

ST. GEORGE AND ST. TERESA

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

Governor's Newsletter

Summer Term May 2026

Number 3

Welcome to our third governor's newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading it, if you have any comments or items, you think we might like to cover, please let us know via the school office.



Meet the governors:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Governor Type</i>
<i>Mrs Tina Willmott</i>	<i>Chair of LGB</i>	<i>Foundation Governor</i>
<i>Mr Mark O'Dwyer</i>	<i>Vice chair</i>	<i>Foundation Governor</i>
<i>Mrs Jackie Musgrave</i>		<i>Foundation Governor</i>
<i>Mrs Theresa Blake</i>		<i>Foundation Governor</i>
<i>Mr Clive McNally</i>		<i>Foundation Governor</i>
<i>Mr Andrew Neenan</i>		<i>Parent Governor</i>
<i>Mrs L Flanagan</i>	<i>Interim Executive Headteacher</i>	<i>Ex Officio Governor</i>
<i>Mr C Blewitt</i>		<i>Staff Governor</i>

Governors are appointed for a 4 year term of office which can be renewed at the end of the term for Foundation Governors 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.

Local Governing Bodies, foundation, parent or staff governors, act as critical friends to the school but are also part of a multi-academy company [MAC] and have to act in accordance with the MACs scheme of delegation.

As governors we are delegated the day-to-day oversight of school admissions, although ultimate decisions on numbers and the size of classes are taken by the MAC directors and the Archdiocese.

Every governor is a member of the admissions committee. We meet formally to review the school admission policy and to review and rank Reception and Nursery applications for the coming school year. Throughout the school year we meet as required virtually to decide on any in-year applications carefully applying the admissions criteria. Mark O'Dwyer is the chair of the admissions committee and regularly checks that the information on the school website is correct and the outcome of any applications we accept. The local authority oversee the applications informing us of any new in-year applications and co-ordinating the Reception admissions for us and other schools in Solihull. Parents can, and do, apply for a place at more than 1 school identifying preference, so sometimes we agree to admit but the place is not taken up.

Applications are often based on the nearness of the school, or in the case of a Catholic School the Parish which it serves. For us that is, of course, the Parish of St George and St Teresa Dorridge, but we are also linked to the Parish of Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church in Balsall Common and have been very fortunate to have children from that parish in the past. Many of the children in our school come, or have come, from slightly further afield, for instance Hampton-in Arden. Dickens Heath, Meriden or Catherine De Barnes this might be due to family links, distance or parental preference.

We are also blessed to have pupils who are not Catholic but have chosen our school for its family feel, high standards and outcomes and the care and nurture their children benefit from. Distance, faith or no-faith are not necessarily barriers to admission to our school---please spread the word.

We are also very proud of Dragons which is our Before/After school provision and enables us to provide 30 hours of free childcare to those who are eligible. This provision was 1st developed by governors and was a governor managed service. Dragons is now overseen by the MAC and they view the service very positively. It gives parents something that is not offered by our nearest neighbourhood school.

To all who join our school we, as governors, would like to say a huge thank you for being part of our family and community. To the parents, thanks for choosing us. To the children, a massive thank you for making our school a very special, kind and

loving place, where you love one another, support one another and learn with and from each other.

We have recently started the process of recruiting a parent governor [we are able to have 2 on the LGB]. We have had more than 1 parent show interest so Mark O'Dwyer, who co-ordinates elections for parent and staff governors, will send out voting papers and details after half term.

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.

However, this half term is very busy in school with SATs and other assessments so we have not visited this half term but look very much forward to coming into school after half term.

However, Mark O'Dwyer had the privilege of joining the May Procession. Here is his report:

The Annual May Procession to honour Our Lady took place on Wednesday 20th May. The service was led by Father John and in addition to the children and the staff, there were around 40 parents, grandparents and members of the school community all united in devotion to Mary.

The singing by the children throughout the service was beautiful and there was great participation in the prayers with each child using their rosary beads. We started in the school hall and then moved out to the statue of Mary in the grounds for the crowning of the statue with the school community all gathered around. The behaviour of the children was excellent.

It is a privilege to be at these moments in the school's life – when the community is praying and worshipping together, the children's dedication and participation is a joy to witness and makes the service very moving. Thank you to Mr Hainie and all the staff team (you are all stars) for preparing the children so thoroughly and thank you to the children for participating so well and allowing us adults to share the service with you – the May Procession is always a very special service and your joy and participation allows us adults to access devotion to Mary in a very special way.

MEET A GOVERNOR

We will introduce one of us in each newsletter.

Hello everyone! I am Andrew Neenan. I have been a parent governor at St George and St Teresa's for almost two years. My daughter Lucy is in Year Two.

My background is in Catholic education. I have spent my whole career working in a variety of roles including class teacher, special needs coordinator and senior leadership.

To date I have particularly enjoyed getting to know both the school and parish communities of St George and St Teresa as I have only lived in the local area for a small number of years.

The thriving children's liturgy group at 9.30am mass on Sunday is a wonderful link between the school and parish. I am frequently dazzled by the wonderful art and craft activities that are provided which are thoroughly enjoyed by the children!

I am very keen to assist and support the work of our school from a parental viewpoint and contribute towards its ongoing success.

Let's Celebrate

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

Year 6—we are very proud of all our Year 6 pupils. They are a very hard working, kind and helpful group of children who we know will go on to their secondary schools achieving highly and representing St George and St Teresa's incredibly well. They have all worked very hard in preparation for their SATs and managed a stressful and demanding week with great resilience and fortitude. Children we know you will have all tried your very best and wish you well when the results come through.

THANK YOU



Thank you to all the parents who met with Mr P Davis recently at the meeting to discuss the future of our school on Thursday 16th April.

This was a supportive, positive meeting where we hope parents felt able to ask their questions and make comments and feel they received the information they wanted with some assurances. We look forward to the development of a marketing working party and to the final decisions on class organisation from the MAC in June.

Congratulations to:

- Mr Hainie on his appointment as Principal at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Coventry. We are delighted for Mr Hainie, but will miss him at St George and St Teresa's. We sincerely thank him for all he has done for the school and Parish since his appointment as Head of School and prior to that in his time as a teacher at our school. Mr Hainie of course continues to do a sterling job at school and his time at school will be celebrated towards the end of the school year.
- Mr Blewitt on his appointment as Deputy Headteacher, we look forward to working with him in his new role.

A bit of History

This piece was found in a google search, it's from an article from 'All Schools and Colleges England'.

'This 'friendly' school was founded in 1968 in the south of Solihull. It is close to the motorway yet still 'enjoys the tranquillity of beautiful surrounding countryside'. The school stands in 'attractive' grounds featuring an environmental area with pond, walled garden and copse, and offers a 'lovely' playing field used for sports and games. Most pupils come from the Parish of St George and St Teresa of the Child Jesus in Dorridge and the Parish of Blessed Robert Grissold in Balsall Common. A major building programme was completed in 2001 to open a new purpose-built NgFL (National Grid for Learning) room, new purpose-built nursery, three new purpose-built classrooms and an additional playground, enlarge the school hall, replace windows and roofing, and extend the Reception class accommodation. The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities and has an 'excellent sporting reputation'. Activities include football, cross country, choir, netball, athletics, quizzes, music, festivals and productions. 'We set high standards for our pupils and have high expectations of them, in both behaviour and performance. We insist that learning should be a happy and rewarding experience and that teachers are here to help and encourage, rather than condemn.' The school is over-subscribed, receiving two applications for each place.'

A great deal of the above is still very true: people comment on the friendly nature of the school, the high standards and happy learning, the fantastic, articulate, caring pupils. Very sadly, we are no longer over-subscribed but through the work of you, our fantastic parents, developing activities such as 'stay and play'[See the twitter account for pictures and comments], the work of the MAC to develop marketing with the support of parents, we hope that our numbers increase. Many schools, Catholic and state, in South Solihull would say the same about their reducing numbers, Tina Willmott remembers the year St Augustine's had 80+ applications[not all, but well over 50 1st choice] for Reception class, -that was the year St George and St Teresa's was able to operate a 2 class Reception intake which was much appreciated by Catholic families as a one off. However, all south Solihull schools and many across the Archdiocese, are finding their admissions numbers reduced, with reducing intakes and less number of classes in upcoming Early Years classes.

Thought for this half term:

"The soul grows by learning." – St. Augustine

The Local Governing Body

