

ST. GEORGE AND ST. TERESA

Faith: We live it, love it and learn it.

Governor's Newsletter

Summer Term July 2026

Number 4

Welcome to our fourth and final governor's newsletter of this school year.



Meet the governors:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Date of first appointment</i>
<i>Mrs Tina Willmott</i>	<i>Chair of LGB, FG</i>	<i>May 2018</i>
<i>Mr Mark O'Dwyer</i>	<i>Vice chair, FG</i>	<i>Dec 2018</i>
<i>Mrs Jackie Musgrave</i>	<i>FG</i>	<i>Feb 2022</i>
<i>Mrs Theresa Blake</i>	<i>FG</i>	<i>July 2025</i>
<i>Mr Clive McNally</i>	<i>FG</i>	<i>Jan 2026</i>
<i>Mr Andrew Neenan</i>	<i>Parent Gov</i>	<i>March 2024</i>
<i>Mrs L Flanagan</i>	<i>Interim Executive Headteacher</i>	<i>Ex Officio Governor</i>
<i>Mr C Blewitt</i>	<i>Staff Gov</i>	<i>Oct 2024</i>

Governors are appointed for a 4 year term of office which can be renewed at the end of the term for Foundation Governors[FG] who are appointed by the Archbishop. Staff and parent governors also serve for 4 years however, at the end of the 4 years elections have to take place.

Following the recent recruitment process for a parent governor we had 2 applications and therefore went to a voting process. The outcome was that Mrs Sarah Holywell will be the second Parent Governor on the LGB[we are allowed 2 in total]. We offer our congratulations to Sarah and look forward to welcoming her to our first meeting in September. We also sincerely thank Mr Matt Bent for taking part in the recruitment process. Many thanks also to all parents who engaged in the voting and to Ms Round in the office for her help with the paperwork/emails.

We are delighted that the MAC has determined that for the academic year 2026-27 the school we continue to have 1 class per year group. Thank you to all parents, staff, governors and Fr John for working together with the MAC over the past year to continue to raise the profile of our wonderful school.

At a recent curriculum meeting, which all governors attend, we were delighted to have a presentation on Science learning in school by Mrs Grace. We were told about how the curriculum was delivered and how recent developments had strengthened the quality of teaching and learning and the enthusiasm of the pupils. We were also delighted to hear that the development of the Science lab was going ahead with pace. Our thanks go to the PTFA for the wonderful funds they have raised which will be used to ensure the lab is a wonderful space for pupils. Mrs Grace was also very proud to say that as far as she knows we will be the only primary school in the area with a dedicated Science Lab---something wonderful to share with prospective parents as a unique and very valuable resource.

Governor visits

As governors we like to come into school to meet staff and pupils as often as we can to see what is happening in school.

Tina Willmott is the safeguarding governor and was privileged to be part of the Local Authorities Safeguarding audit, an annual event to ensure that the school and governors are fully compliant in their safeguarding responsibilities. She was interviewed by the LA inspector and described how governors found out how the school kept children safe and ensured they felt safe in school. the LA advisor was very complimentary about how the school works very hard to keep children safe and to ensure they feel safe and well cared for in school. All the required safeguarding regulations were fully met.

Theresa Blake as Health and Safety governor met with Mrs Flanagan. She had a positive meeting where she was pleased to note the very good practice that happens in school and also reported the high esteem the MAC hold the school and Mr Westley in.

As governors our role is to ask questions and listen carefully to the answers. Sometimes we discover that educational practice may differ to that we have

experienced in our careers but it is still an example of excellence. This is what we always find in our school.

MEET A GOVERNOR

We will introduce one of us in each newsletter:

Mr Mark O'Dwyer

I have been a Foundation Governor since 2018. My children attended the school from 2004 – 2014 and it is only now I realise how fortunate I am to have been connected to the school, its community and the church for all those years (I attend the Saturday 5.30pm Mass at our Parish Church). I am Deputy to our Chair of Governors, Tina, and together with Tina and other Governors, sit on various committees where we analyse what is happening in the school and both challenge and support the leadership team.

In my time as Governor, the school has seen many changes – Mrs Flanagan is my 4th Head Teacher, we have had formal inspections by Ofsted twice and Covid was a challenging period for anyone in education.

The consistent feature of my time as a Governor has always been seeing the joy and kindness of our children – they are a credit to both the school and their parents. Their behaviour and courteousness always makes seeing them a pleasure.

The dedication and commitment of our staff shines through – be it class teachers to Mr Westley, who has led site services for as long as I can remember, or Miss Round in the School Office – they glue us together and create the uniqueness of our school. I see them behind the scenes going over and above to deliver for our children – we almost expect it these days but we should never take their commitment and work for granted.

As a Foundation Governor, I have come to see the highlight of the school year as First Communion for Year 3 and Confirmation for Year 6 – there are many other happy times such as school fayres, the run up to Christmas, school trips to name just a few – but First Communion and Confirmation are unique occasions where our children and their relationship with Jesus in their lives is in clear focus – it is wonderful to see.

I know Tina will comment on Mr Hainie's departure at the end of this term on behalf of all the governors – I would just like to say as someone who saw Mr Hainie arrive over 10 years ago, and whose son was taught by him – we have been very lucky to have Mr Hainie in our school community for so long and his commitment to you and my children has been absolute. I see in Mr Hainie a practising of faith that role models our faith to all the children every day. I thank him for all he has given to our community, I thank his family for allowing him the time to go over and above to deliver for our school and we all wish him every success in his new role.

Let's Celebrate

Each newsletter we will focus on one area, out of the many that we are very proud of.

This half term we would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion which the children from Year 3 received on Sunday 7th June. Mark O'Dwyer was present at the Mass, both as a Church Warden and a Foundation Governor. He wrote the following:

Year 3 received their First Communion on Sunday 7th June 2026 at our Parish Church. I attended the special service and there was approximately 240 in the congregation at Church including Year 3 themselves, the Church Choir and almost every Class Teacher and Support Staff. The Service was conducted by our Parish Priest, Father John, supported by Deacon Stephen.

It was a lovely, meaningful service in which to participate - through the witness of the children it is an opportunity for everyone to affirm their faith. The preparation of the children by Miss Kinsella, Mr Hainie and Mrs Grace meant that on the day the children fully engaged in the service and were supported by a Church filled with their family and friends.

Father John too has spent time preparing the children for the Sacrament and the children behaved with a reverence and respect that demonstrated both the joy and the significance of the service.

The children led the readings, the bidding prayers and took the offertory to the Altar. Through the children it felt like all the adults at the service were reminded of making their own First Communion in previous years and of the joy that occurs in coming into communion with Christ. It also served to remind the parents that in making their First Communion, their children are making a commitment to Jesus and the parents need to continue to support that commitment as their children learn and grow.

We've also heard from parents, including one of our past governors who commented on the specialness of the Mass, the very serious, reverent way in which the children approached and participated in the service, and the joy they felt as parents as their children received the Sacrament.

Congratulations and well done to all the children, we are so glad you enjoyed your special day and the special celebration you enjoyed later in the week at school. Thank you to Mr Hainie and Miss Kinsella [a special day for you as your first class celebrated this occasion] and to Mrs Grace for supporting the children. Thank you also to the many members of staff who joined the Mass to support the children, their parents and family.

THANK YOU



Thank you to all our wonderful children from Nursery to Year 6. You make our school a very happy, special place. Over the year we have heard of your many achievements, acts of kindness and charity, and the care you show for your school and God's wonderful world. A recurring theme from governors, parents, past parents and many, many visitors is how polite you are in words and deeds. We are very proud of you all.



Thank to Mrs Flanagan, Mr Hainie for their leadership and dedication. To all staff, teaching and non-teaching, for all their hard work, support and kindness to our children. We know that this year has led to some uncertainties and difficulties but at no time have the children experienced anything other than high quality teaching, care and love.



Thank you to all our parents, for sending your children to St George and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School. We know that this year has not been easy for many of you with the uncertainty around school numbers. We are delighted that for the academic year 2026-27 we will be a 1-form entry and hope and pray that numbers will increase going forward. We thank you for your support and the positive actions you have taken to increase and retain numbers and celebrate the very many wonderful attributes of our school. We are especially grateful for the work of the PTFA, the hard working committee who arrange wonderful events for parents and children and secure vital funds, but as parents you are all members of the PTFA and without your support the funds would not materialise. Thank you all.



Thank you from Mrs Willmott, as chair, to all governors who have being so dedicated and hard working over the last academic year. We are all volunteers who enjoy the interaction with school staff and pupils and feel very privileged to play a small part in school development.



Thank you, good bye and best wishes to Mr Hainie. Mark has written eloquently about Mr Hainie and all he has done for the school. As chair I have known Mr Hainie as a teacher before he left for St Andrew's to assume a Deputy Head post and as Head of School. In his role as Head of School, Mr Hainie has led with determination, kindness, integrity and faith and we are all much the better for having known him and benefitted from his hard work. I have seen him grow over the last few years and know he is now ready for the challenge of headship. On behalf of all the governing body, and indeed the MAC, I wish him every happiness and success in his new role and for a blessed future for him and his family.

Congratulations to:

Our Year 6 pupils who have put together a new promotional video for the school website. It is truly a wonderful video that sums up what is so special about St George and St Teresa's school. It is uplifting, cheerful and spiritual. Thank you to all the pupils who worked on the presentation, to Mr Blewitt and the senior leaders who helped in the creation and to the MAC for financing the project. It will be on the school website very shortly and it's well worth a look and sharing it with others.

At the time of writing this newsletter Y6 SATS results are not known due to a delay by the official exam board. However, we know all of the Year 6 pupils have worked very hard and done their very best.

A few final thoughts:

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss

"Lessons are over, textbooks are shut, time to trade pencils for ice creams and fun!"

On behalf of the whole Local Governing Body we wish all pupils, parents and staff a wonderful summer holiday. Here's hoping for good weather, safe travels and fun times, near or far, in God's wonderful creation. We look forward to welcoming everyone to a new school year in September. To our Year 6 pupils we wish you every happiness and success in your new schools.

The Local Governing Body

