



### **Governing Body**

With members from across the local Enfield community and beyond, St Andrew's governing board is a group of individuals with varied backgrounds and skills who come together to support and drive the school's continued development. The governing board regularly reviews its make-up and skills set to ensure it has the skills and diversity needed to meet its responsibilities to the school and its pupils.

In the Spring Term 2023, we said goodbye to Glenda Ashman, whose term of office as a governor came to an end in February. Glenda had made an important contribution to our Governing Board, particularly in the area of safeguarding, and we wish her well for the future.

For the start of the new academic year, we are delighted to welcome two new governors, Olivia Stiles and Will Sheldon. We hope that they will both enjoy their time as part of the St Andrew's School family.

See the school website for details of membership of the governing board and main committees

### **Role of Governing Body**

A school's governing board has three main responsibilities:

- i) To help set and maintain the ethos and strategic direction of the school;
- ii) To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- iii) To ensure that the school uses its resources effectively and efficiently for the benefit of the pupils.

At St Andrew's, the full governing board meets in the autumn, spring and summer terms, to ensure that these responsibilities are fulfilled. The full governing board meetings are supplemented by regular meetings of a number of sub-committees, particularly the Resources and Curriculum committees. These committees look in greater depth at plans and proposals from the headteacher and senior leadership team, as well as considering the levels of attainment and progress of the children in the school. The committees report to the full governing board.

In addition, some governors have special responsibility for specific aspects of school policy, for example on safeguarding, well-being, RE and GDPR.

The governors are focussed on supporting the headteacher and the staff in providing positive opportunities for every child, in an inclusive Christian environment.



#### **Partnership with St. Paul's CE Primary School**

The 2022/23 academic year marked the first year of our formal partnership with St. Paul's Church of England Primary School in Winchmore Hill.

The governors are pleased that the partnership has delivered benefits for both schools. The Senior Leadership Team at St Andrew's was adapted to meet the new partnership arrangement and - since September 2022 – Mrs Statham, Miss Jones and Mrs Bolton have been responsible for the day-to-day running of the school, while Miss Mann has assumed the new role of Executive Head of both schools. This has also meant some adjustments in the way the school functions, but the governors are very grateful for the way that all the staff have risen to the challenge, so that the school continues to provide the highest standard of education and pastoral support in a well-run, safe and welcoming environment.

During the past year, the staff of the two schools have shared information, expertise and training, directly benefitting the children's learning and there have also been joint outdoor activities sessions at each school, including multi-games.

As governors, in March 2023 we held a joint safeguarding training for both Governing Boards, when governors from St Paul's school were able to visit St Andrew's and see our wonderful school at first hand.

The partnership has also generated some cost savings, which have been very helpful in the current difficult financial climate.

Working with Miss Mann and Mrs Statham, the governors will continue to monitor the impact of the partnership on St. Andrew's and will keep the wider school community updated on future plans for the partnership as the 2023/24 academic year progresses. Our priority continues to be the further improvement of outcomes for our children.

#### **Staffing**

The school staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are the most valuable asset for any school, and the governors are pleased that St Andrew's school has a full staff complement to start the 2023/24 school year. The governors have been involved in staff recruitments where appropriate and are satisfied that all the correct procedures have been followed, particularly those relating to safeguarding.

The governors are sharply aware of the importance of a stable staff board to the continued success of St Andrew's and the need to ensure a positive working environment to achieve this. The governors monitor staff well-being and take account of the impact on staff work/life balance in their deliberations on policies and practices at the school.

The new partnership arrangement with St Paul's CE Primary School, Winchmore Hill, has provided staff with access to greater professional development opportunities, to enhance their teaching knowledge and skills and further improve the outcomes for our children.



#### **Achievements**

The 2022/23 school year was a challenging one for all schools for a variety of reasons, not least the difficult financial situation. The governors are very grateful to Miss Mann, Mrs Statham and all the staff for ensuring that any potential disruption to the children's learning was kept to a minimum. and that the high standard of education and pastoral care provided for all the pupils at St Andrew's school continued, despite the many challenges they have faced.

The Christian ethos of our school continues to be a core strength. The governors are proud of the care that is taken to ensure that the welfare and safety of children, parents and staff remain at the forefront of everything that is done.

The economic situation has meant that the school has continued to care for the wider school community and the governors were very pleased to support the school's initiative to open a school food bank – The Pantry – in December 2022. The governors place great importance on this aspect of school life, which reflects the Christian ethos of the school, one of its core strengths.

The governors have continued to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to the school's performance and strategic direction. In-person meetings of the Full Governing Board were resumed, although committee meetings continued to be held via Microsoft Teams.

The governors have relished the opportunity to engage in a full programme of Learning Walks, co-ordinated by Mrs Statham. Once again, the focus was on those areas linked to the School Improvement Plan. These included Writing (across the school), Reading (in KS1), Science, Computing, History and Geography, as well as Pupil Premium and SEND.

These Learning Walks are important in enabling the governors fulfil their statutory responsibilities. During these visits, the governors also spoke to children and staff, enabling them to gain a rounded picture of what is happening in school.

The governors remain grateful to Miss Mann, Mrs Statham and all the staff of St Andrew's for continuing to encourage and support each child to achieve their best in everything that they do.



#### Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee has oversight of the policies relating to teaching and learning in the school, as well as pupil attainment. We regularly review the curriculum for maths, reading and writing.

This year the Committee has paid particular attention to the embedding of new schemes of work for Geography, History and Science as well as looking at diversity in the curriculum. We also considered the development of middle leaders and had reports on the range of enrichment activities that the school provides for the children.

Governors were also able to observe some of the National Curriculum Assessments being administered, as part of the administration assurance process.

The governors are particularly proud of the breadth of curriculum on offer at St Andrew's and we are keen to support the school in developing it further.

In 2023/24 we will be supporting the implementation of art, music and PE, while also looking at reading for pleasure. We will also be monitoring the professional development available for teachers.

#### Resources

The Resources Committee sets a policy framework for all expenditure, including levels of expenditure delegated to the Headteacher. It ensures that expenditure is focused on the School Development Plan and on meeting the needs of all students. The committee sets an annual budget and a three-year projected budget which has to be approved by the Full Governing Board and oversees the annual audit return.

The Governors have worked to support the Headteacher in achieving a balanced budget in a period with limited resources and increasing costs. This has been particularly challenging as a result of the unprecedented rise in energy costs and the uncertainty about the Government's plans for funding increased employment costs.

The introduction of a new school catering provider, procured in conjunction with other local schools, has also reduced costs and improved the service.

Rental income remains stable and the governors appreciate the continued significant financial support provided by the school community and parents both directly and through the hard work of our wonderful PTA.

We are very appreciative of the fact that 84% of families have contributed to the Governors' Fund during the past year. The governors use this money to cover the school's contribution to the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) Maintenance Fund. This pays towards the upkeep of the school buildings and helps to ensure that the teaching and learning environment for all the children remains safe, secure and comfortable. The governors are very grateful to those parents who have contributed to this fund over the past year.



#### Admissions

The governing board regularly reviews the admissions criteria which are used to award places in the school. St Andrew's remains a popular school, but there has been a recent drop in the number of pre-school age children across all London boroughs, combined with a post-Covid trend for families to move out of London. This means that many schools, including St Andrew's, currently have surplus places. At St Andrew's, the governors are proud that the children receive the highest standard of education and pastoral support, in a safe, caring environment. The governors will continue to work with the Senior Leadership team to ensure that prospective parents appreciate this and want to become part of our wonderful school community.

#### Activities

In addition to attending governing board meetings and participating in Learning Walks, the governors are involved with the life of the school in other ways. For example, by:

- i) sitting on recruitment panels;
- ii) participating in events run by the PTA (eg the Summer Fair);
- iii) representing the school at outside events (e.g. the annual Enfield Governors' Conference); and
- iv) attending school church services and assemblies.

The governors also ensure that they continue to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective in their role, attending training courses and studying relevant policy documentation and national guidance.

During the year the governing board also keeps its practices and activities under review, to ensure that it continues to meet its statutory responsibilities and operates effectively, transparently, fairly and legally.

#### Future Plans

The governors will continue to work closely with the Executive Headteacher, the Head of School and the senior leadership team, to support the implementation of the School Improvement Plan and to strengthen the relationships with St Andrew's church and the wider community.

We will also be monitoring the implementation of the partnership agreement with St Paul's Primary School, to ensure that the benefits of this arrangement are maximised for the benefit of the teaching and learning of children in both schools.

#### Contact Us

The governors can be contacted at any time via the school office.

Telephone: 020 8363 5003

Email: [admin@st-andrews-enfield.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-andrews-enfield.enfield.sch.uk)