



Governing Body

With members from across the local Enfield community and beyond, St Andrew's governing body is a broad group of individuals with varied backgrounds and skills who come together to support and drive the school's continued development. The governing body 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 Autumn Term 2021, we said goodbye to two long-standing colleagues: Tim Harrison, formerly Chair of Governors and Mandy Mclean. Both have given outstanding service to the life of St Andrew's school over many years and the governors joined the school in thanking them both and wishing them both well for the future.

See Annex A for details of membership of the governing body and main committees.

Role of Governing Body

A school's governing body 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 body meets in the autumn, spring and summer terms, to ensure that these responsibilities are fulfilled. The full governing body 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 body.

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

During the 2021/22 academic year, the London Diocesan Board for Schools (which has overarching responsibility for all Church of England schools in the Diocese of London) invited the governors of St Andrew's school to consider the possibility of entering a formal partnership arrangement with St. Paul's Church of England Primary School in Winchmore Hill.

After much careful and detailed consideration, the Governing Boards of St. Andrew's and St. Paul's Schools concluded that the interests of both schools would be best served by going into partnership together, with Miss Mann as the Executive Headteacher for the two schools. The partnership will be for an initial period of two years, although it can be extended for a further period, if both Governing Boards agree.

Robust succession planning is a priority for the Governing Board and we are very glad that Mrs Statham, who is an experienced leader, has stepped up to become the Head of School. She will continue to work closely with Miss Mann and the other school leaders and staff, to ensure that the excellent standard of education currently enjoyed by children at St Andrew's will continue.

The governors believe that the partnership will greatly benefit St. Andrew's school and will provide opportunities for both schools to learn from each other. For example, staff will have new opportunities to share best practice and further improve the curriculum offer for all pupils. They will also have access to greater professional development opportunities, to enhance their teaching knowledge and skills and further improve the outcomes for our children.

The partnership will also generate some cost savings, which will enable the Senior Leadership Teams at both schools to invest in additional resources and opportunities for learning that may be otherwise unaffordable in the current financial climate.

The Governing Board will work with Miss Mann and Mrs Statham to monitor the extent to which the aims, aspirations and guiding principles of the partnership agreement are being met and we will share updates with the wider school community.

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 2022/23 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 body 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, will provide staff with access to greater professional development opportunities, to enhance their teaching knowledge and skills and further improve the outcomes for our children. They will also have new opportunities to share best practice and further improve the curriculum offered to all pupils.



Achievements

The 2021/22 school year has been another year conducted under the shadow of COVID-19, but the governors are very grateful to Miss Mann, the Senior Leadership Team and all the staff for ensuring 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 current unprecedented economic situation means that the school will need to continue to show the care and support for the wider school community that was shown during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 able to resume, although committee meetings continued to be held via Microsoft Teams.

The programme of regular Learning Walks was also resumed, with a renewed focus on areas linked to the School Improvement Plan. The areas covered include the development of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, the embedding of new schemes of work in History and Geography, progress with Early Reading and the introduction of the new phonics scheme. The governors are grateful to all staff for the work that has gone into narrowing gaps in learning and achievement for all children, particularly where those gaps had been exacerbated as a result of Covid-related disruption.

We 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. This year the Committee has paid particular attention to: the embedding of new schemes of work for Geography, History and Science; the development of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, Early Reading the introduction of the new phonics scheme and the interventions put in place by the school to narrow the gaps in achievement for some groups of children.

During the past two years, the school has necessarily had to focus on consolidating and reinforcing the children's learning, which had been disrupted by COVID. Although the usual pupil assessment regime had been suspended during the pandemic, the governors were pleased that the school was able to provide all the usual additional support for Year 6 pupils in readiness for their SATS in May 2022. Governors were also able to observe some of the SATS being administered, as part of the SATS administration assurance process.

The governors are particularly proud of the breadth of curriculum on offer at St Andrew's, but we are keen to support the school in developing it further, for example by providing opportunities for curriculum enrichment outside of the classroom.

To this end, in the 2022/23 academic year, the Curriculum Committee will be supporting the implementation of key areas in the School Improvement Plan, such as improving the music and computing curricula and developing an effective Pupil Voice.

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. This year this has included COVID catch up monies, which was especially targeted at students with particular needs. The committee sets an annual budget and a three-year projected budget which has to be approved by the Full Governing Body 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. Staff sickness has presented a challenge in the past year, which has placed increased demands upon senior staff. It has been good to see the school return to normality post-COVID, maintaining a broad curriculum and range of opportunities, including visits. There has been a welcome upturn in rental income and Governors appreciate the significant financial support provided by the school community and parents both directly and through the work of the PTA.

We are grateful that 74% of parents have contributed to The London Diocesan Board for Schools Maintenance Fund which pays for the upkeep of the school buildings. This Fund 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 body regularly reviews the admissions criteria which are used to award places in the school. St Andrew's remains a popular school and there are always more applications than there are places available.

Activities

In addition to attending governing body 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 running the Grand Draw stall at the Summer Fair);
and
- iii) 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 body 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