

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

St. Joseph's is a Catholic Voluntary Aided school. The governing body comprises of 12 governors, 7 Foundation Governors, appointed by the local Bishop, 2 elected parent governors, 2 staff governors (one of which must be the Head Teacher) and 1 appointed by the Local Authority.

No governor is paid. They all work for the school as volunteers.

The ideal governing body is made up of people with different skills, experiences and specialised knowledge.

Each governor is a governor in their own right. They are not representatives of a group. The full governing board is a corporate entity and must make decisions together. Decisions can be made by committees, formed from the full governing body, but their business must be reported back to the full governing body.

St. Joseph's has 3 committees, 'Staffing, Standards/Curriculum', 'Community and Welfare' and 'Finance and Premises'.

The committee structure ensures effective and efficient working of the governing body.

The responsibilities are great and can seem daunting at times as politicians keep moving the 'goal posts'!

Governors are responsible for:-

- The standards of learning and pupil progress.
- The ethos of the school, for St. Joseph's, this means ensuring that its distinctive nature is maintained. That the gospel values are taught and practised.
- The maintenance and safety of the school premises.
- The school finances and their impact on pupil learning and safety, and endeavouring to ensure that the school is financially solvent.

In a Voluntary Aided School, the governors are the employers of the staff not the Local Authority.

The day-to-day running of the school is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and Senior management.

The role of Governor ing Body involves the following activities:-

- Visiting the school and asking questions to subject coordinators, getting a feel for what is being taught and the ethos in the school.
- Attending assemblies, celebrations and school performances.
- Attending the minimum of 6 committee meetings a year and 6 full board meetings a year.
- Attending internal and external training sessions.
- Interviewing new staff.
- Analysing data and asking pertinent questions.
- Writing reports / minutes
- Communication /meetings with staff and parents.
- Reading and keeping up to date with current educational literature.
- Attending external meetings and conferences.
- Conversations with and support to the Head Teacher.
- Attending meetings with others, eg., builders, the Diocese, Local Authority.
- Formulating operational strategy and strategic vision.

The D.F.E see the Governing Body's role as one of sharing the management of the school and O.F.S.T.ED. makes judgements on the impact and quality of the Governing Body.

No governor acts on their own or feels alone. All decisions are agreed by the whole governing body.

Governor business is covered by liability insurance. All serious decisions are supported by the Local Authority and the Diocese.

Every parent will have some skill or experience which will be of value to the decision making of the governing body

The governors of St. Joseph's fulfil this role, simply because they love the school and want every child to develop a thirst for learning, achieve as much as they are able, and make valuable contributions to society.