Governor Report for Parents and Stakeholders

Rooted in Faith, Growing Together

Rooted in Christian principles, we are dedicated to inspiring and nurturing every member of our community to grow as resilient, empathetic, and courageous individuals. Through a commitment to aspiration, collaboration, and kindness, we foster a love of learning, a strong moral compass, and a deep spiritual awareness. Together, we empower our children to thrive academically and spiritually, becoming compassionate agents of change who positively impact the world around them.

'The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.'
Luke 8:15

From the Chair: Paul Middleton

This report covers the last two years in the life of St Michaels School since the appointment of Lucy Perry as Headteacher.

The Role of Governors

Our school governing board has seven members appointed by the local church, two by parents, one by the council, one by members of the staff and also includes the head teacher herself. A primary school governor's role is to: "provide strategic leadership and act as a "critical friend" to the headteacher. Rather than managing the day-to-day operations of the school, governors focus on setting long-term direction, holding leadership accountable for educational performance, and ensuring the budget is spent effectively." If you are interested in becoming a governor in the future, please do contact the school or the St Michaels PCC.

Overview

The governors meet as a full body 4 times a year and there are 2 subcommittees – finance and curriculum/standards. Governors can also be coopted to serve in other roles such as disciplinary or complaints procedures. Every main curricular area has a link governor – Pupil Premium and SEND being of special importance. Through working with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership team and curricular leaders the Governors ensure that the vision and statutory requirements of the school are met. This vision of enabling every child to flourish academically, personally, and spiritually is met through working through our values of empathy, resilience, courage, aspiration, collaboration, and kindness. The values apply as much to the workings of Governance as they do to staff and children. Success in achieving the school vision is measured through many sources such as test and data analysis, pupil voice outcomes, stakeholder views, feedback from external bodies and discussion with the senior leadership team.

Appointments

We have welcomed several new governors to the board during this time. Rebecca Carr, Rev Nick Campbell, Louise Martin (all appointed by the PCC), Glenn Prime and Sarah Eckersley (Parent Governors) and Liz Nugent (Staff governor.) Together they have brought a wide range of skills, knowledge and attributes to support the school. I would like to thank all the Governors who have left for their great contribution to the school.

During the last 2 years several new members of teaching staff have been appointed. Rigorous interviews were designed to select candidates who would be exemplary teachers and make a significant contribution to achieving our school aims and vision. The appointments have

proved to be a great success and we now have a very strong teaching team to take St Michaels forward.

Planning

The Ofsted Report in November 2023 had an impressive list of what our school does well. However certain areas e.g. the EYFS curriculum were identified as needing improvement. These areas have been a focus for development in the school. Under Lucy Perry's leadership the excellent qualities of the school have been maintained whilst new initiatives for improvement have also been driven forward. The annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) indicates the main school priorities to improve the educational experience of our children. During the last 2 year priorities have included developing and embedding a cohesive spiral curriculum, developing and embedding comprehensive support for neurodiverse children, improving the quality of SEND provision and improving writing outcomes in all year groups. Priorities do change with time when success is met or new concerns emerge. This year for example there will be a significant focus on phonics and reading. We endeavour as a school to be proactive in what we do so and reflect societal changes, for example a lot of work has been focused on pupil well being and neurodiversity.

Standards and Curriculum Committee

Chair: Nuala Forken

The committee has provided support in terms of tracking the school improvement plan - often in response to annual performance data. The committee have held ongoing and in depth discussions over the effectiveness of intervention activity to improve achievement in identified areas. The committee has ensured that the School Leadership Team has implemented and maintained appropriate levels of tracking pupil performance throughout the year. The summary information from this detailed tracking has been examined and analysed by the committee and questions relating to this data have been raised with the School Leadership Team and been comprehensively answered.

The Key Stage 2 statutory assessment results for the end of the summer term show that the school is currently performing above national standards. The combined Key Stage 2 SATs result was 73%, which is above the national average. The Year 1 phonics screening result was particularly strong at 97%, and the Early Years Foundation Stage good level of development was 73%. The multiplication tables check was the highest it has been for three years, with 50% of children achieving full marks.

In the detailed Key Stage 2 data, reading outcomes were especially strong at 91%. The maths result was 79%, which remains above the national average and the proportion of children achieving greater depth was 45%.

Finance and Resources Committee

Chair: Rebecca Carr

The Finance and Resources Committee has continued to support the Head Teacher in monitoring and evaluating the school budget and taking steps to ensure an acceptable budget position over the forthcoming years.

The Committee recognises the significant financial challenges arising from being a single form entry school with low levels of funding, and has worked closely with the Head Teacher to help mitigate this challenge through increased income generation from other sources. This includes looking at charges for the Nursery and Wrap Club to ensure that they remain competitive but affordable for our families, but reflect the increased cost of offering this highly valued service.

The Finance and Resources Committee continues to focus on the challenges posed by the combined pressure of higher levels of pay awards for both Teaching and Support staff and non-pay inflation in all areas of the budget, and particularly energy costs, and has monitored all cost lines closely throughout the year.

A deficit budget of £25k was presented and approved in June 2026 for the financial year 2026/27, however following a number of years when small surpluses have been made, the brought forward school balance on 1 April 2026 was £145k, so this deficit can be absorbed in the current year. Forecasting balances in future years remains challenging, however, given the ongoing uncertainty about pay awards and future funding levels.

The Committee has been at the heart of the research and discussions into the risks and opportunities which academisation might bring, supporting the Head and the staff team through this challenging time.

Academisation

The subject of Acadamisation is discussed each term as a requirement, by the Governing Body. At present the Board believes that there is no financial or curricular advantage in joining an academy. We value the uniqueness of St Michaels school and want to preserve our special qualities into the future. There is both risk and opportunity with Academisation.

Attendance

The need for children not to miss any schooling cannot be stressed enough. Various strategies have been put into place to encourage good attendance and the number of children missing school due to holidays has reduced. Our school attendance is 97.2 which is above local and national levels and the number of late children has decreased. As Chair I recognise that children who are happy and enjoy school are unlikely to be absent except in the case of illness. So strategically the Governors strive to ensure that the academic and social life of the school is enjoyable for the children and that their well being is the guiding force behind the decisions we make.

Admissions

St. Michael's is a very popular school and we have begun the new academic year with 28 children in Nursery and 25 in Reception. Governors met in Spring to go through the process of allocating places. The list was then returned to Trafford Schools Admissions Department. It is important to continue our development as a successful school in order to maintain numbers to ensure sound finances. The Governors commend Lucy Perry for ensuring that the school profile in the local community is raised through participating in various events.

The Future

The Governing Body are pleased with the outward looking aspect of school life. The increased number of staff going on courses, network meetings and children taking part in numerous outside activities ensure that as a school we don't become insular, complacent or set in our ways.

I believe that St Michaels has great potential. The appointment of a new Headteacher and subsequent appointments have created a very forward thinking, dynamic and hard-working team. The strengths of the Ofsted Inspection are being built on and areas needing improvement are being rigorously addressed. New initiatives are taken on board to reflect changes in society and educational thought. The church links are very strong indeed and this coupled to our excellent SIAMs inspection shows that the schools church foundation is being fully honoured. Educating our children is a 3 way partnership between staff, governors and parents/carers. If we are all supportive and work within the schools values there is no limit to what our children can achieve.

September 2026