**Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**

**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 (in accordance with The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013) on the ways in which we have fulfilled our obligations and responsibilities and relating to our overarching duty to conduct the school in accordance with its Catholic character and our core functions.

**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. A list of serving governors is provided on the School’s website at: <https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/about-us/governors/>

**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 have met a further 3 times in person. All meetings have been quorate, attendance by Governors is shown on the School’s website at: <https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/about-us/governors/>

The Governing Body of St Thomas More Catholic Primary has four working committees (Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Curriculum, Finance, Personnel and Premises) as well as Performance Review, Pay and Disciplinary Panels.

We take our safeguarding role very seriously. We have two appointed safeguarding governors and all governors have completed relevant safeguarding training which is repeated annually to ensure compliance with the latest version of the Department for Education’s guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE).

**Governance work this year**

As Governors we often visit the school and have continued with our monitoring and support roles; helping to ensure the smooth running of the school, ratifying policies and procedures and clarifying specific application where needed. Our SEN Governor has made regular visits and has built a good relationship with SEN and her overall knowledge of this area of education, see the SEND section of the website at: <https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/key-information/send/>

Governors work with Deputy Safeguarding Leads to monitor safeguarding policies and procedures including regarding the Single Central Record, Pupil Voice activities and take part in Serious Case Review studies.

We have been working to recruit new foundation governors committed to the school and this work continues; at the end of the year three applications were in progress.

**Governors’ Future Plans for the School**

* To further 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 continue to work both strategically and collaboratively with the school to enable us to work towards achieving our vision, including carrying out monitoring visits scheduled throughout the year
* To act as a sounding board for the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team of the School
* To continue 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**

The minutes of Full Governing Body meetings and Committee meetings are public documents. If you would like to see a copy of minutes these may be requested from the School office (office@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk).

**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, please note that you can do so through the School office (office@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk).

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