

ST. GEORGE AND ST. TERESA

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

Governor's Newsletter

Spring Half Term February 2026

Number 1

Welcome to our first governor's newsletter. We hope to publish our newsletter half termly to celebrate the work of our fantastic school and tell you a little about what we do. We hope you will enjoy it!

We have also sent this newsletter to the Parish Community of St George and St Teresa and to Blessed Robert Grissold, Parish.



Meet the governors:

<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>Mr Paul Eustace</i>		<i>Foundation Governor</i>
<i>Mrs Theresa Blake</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>

What is a Local Governing Body[LGB]?

The LGB is a committee of the Board of Directors of the MAC we are accountable to the Directors and report back to the Directors of the MAC. We have the following roles delegated to us by the MAC.

- Upholding the Catholic nature of the school.
- Ensuring clarity of vision and strategic direction of the school.
- Ensuring that the school operates in accordance with the policies and procedures of the MAC.

We have 2 meetings a term and act as critical friends to the school and a source of information for the Directors of the MAC.

Reduction in numbers.

Since many of us became governors, and knew the school in the past we have seen many changes, many positive, such as the first development of a Nursery for the school, the development of the music room and offices at the front of the building, some not so great.

We are now in a period of significant change with reducing numbers affecting us and many schools in South Solihull. We are working with, and questioning rigorously, the MAC on proposals to reduce numbers. Finance is difficult in all schools currently and we are seeking understanding of our current position and how we can sustain and improve our financial position. We know there is a lot of worry amongst the school family at the moment and we are discussing ways that communication from the MAC can be improved with all stake holders.

We want to say a huge and sincere thanks to our school leaders and all staff for all their excellent, dedicated and inspirational work for the children of St. George and St. Teresa School.

Mr Hainie

In light of the recent communication to you all that Mr Hainie will leave the school at the end of this school year we would like to take this opportunity to express the LGB's heartfelt thanks to Mr Hainie for all his wonderful work over the past 4 years in his role as Head of School and his time in school previous to that as a class teacher. He has been, and continues to be, a wonderful member of staff and we give thanks to God for all he does for the children, staff and parents.

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 met with some pupils from Years 5 and 6. She was very impressed with how they expressed themselves; they were extremely polite, articulate and informative. The pupils told Mrs Willmott that they all loved school and had wonderful friends. This is a little of what they said:

- *The school is a safe and friendly environment.*

- *We are strong in our faith.*
- *Our faith is important to us outside of school—we learn and we can live out what we learn. We do this by helping others and charities.*
- *We learn about other faiths.*
- *If you join the school in the Y5 or Y6 you have a very positive experience, you are made welcome, everyone is helpful and kind.*
- *Enjoy the musical opportunities.*

We also enjoy joining in, as governors, with special events such as Mass, assemblies and Sacramental celebrations.

Mr O'Dwyer had this to say about the recent Confirmation:

The grey clouds and rain outside did not dampen the service that took place on Sunday 25th January in the Parish Church, with a service taking place that was both meaningful and moving.

In a packed Church (around 300 in the congregation) the service was led by Bishop David Evans, supported by Father John and Deacon Stephen. Members of the School Choir combined with the Parish Choir to lead the singing and it was wonderful to see our staff team supporting the children and the service.

The Year 6 children behaved exceptionally well and their passion and commitment to the sacrament they were receiving was visible and tangible – these young people are ready to take responsibility for their own faith.

The service lasted about one and a half hours and was followed by a celebratory cup of tea and slice of cake in the Parish Centre afterwards.

Our thanks go to all the teachers and staff who prepared the children, in particular Mr Blewitt as our Year 6 teacher and also Mr Hainie, who we hope managed to enjoy the day not just as a leader at the school but as a proud father with his son Ewan being confirmed.

Thank you for all your hard work.

MEET A GOVERNOR

We will introduce one of us in each newsletter.

Mrs Blake is very new to the LGB. Learn a little about her here:

Hello my name is Mrs Blake, it is an honour and a privilege to be appointed as a Foundation Governor to your wonderful Catholic Primary School.

I practice my faith in Our Lady of the Wayside Parish so know how rewarding it is to be part of a faith community, indeed I am proud to be one of the founder members of the Youth Group which has flourished.

As a recent retiree from the NHS and its challenges, I bring my integrity and dedication to serve the children, staff and parents of St George and St Teresa Catholic Primary School.

Let's Celebrate

Each newsletter we will focus on one area, out of the many that we are very proud of. This edition we have chosen our Early Years Foundation Stage.



At a recent governors meeting Mrs Evans told us all about the incredible success of the new Drawing Club approach to writing. We were delighted to hear how well the children are doing, how the approach was encouraging children to write and use increasingly sophisticated language in their oral descriptions. We are all eager to visit Early Years and enjoy it for ourselves.

Mrs Musgrave is our Early Years specialist and she is very impressed with all that the children are doing and how well the unit as a whole works. 😊

Thought for the half term:

*'Education gives voice to thoughts, power to dreams,
and shape to aspirations.'*

The Local Governing Body

