

Governors' Annual Statement to Parents

As a governing body, we pride ourselves on being a critical friend to our schools, questioning and supporting the school leadership in their mission to provide an even better education for the benefit of all of our pupils. We are chosen for the governing body chiefly by our diocese and via election by you, the parents and carers of the children of St Mary's and St Saviour's. We are predominantly parents of children at one of the schools and we are sure you'll join us in celebrating the excellent position that St Saviour's and St Mary's schools are in.

At the heart of our drive for excellence are the schools' vision and biblical visions. St Mary's biblical vision is based on John 15 vs 12: 'Love each other as I have loved you' and St. Saviour's biblical vision is Romans 12 vs 2: 'Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.'

Our vision is a commitment to inspirational learning for the children of the 21st century embedded with Christian Values. We believe in 'Educating for Life' by encouraging the whole development of each and every child as a person made in God's image, unique, special and deeply loved by God.

Our pupils are a true testament to our vision as they continuously make us feel proud of their achievements. Children in our schools are ambitious and motivated to aim high in their learning and to develop as a person spiritually, socially and morally in relation to themselves as well as to others.

We'd like to welcome newcomers to the C of E Federated Schools of St Mary's and St Saviour's and to communicate some key information about the Federation and its governance. You'll see our photos up on boards at each school, so please do say hello when you see us in the playground.

Ofsted graded St Mary's as an 'Outstanding' school in March 2016 and St Saviour's was graded 'Outstanding' in September 2019 – one of the first schools in the country to achieve this grading under the new Ofsted inspection framework. Both schools, based in Walthamstow, are church schools that serve the local community, church- and non-church attenders alike. We believe that every adult and child is precious no matter what race, sex, creed, religion, social background, physical or intellectual achievement. We are high-achieving and popular primary schools with excellent pupil outcomes, including in SATs results.

Governance Arrangements

The governing body is made up of 15 positions as follows:

- Two parent governors appointed by a ballot of parents
- One local authority governor
- One staff governor appointed by a ballot of staff
- The Chief Executive Officer
- Two co-opted governors appointed by the governing body
- Eight foundation governors appointed by the diocese (via our churches)

Our annual meeting planner helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered.

We have four sub-committees, which perform much of the detailed work in accordance with their terms of reference.

1. *Personnel*
2. *Curriculum*
3. *Finance & Premises*
4. *Admissions*

The terms of reference are attached to this report for reference; they define the committee responsibilities.

Attendance Record and Skills Analysis

A copy of the governing body's annual attendance record is available on the school website; this details who attended each type of meeting. In the autumn term of each academic year, the governing body also completes an annual skills analysis; we use this to inform us of our training and development needs and to help identify gaps that we can fill when recruiting to fill any vacancies. The report has been anonymised and is also available on the school website for your reference.

Effectiveness and Impact of the Governing Body

St Mary's has completed its growth towards becoming a three-form entry school, having been one-form. Over a long period this involved building works that have provided the extra space and facilities required. We have also recruited a number of new staff of high calibre in support of maintaining and developing the high levels of teaching and learning at both schools.

The nurseries of St Mary's and St Saviour's have also continued to grow and establish themselves, providing useful service for parents and substantial income for the schools' development.

Both schools have received an outstanding grading for their SIAMs church inspection which is carried out by the Diocese of Chelmsford; this is a statutory inspection that all church schools undergo in addition to Ofsted inspections.

The School Development Plan (SDP) at each school details objectives to enable further improvement of provision and outcomes. It is a key part of monitoring and promoting the highest quality in our offer, ensuring the highest possible quality of teaching and learning

for our pupils. Both St Mary's and St Saviour's have continuously striven to meet their challenging objectives and have consistently done so; whilst in some areas set objectives have been surpassed.

The balanced and broadly based curriculum is now fully embedded and children are enjoying the raised expectations that the curriculum provides. Pupil outcomes are high in response to the staff's commitment; this is evidenced in both schools' rich visual learning environment, in pupils' books and in the pupils' excellent attitudes to and enthusiasm for learning.

The School Evaluation Form (SEF) analyses provision and achievement within the schools. Following this in-depth leadership and governing body led self-evaluation, both St Mary's and St Saviour's are looking very healthy, with both schools having achieved what they set out to do at all levels of across the Federation. Overall, it has been a very successful year, keeping the schools moving forward in their ongoing journey.

Observations and monitoring activities take place on a regular basis. These evaluations of teachers' practice and the support put in place to bring about change ensures that, in both schools, there is a drive for all teachers - as a minimum - to be graded a 'good' practitioner. Many members of staff exceed this and are outstanding - there are approximately 60% outstanding teachers at both schools; a percentage that increases as the year progresses when teachers move through grade boundaries.

School Performance Data

With the global outbreak of Covid-19, the spring and summer terms of this academic year have been severely affected as they have for all schools and businesses. We have been incredibly fortunate to work with our dedicated staff to keep our schools open for key workers and our most vulnerable pupils. As governors, we have seen first-hand the exceptional work that has been planned and executed to ensure children continue to learn in school as well as at home.

Even though statutory end of year data is not being collected this summer for 2019-20, in recent years both schools have continued to produce attainment and progress significantly ahead of national averages by the end of our children's primary school career. There are several sources for you to examine historical data:

For St Saviour's: see our website www.staviourscofe.org and under the 'About Us' drop-down menu you will see 'Results and Reports', where past data and Ofsted/Diocese reports are available, and also 'School Performance Table' which links to the Department for Education's page of data on the school.

For St Mary's: see our website www.stmaryscofe.org and under the 'About Us' drop-down menu you will see 'Results and Reports', where past data and Ofsted/Diocese reports are available, and also 'School Performance Table' which links to the Department for Education's page of data on the school.

And finally...

Whilst rigorously ensuring that staff and pupils are kept safe in line with DFE Covid-19 guidance for schools, our key priorities for both schools this year will be to continue to build and improve on what we have achieved to date: continuing to improve the quality of teaching; further enhancing our overall provision; and maintaining high pupil outcomes arising from both.

In conclusion, we would like to thank and congratulate staff, pupils parents and carers for their exceptional resilience and their hard work under these very challenging circumstances.



On behalf of the Governing Body:

Rev Canon Ade Ademola FSJ (Chair of Governing Body)