

# Governance at St Augustine's



Providing support and challenge  
at an outstanding school





## Governing Body Sub-Committees

- Finance, Staffing and Performance
- Curriculum and Standards
- Pupil Well-Being and Admissions



# What is a Governing Body?

The Governing Body is responsible to the Bishop of Salford Diocese for the conduct of the school, for promoting high standards and for the fostering and preservation of its Catholic ethos in accordance with the Trust Deed. The Governing Body aims to ensure that St Augustine's is an effective school which provides the children who attend with a good education and supports their well-being.

## Roles of the Governing Body

### ***Sets the strategic direction of the school by:***

- ◇ Setting the values, aims and objectives for the school, in keeping with its Catholic ethos
- ◇ Agreeing the policy framework
- ◇ Setting statutory targets
- ◇ Agreeing the school development plan, including the budget
- ◇ Agreeing the staffing structure

### ***Challenges and supports the school by monitoring and evaluating:***

- ◇ The implementation and effectiveness of the policy framework
- ◇ Progress made towards targets
- ◇ The implementation of the school development plan
- ◇ The budget and staffing structure

### ***Ensures accountability by:***

- ◇ Approving the school's self evaluation
- ◇ Holding the Headteacher to account for the school's performance
- ◇ Ensuring parents and pupils are involved and informed as appropriate
- ◇ Making information available to the community

## The Role of a Governor

In law the governing body is a corporate body, which means:

No Governor can act on her/his own without proper authority from the full Governing Body.

All Governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made.

Although appointed through different routes the overriding concern of all Governors has to be the welfare of the school as a whole.

At St Augustine's, Governors are encouraged to link with particular departments to give them a better understanding of how the school operates.

*From left to right;*

John Clucas, Vice Chair of Governors;

Philip Gunn, Chair of Governors;

Bishop Terence Brain;

Michael Wright, Headteacher.



For the Governing Body to carry out its role effectively, governors must;

- Undertake an induction programme and be prepared to take their responsibilities seriously;
- Understand their role as a member of the accountable body, including a commitment to attend meetings and relevant training;
- Be supported by appropriate bodies and professionals at school;
- Monitor and review their own performance.

## Joining a successful team

[In November 2013, OFSTED inspected the school and reported on the Governing Body](#)

The governing body is very well informed and challenges yet supports the leaders and managers to ensure they are doing the best for the students and staff. Governors understand how well students are achieving in relation to others nationally and the performance of different groups of students. They ensure that the pupil premium funding is used to its best effect and understand the narrowing of gaps in students' attainment and progress. They regularly challenge the headteacher over what is being done to ensure that standards rise further.

Governors ensure the financial integrity of the school and ensure that teachers' salaries are linked to their performance targets and make considered judgements when deciding whether or not a teacher should progress along the salary scales.

Governors meet their responsibility in ensuring that safeguarding meets requirements.

*Ofsted 2013*



## Governors at St Augustine's

St Augustine's Governing Body is comprised of Foundation Governors, Staff Governors, Parent Governors and LEA Representative Governors with a majority of Foundation Governors.

Foundation Governors take a full part in school governance and are appointed by the Bishop to preserve the religious character of the school. If you are 18 or over and can obtain a recommendation from your Parish Priest, this might be an excellent opportunity to devote some time to Catholic education. For further details please speak to your Parish Priest or look on the school website, [www.sarchs.com](http://www.sarchs.com).

New Governors are welcomed by a friendly and supportive body and are provided with an excellent induction programme and opportunities for further training with local providers. New members are also offered a mentor to provide advice and assistance in all aspects of school governance.



### School Mission Statement

At Saint Augustine's we believe that every person is an image of God.

We want our thoughts and actions to be inspired by this sacred understanding we have of ourselves and of each other.

Our school community will keep alive the memory of Jesus through the Eucharist and in the practice of our Faith.

We want to encourage, inspire, challenge and care for each other, be open to the wider world about us, and celebrate together our reasons for living and hoping.

## St Augustine's RC High School

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