



St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School The Role of the Governing Body

The role of the Governing Body is to:

- Help shape the vision and direction of the school
- Have a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school
- Support and challenge the senior management team
- Hold the school to account for the educational standards it achieves and the quality of education it provides
- Ensure that the school fulfils its statutory duties and the duties determined by the Archdiocese of Liverpool
- Monitor, review and develop plans and policies for effective school improvement

How does it work?

To fulfil all of these roles and responsibilities the Governing Body delegates some of the work to groups of Governors. The whole Governing Body meets at termly intervals to discuss what is happening at school and plan strategically for the future. In order to ensure all the tasks get the time and attention they deserve, the Governing Body has set up a number of committees. These Committees share the work to cover our responsibilities well and help develop a good understanding of the school, support its work and hold it accountable.

At St Gerard's we have four committees which meet termly. They are Finance, Buildings Health and Safety, Curriculum, and Staffing and Personnel. Each committee has a chair who sets an agenda before the meeting. Each meeting is clerked by Mrs Mary Roach, the School Administrative Manager.

In addition to serving on one or more committees, Governors are each linked to a particular subject area within the curriculum and visit school to help ensure this subject is being and developed within the school.

There are also a number of smaller committees responsible for single issues such as Admissions, Pupil Discipline, Staff Grievance, Performance Management and staff dismissal.

Communication with the Governing Body

As a Governing Body we recognise the need for good lines of communication between the parents, pupils, staff, parish, Governing Body and other people who are interested in our school.

The Finance Committee works to:

- Plan the budget in response to the aims and objectives of the school improvement priorities
- Plan ahead and look beyond the next school/financial year
- Monitor and manage the budget effectively and ensure good value for money
- Manage human and non-human resources efficiently and effectively
- Assess the school's work using 'best value' principles of compare, challenge, consult and compete
- Maintain a programme of minor repairs to the school building
- Work with the local authority and Diocese to secure the long term future of the school buildings and grounds

The Staffing and Personnel Committee works to promote high quality teaching and learning by:

- Planning effectively to secure, retain and remunerate high quality staff
- Ensuring staff are valued and supported so they are able to support the school's aims and improvement planning and given opportunities to develop professionally
- Promoting equality of opportunity for all pupils and staff

The Curriculum Committee works to:

- Promote high quality teaching and learning
- Understand the level of standards achieved by the school
- Assist the governing body to ensure effective school improvement planning and curriculum development
- Promote the best possible pupil progress for ALL pupils

The Buildings Health and Safety Committee works to:

- **Provide a stimulating and safe learning environment**
- **Promote the security and well being of pupils, staff and visitors**
- **Maximise the internal space and enhance the teaching and learning environment**
- **Monitor standards of health, hygiene and safety within the school building and carry out risk assessments where necessary**