



Mission Statement

The Governing Body will aspire to place Christ at the centre of all we do, reflect the mission statements of both schools and ensure that they are at the heart of the communities they serve.

The Governing Body will aim to provide inclusive, safe and dynamic learning environments which nurture the whole child. Through the delivery of high quality curriculum provision with Literacy and Numeracy at the core, our aim will be for all our pupils to reach their highest potential

The Governing Body will challenge and support the Leadership Team and all staff to maintain high standards of teaching and learning at all times.

THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY - 2015-2016

Mary of the Cross Federation

The governors of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and the Cathedral School of St Mary were federated as from 1st September 2012. This was after consultation with concerned parties, especially parents, carers and staff of both schools. The governors of both schools were then amalgamated.

CAST

From April 1st 2014 all the Catholic schools in the Plymouth Diocese became part of the Catholic Academies Schools Trust

Who are Governors?

School Governors are people from the school's community who wish to make a positive contribution to children's education. They must be aged 18 or over at the date of their election or appointment, and there is no upper age limit. The term of office lasts for four years.

Governors are the largest volunteer force in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards through three key roles of setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability and monitoring and evaluating school performance.

What do Governors do?

Governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to young people's education, aspirations and life chances. They work as a team and have a vital role in raising school standards.

They are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education.

In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- a. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- b. **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and**
- c. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Setting strategic direction - this is for the short, medium and long term. It involves setting aims and objectives and setting policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. There will need to be clarity of vision, ethos and direction. Ensuring accountability - Contributing to the school self-evaluation, understanding strengths and weaknesses; reporting to key stakeholders - young people, parents, carers & staff.

Monitoring & Evaluation - Measuring progress, challenging progress and reviewing Improvement Plans; holding the Executive Headteacher and Leadership Team to account for improving the quality of teaching, achievement and behaviour and safety.

From September 2015, our Governing Body will meet nine times a year.

Our Governing Body works as a team and is accountable for the performance of the school to parents, guardians, carers and the wider community. It looks at the following:

- Plans the schools' future direction.
- Makes decisions on the schools' budget and staffing.
- Promotes effective ways of teaching and learning when setting school aims and policies.
- Ensures the appropriate curriculum is taught.
- Decides how the schools can develop and encourage the pupils' behaviour and spiritual, moral and social development.
- Makes sure that the school provides for all its pupils including those with special needs.
- Ensures that all safeguarding requirements are met.

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for the overall management of the schools and the Heads of Learning are responsible for the day to day management in each school. Each of the governors has a responsibility for a specific area and regularly meets with staff and visits classrooms. Governors are at the heart of how a school operates. It is vital that we get things right. How we see our job affects the interests of pupils, staff morale and how the school is seen by parents, guardians, carers and the whole school community.

WHO ARE OUR GOVERNORS?

Depending on the category of the school, the governing body will be made up of different numbers and categories of governors.

These are the types of Governor that we have in the Mary of the Cross Federation (Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and the Cathedral School of St Mary):-

Foundation Governors appointed by the Diocese
 Parent Governors – selected by election (or appointment if insufficient people stand for election) and drawn from parents and carers of children at the school
 Staff Governors – selected by election from teaching and support staff paid to work at the school

MARY OF THE CROSS FEDERATION

OUR GOVERNORS 2015-16

Marcia Wolstencroft	Chair of Governors (Foundation)
Marguerite Sperring	Vice Chair (Foundation)
Pauline Hands	Vice Chair (Foundation)
Paul Cotter	Executive Headteacher
Sean Harrison	Foundation
John Biddle	Foundation
Del Rhodes	Staff Governor
Nicola Chong	Parent Governor(The Cathedral School)
Tracy Cook	Parent Governor(Holy Cross)
Maureen Sexton	Foundation
Nancy Hardwick	Staff Governor (Holy Cross)
Lindsay Cooper –Smith	Staff Governor (The Cathedral School)
Carole Slade	Foundation
Bogdan Radu	Foundation
Gary Futchner	Foundation
Shelley England Governor	Head of Learning - Holy Cross School – Associate
Bernie Kennedy Governor	Head of Learning - The Cathedral School - Associate