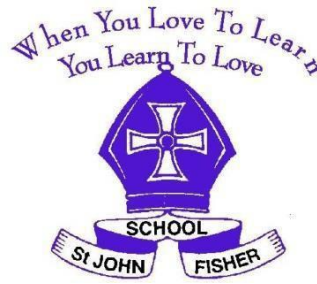


# ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Annual Governance Statement

### Purpose of this Governance Statement

This governance statement has been prepared and published by the Governing Body of St John Fisher Catholic Primary School (hereafter referred to as the Governing Body) in compliance with our duty to report on the ways in which we have fulfilled our obligations and responsibilities relating to (i) our overarching duty to conduct the school in accordance with its Catholic character and (ii) our core functions (which are explained below) during the 2023 - 2024 academic year.

### 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 endeavors to operate at a strategic level leaving the headteacher 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.

The three core functions of the Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils, and for the internal organisation, management and control of the School, including performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure its money is well spent.

As an integral part of the vision for the holistic formation of children and young people Canon law (Church law) also requires that Catholic schools (which includes academies) are "...at least as academically distinguished as that in the other schools of the area" and the Governing Body are mindful of this requirement in all that we do.

## Scope of Governing Body's Responsibilities

The Governing Body acknowledges that we have overall responsibility for ensuring that St John Fisher Catholic Primary School has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise.

However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve our objectives, and can provide only a reasonable (as opposed to absolute) assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Governing Body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the headteacher for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management.

## Governance Arrangements

### Composition of the Governing Body

The Governing Body is made up of

- 7 Foundation Governors \*
- 1 Staff Governor
- 1 Headteacher
- 2 Parent Governor(s),
- 1 Local Authority Governor

\*Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese in which the School is situated. The Bishop not only appoints his Foundation Governors because of their particular skills, but, more importantly, for the strict purpose of ensuring, on his behalf, the Catholic character of the School. Foundation Governors are also under important legal duties to preserve and develop the School's Catholic character. In order to ensure that the School's Catholic character is protected and that it is being conducted in accordance with the tenets of its Catholic designation, Governing Bodies of Catholic schools and academies must always have a majority of Foundation Governors.

The Diocesan Bishop is Canonically responsible for his schools and academies. He ensures that the Catholic ethos of the school/academy is maintained, particularly through the appointment of Foundation Governors, but also through overseeing the appointment of members of staff and through Diocesan inspection, in order to ensure that the school/academy is fulfilling the objects cited in its Instrument of Government/Articles of Association and the trust deed under which the school/academy was established.

## Governing Body meetings

The full Governing Body has met 3 times during the year.

The Resources Committee meet 3 times during the year – this includes Staffing and Premises

The Curriculum Committee meet 3 times during the year – this includes Admissions and behaviour

## Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are taken by an external clerk - London Borough of Bexley Governor Services.

## SJF Governing Body

Our Governing Body works in partnership with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to determine the strategic development of the school and set priorities for development and improvement.

The Governing Body are also responsible for monitoring teaching and learning, reviewing performance data, attendance and behaviour, financial expenditure and staffing.

The Governing Board does not have responsibility for the day to day running of the school - that is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

Governors act as a critical friend offering advice and challenge where necessary.

Governors regularly visit the school to meet the children to share their learning experiences, attend school productions, class assemblies and other school celebrations.