

Governors' Annual Statement to Parents 2021-22

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 by directors 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.

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 12 positions as follows:

- Two parent governors appointed by a ballot of parents
- One staff governor appointed by a ballot of staff
- The Chief Executive Officer
- Eight foundation governors appointed by our

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

We have four lead governors who feedback on the following areas:

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

4. Admissions

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.

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 within the context of the pandemic across the Federation. Despite these challenges, 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.

During the pandemic, the schools have taken enormous pride in the fact that all our pupils were offered full days learning as per our usual timetable and high-quality teaching throughout. We were able to educate our children remotely as well as on site for our key worker pupils. We worked closely together with those parents and carers who preferred to work with their child on learning at home and ensured that they had the correct resources, activities and tasks. Our vision to offer every child the opportunity to become an independent learner with an enquiring mind has meant that we have continued to provide our pupils with an outstanding educational offer.

School Performance Data

With the global outbreak of Covid-19, this academic year has been severely affected as it has 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 during both lockdowns. 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 2020-21, 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)