

Committees will have delegated powers to approve policies as relevant to that committee.

The governing board cannot delegate any functions relating to:

- ◆ The constitution of the governing board (unless otherwise provided by the constitution regulations),
- ◆ The appointment or removal of the chair and vice chair/clerk,
- ◆ The appointment or removal of governors,
- ◆ The suspension of governors,
- ◆ The delegation of functions and establishment of committees,
- ◆ Change of school name or status,
- ◆ Salary range for the Head Teacher & Deputy

Finance Committee

The committee has responsibility delegated by the governing body for:

Finance:

- Review/approve all policies relevant to finance and roles of the committee.
- Approve the annual budget and present it to the full governing body for information.
- Review the actual expenditure and monitoring statements at least once a term.
- Receive & review financial projections.
- Approve expenditure and virements of sums over **£10,000**, sums below that amount are delegated to the Head Teacher. Where the estimated total cost exceeds £10,000 but is below the European threshold (£164,176 from 01st Jan'16) no contract should be entered into unless the contract opportunity has been tendered and advertised for a minimum of 14 days for the submission of quotation and at least 3 quotes being submitted.
- Conform to the Schools Financial Value Standards in Schools.
- Assess the financial progress towards achieving the objectives in the School Improvement Plan.
- Review of leases & contracts – including traded services.
- Ensure Best Value principles apply.
- Review the financial implications on the budget of the Pay & Conditions document.
- Receive the annual accounts and certificate of audit of the School Fund Account and other voluntary funds held within school.
- Assess the schools insurance cover to ensure that it provides adequate protection against risks.
- Review and approve the petty cash to be held by the school.
- Ensure LA financial procedures are complied with.

- Obtain quotations with a view to placing contracts/orders, once the relevant committee has drawn up a specification.

Staffing:

- Review/approve all policies relevant to staffing and roles of the committee.
- Consider applications from staff for variation to contract (secondments, early retirements, leave of absence, reduced working hours etc.)
- Ensure all personnel records are held securely.
- Review annually the staffing structure of the school ensuring that it meets the requirements of the curriculum and is in line with the School Improvement Plan.
- Review staff work/life balance, working conditions and well-being, including the monitoring of absence.
- Implement the Appraisal Policy and monitor teacher appraisal process.
- Equal Opportunities.
- Establish & maintain rolling programme for Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Checks.
- Staff training and CPD.

Premises Health & Safety:

- Review the schools Health & Safety Policy on an annual basis.
- Health and Safety audit.
- Receive a regular report on accident statistics, near misses and incidents of violence or aggression.
- Comply with current fire safety legislation & regulations: 'level one' fire risk assessment should be carried out by the school on an annual basis; 'level 2' or technical fire risk assessment is reviewed bi-annually.
- Ensure risk assessments are carried out and reviewed on a regular basis.
- Inspect the school site and buildings to enable maintenance and improvement, including security. (Site visit)
- Review and authorise upcoming offsite activities, ensuring that health and safety planning and risk assessments that have been undertaken for them.
- Receive reports and audits from Health & Safety representatives (to include Caretaking & Cleaning).
- Health and Safety self-monitoring report.
- Ensure staff & governors undertake appropriate health & safety training.
- Monitor all safeguarding procedures.
- Ensure that Health & Safety documents and records are up to date:
 - Fire log book
 - Asbestos on site
 - Premise log book (PAT testing, glazing inspections, an annual check of PE equipment/playground equipment)
- Establish & review an Accessibility Plan.
- Review e-safety policy & procedures.
- Planned building works/contractors on site.
- Health and safety training.

Membership

1. Desmond Teague
2. Michael Aldred
3. Daniel Lafferty
4. Michael McConnell
5. Edward Connaughton
6. Adrian Walczak

Minimum of three members required

Chair of Committee	D Teague
Clerk	L Clegg

Standards Committee

The committee has responsibility delegated by the governing body for:

- Review/approve all policies relevant to the curriculum and roles of the committee

Achievement:

- Monitor and review information on school performance to include Raise Online & Data Dashboard
- Monitor and review school targets
- Monitor and review in year progress for all year groups and all groups of pupils
- Compare school performance against national data – see GOV.UK for annual performance tables
- Reporting to parents according to statutory requirements
- Monitor achievement for all groups of pupils (inc. pupil premium)
- Monitor pupils work and carry out pupil conversations
- Monitor school target setting systems and how this is reported to parents.

Teaching & Learning:

- Review data published by DfE ensuring the school is meeting standards
- Ensure targeted support and action plans are in place for all teachers who are not at least good
- Monitor and review quality of teaching across the school.
- Monitor teaching for groups of pupils (inc. pupil premium)
- Monitor intervention groups for all groups of pupils
- Monitor homework arrangements

Curriculum:

- Ensuring the school is meeting national curriculum requirements and to review the Curriculum Policy statement ensuring it meets pupils needs
- Monitor and review the curriculum with a focus on basic skills
- Monitor skills coverage of curriculum in all subjects
- Parental engagement
- Review and update SEF (Self Evaluation Form)
- Monitor and review School Improvement Plan

Membership

1. Michael Aldred
2. Jayne Logue
3. Michael McConnell
4. Krista Bradley

Minimum of three members required for quorum

Chair of Committee	J Logue
Clerk	L Clegg

Staffing Committee

The committee has responsibility delegated by the governing board for hearing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Staff grievance and discipline (in line with school policies).➤ Staff dismissal, redundancy and redeployment.	
Membership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ To be made up of members who have no awareness of the original incident and are not known personally to the member of staff.	
<i>Minimum of three members required</i>	
Chair of Committee	To be elected at each meeting
Clerk	

Education Committee

The committee has responsibility delegated by the governing body for:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review the use of exclusions within school, including exclusions of more than 15 school days and exclusions which would result in a pupil missing the opportunity to take a public exam.➤ Receive and consider any representations lodged by parents of pupils who have been excluded for a fixed term or permanently.➤ Comply with exclusion procedures in accordance with the LA & DfE Guidance.➤ At the relevant stage hear any complaint made under the school Complaints Procedure.➤ To consider the Catholic Life of the School.➤ To update and review Admission Policy/Procedures.➤ To review and update SEND local offer/ accessibility plan.	
Membership	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Father Simon Ellis.2. Michael Aldred3. Mrs Anne Forest.4. Mrs Jayne Logue.5. Michael McConnell.	
<i>Minimum of three members required</i>	
Chair of Committee	Father Simon Ellis
Clerk	Lisa Clegg

Appeals Committee

The committee has responsibility delegated by the governing body for hearing appeals with regard to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Pay➤ Redundancy➤ Staff grievance	

- Leave of absence – if appropriate
- Staff dismissal
- Any Item referred by the full governing board

When dealing with an appeal the committee should be equal to or greater than the original committee that made the decision.

Membership

- To be made up of members who have no awareness of the original incident and are not known personally to the appellant

Minimum of three members required

Chair of Committee

To be elected at each meeting

Clerk

Pay Committee (delegated to the Finance Committee)

The committee has responsibility delegated by the governing body for:

- Review staff pay progression in accordance with the Pay Policy and annual appraisal cycle

Committee to meet once per year in the autumn term.

Membership

See Finance committee

Chair of Committee

D Teague

Clerk

L Clegg

Head Teacher Appraisal

The committee has responsibility delegated by the governing board for:

- Set and review the Head Teacher’s appraisal targets, review annually and recommend pay progression to the Staffing and Finance committee.

Committee to meet once per year in the autumn term and also again during the annual cycle to review objectives.

Membership

1. Father Simon Ellis
2. Gerard Boylan
3. External consultant

Chair of Committee

To be elected at each meeting

Clerk

Selection Panel

The panel has responsibility delegated by the governing body for:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Selection of the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher <p>Guidance on this process will be provided by your School Improvement Partner</p> <p><i>The appointment must always be ratified by the full governing board</i></p>	
Membership	
<i>All members must be available at all stages of the process</i>	
Chair of Committee	To be elected at each meeting
Clerk	

Special Responsibility Governors

Safeguarding Governor	Father Simon Ellis
SEND Governor	Mr Boylan
Health & Safety Governor	Mr Teague
Safer Recruitment Governor	Mr Teague and Mr Aldred
Pupil Premium Governor	Mr Connaughton
Prevent Governor	Father Simon Ellis
R.E. Governor	Father Simon Ellis
Numeracy Governor	Mrs McConnell
Literacy Governor	Mr McConnell
Pastoral/Attendance Governor	Mrs Forest

**The DfE's statutory guidance on Keeping Children Safe in Education requires governing boards to: 'ensure a member of the governing body, usually the chair, is nominated to liaise with the LA and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection and in the event of allegations of abuse made against the headteacher.*

Items Delegated to an Individual(s)

- **Delegation of expenditure and virements**

That sums below **£10,000** be delegated to the head teacher

- **Disposal of surplus stock**

Delegated to head teacher with the approval of the chair of the governing board.

- **Delegation of Suspension**

That suspension be delegated to the chair in instances where the head teacher is the person in question or involved in the case. That the chair be given delegated powers to lift the suspension after taking advice from LA Human Resources or any other organisation providing the service to the school.

- **Approval for Expenditure**

The chair of governors or chair of finance committee be given approval for expenditure above the set limit prior to the finance committee meeting – **only in cases of emergency**

➤ **Appointment of Staff** (ensure no appointment is carried out by one person alone)

Lunchtime / Cleaning / Administration Support Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher• Post Line Manager
Educational Support Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Teacher/DHT• 1 Governor
Business Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Teacher• 2 Governors
Teaching Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Teacher/DHT• 1 Governor
Senior Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Teacher• 2 Governors