

Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Purpose of this Governance Statement

This governance statement has been prepared and published by the Governing Body of St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in compliance with our duty to report on the ways in which we have fulfilled our obligations and responsibilities relating to our overarching duty to conduct the school in accordance with its Catholic character and our core functions.

A list of serving governors is set out on the school website.

Role of the Governing Body

As the Governing Body of a Catholic school, our overarching responsibility lies in ensuring that the School is conducted in accordance with its Catholic character at all times, and this overriding duty (which is also a legal duty) permeates everything that we do. Further, in accordance with our legal obligations, the Governing Body endeavours to operate at a strategic level leaving the Head Teacher and senior school leaders responsible and accountable to us for the operational day-to-day running of the School. It is by achieving these aims that we can be sure that our School has effective governance.

Composition of the Governing Body

The Governing Body is currently made up of 4 Foundation Governors (5 'application pending' positions), 2 Staff Governors (including the Head Teacher), 2 Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 1 Co-opted Governor.

Governing Body's work this year and Governors attendance at full Governing Body meetings

The full Governing Body has met 3 times during the year and all committees a further 3, either in person or remotely. All meetings have been quorate.

The Governing Body of St Thomas More Catholic Primary has four working committees, as well as performance review, pay and disciplinary panels.

We take our safeguarding role very seriously and have an appointed safeguarding governor and all governors have completed relevant safeguarding training.

Governance work this year

Governors often visit the school to take part in liturgies, assemblies, training, or to carry out monitoring visits, however this was somewhat curtailed by COVID-19 lockdown. Nonetheless we continued our monitoring and support role remotely with regular conversations with the Head teacher about keeping the school open for the children of key workers in a way which was safe both for the children and for staff.

Governors' Future Plans for the School

To develop the strengths of the governing body to ensure we are equipped with the knowledge skills and experience needed to support the school

As a governing body to work both strategically and collaboratively with the school to enable to work towards achieving our vision

To act as a sounding board for the head and senior leadership team of the school

Continuing to work closely with and support the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team.

Looking to the future, the Governing Body continues to work with other Catholic primary schools in Medway and within our Deanery partnership to the benefit of all our children and staff.

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents - If you would like to see a copy of the minutes these may be requested from the school office.

How to contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents, carers and the wider school community. If you wish to contact us, you can do so through the school office