

ST. GEORGE AND ST. TERESA

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

Governor's Newsletter

Spring Term March 2026

Number 2

Welcome to our second 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>Areas of Interest</i>
<i>Mrs Tina Willmott</i>	<i>Chair of LGB</i>	<i>SEND, Safeguarding, phonics,</i>
<i>Mr Mark O'Dwyer</i>	<i>Vice chair</i>	<i>RE, Pupil premium</i>
<i>Mrs Jackie Musgrave</i>		<i>EYFS</i>
<i>Mrs Theresa Blake</i>		<i>H&S</i>
<i>Mr Andrew Neenan</i>		<i>Maths</i>
<i>Mr Clive McNally</i>		<i>TBA</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.

Since the last newsletter Mr Paul Eustace has come to the end of his 4 year term as a Foundation Governor and very sadly because of personal and work commitments he felt he could not renew his term. Paul was a great asset to the local governing body and we send him heartfelt thanks for his time, insight and commitment.

We have a new foundation governor Mr Clive McNally and welcome him to our board.

As governors, foundation, parent or staff we act as critical friends to the school but we are also part of a multi-academy company [MAC] and have to act in accordance with the MACs scheme of delegation. This means that in some areas we do not have responsibility in full: such as finance, staff appointments, building work or health and safety. As a LGB we are accountable and provide information to the Directors of the MAC. We act as a local link to pupils, staff, parents, local parish and the school community to understand their views of the school. Our role, as set out in the scheme of delegation, is to

- Uphold the Catholic nature of the school.
- Ensure clarity of vision and strategic direction of the school.
- Hold the school leadership to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and for the performance management of staff.
- Ensure that the school operates in accordance with the policies and procedures of the MAC.

An example of the LGB and MAC working together would be in the case of the recent appointment of Mr Blewitt as deputy headteacher. 2 governors: Tina Willmott and Paul Eustace took part in shortlisting and interviewing, alongside 2 Directors, 2 members of the MAC central team and a representative from the Archdiocese and of course Mrs Flanagan. We have also worked closely with, and tried to influence, the MAC's decisions about school numbers and mixed aged groups.

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.

- *Recently Mrs Willmott went into school to meet with Mrs Flanagan and Mr Hainie and be available to any staff who wished to discuss the current changes happening in school. During the visit she had a tour of all the classes, enjoying talking to Year 6 pupils about their chosen Confirmation names—she was really impressed by the knowledge the children had and why they had chosen their names. She discussed how when she was Confirmed research was not always followed and it was more likely to be a family name or a name that linked Christian names in some way. She*

also enjoyed learning in Nursery class where the children told her what number came next and where to put the counters—such fun. As part of her day, she had a meeting with Mrs Evans as phonics lead, asking many questions and receiving very positive answers.

- Mrs Blake went into school recently with her health and safety hat on, an area where she has expertise and knowledge, and toured the school. A particular focus was on fire safety but her eyes were everywhere! Very happily all was good and after a discussion with Mrs Flanagan she was able to report back to governors very positively.

MEET A GOVERNOR

We will introduce one of us in each newsletter.

Jackie Musgrave has been a governor for just over 4 years, she is a Foundation Governor with a particular expertise in Early Years education. Below is her reason for undertaking the role of governor at St George and St Teresa School:

For the last 30 years I have worked in education and have had close contact with countless primary schools. This professional perspective has reinforced my view that St George and St Teresa is an incredible school.

From a personal perspective, my children joined the school in 1996, as a family new to the area, we instantly formed enduring friendships with many of the families whose children attended the school. All of us felt incredibly grateful that our children were loved and cared for as they received excellent education.

The values that underpinned the ethos of the school have continued to the present day. As I go round the school, I see numerous examples of excellence. The physical environment is welcoming and most of all, the staff and children are welcoming.

Inspectors have described our children as 'delightful' and I couldn't agree more. I look forward to working with staff, parents, the governors, the MAC, the parish and of course our wonderful children to seek ways to promote the school and ensure it's sustainability for the decades to come.

Let's Celebrate

Each newsletter we will focus on one area, out of the many that we are very proud of. This edition as we come towards the end of Lent, we have chosen the Catholic life and RE curriculum.

In the CSI [Catholic School Inspection] report of June 2025, the inspectors identified the following strengths:

- St George & St Teresa's provides a profound culture of welcome, inclusion, collaboration and a sense of community.
- St George & St Teresa's has established and strengthened clear links with the parish; families feel welcomed and believe they are fully included in this faith journey with their children.
- Pupils value the distinctive Catholic life and mission of St George & St Teresa's. They can clearly express an understanding that they are cared for as unique individuals, made in the image and likeness of God; consequently, pupils feel happy, confident, and secure. Pupils follow the principle of 'Made in the image and likeness of God' and, as a result, relationships throughout school are based on mutual respect.

When you visit the school, you see all of the above being lived out. Children know they are loved by God and want to share that love with all they meet—child or adult—they see it as so important and tell you 'That's what Jesus did.'

As governors we hear about the Catholic life of the school, the ways in which children participate and lead collective worship at each meeting and we see it for ourselves on visits. We track each class's progress through the Archdiocese RE scheme and how timetables are arranged and tracked to ensure the required time commitment is fully met. We have seen some wonderful examples of prayer and class books and spoken to the children about their lives in a Catholic school which they see as very special.

During Lent we have been able to see how they have taken part in almsgiving and prayer and taken these key aspects so very seriously and with such care for others. Very well-done children, we are very proud of you.

THANK YOU



Thank you to our wonderful PTFA. You work so hard and bring in huge amounts of money to school which really make a difference. Since the start of the school year you have provided fun activities for children and parents such as the Christmas Boutique and Party, as well as supporting parents and the environment with your Pre-loved uniform sales. How wonderful that by the end of just one term you had raised £4182. However, you continue to do more, the Ball was a great success—lots of fun for the adults. All parents and carers are members of the PTFA but behind each successful group there has to be a dedicated team who arrange and lead the organisation of each event and as governors we want to say a heartfelt thank you to you all. We hope you all enjoyed the children's disco.



Thank you to all the parents who met with Mr P Davis recently at the meeting to discuss the future of our school. We appreciate that it was a very difficult meeting that did not give all the answers parents were seeking. One area where we are able to shed a little more light is finances since we joined the MAC. The main income source for any school comes from pupil numbers, following the Ofsted inspection in September 2021 numbers did decline and this decline has continued over time with the general reduction in pupils across Solihull and Dorridge. We also had some staffing costs which involved having to rely on agency staff which come at a premium, a flood and an interim headship, advised by the archdiocese which proved to be an expensive appointment in many ways. Reduction in the number of pupils resulted in less income from pupil places but also impacted unexpected income such as income from Dragons as a result of less numbers but also less demand from parents working in different ways.



A huge thank you must go to all our wonderful parents who have come together and rallied round to promote our school, investigate ways to increase numbers and secure the future of the school [which is not in danger of closing but will thrive with more pupils]. We have heard of the activities that you are engaging in and congratulate you for your get up and go spirit. We are working with Mrs Flanagan and the MAC to ensure they support and further develop all that you are doing—we know they will. We know you still need clarity on the curriculum your children will be offered [which must and will meet the requirements of the National Curriculum]. Mrs Flanagan and school staff are working hard on this and we will be having an update on progress at our next governors meeting.



Finally, but most sincerely, we want to thank our leadership team and all staff for all their hard work in what has been a difficult term. Their commitment and dedication is, as ever, excellent. They give our children the love, nurture, support and education they need as individuals made in God's image to fulfil their God given vocation. Thank you all for going above and beyond.

Thought for Easter

"Easter is proof that endings can be beautiful beginnings."

We wish everyone a very Happy Easter, full of God's Grace and Joyful Blessings.

The Local Governing Body

