



Our Vision Statement 'Learning for Life'

'Learning for life' with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' is at the heart of St Mary's. At our school children are seen as unique and will feel loved, safe and empowered to flourish so they reach their full potential both academically and personally.

Welcome to the Governor Newsletter

Termly Review – Spring 2024

Welcome to our termly newsletter, the purpose of which is to keep families informed about the activities of the school's governing body.

We hope that all our St Mary's families are enjoying the first signs of Spring and had a good Easter Holiday. Thank you again to the PTA & Friends for the wonderful annual Easter Egg Trail and all your support of their fundraising already this year.

Last term we are extremely proud to celebrate the work of the school and what has been achieved, following our new SIAMS report (which you can read on our [website here](#)).

"Joyful interactions reveal a loving culture. It is a place where all are unreservedly welcomed, dignified and safe. The extensive pastoral provision means families trust the school.

The innovative 'wellbeing champions' promote the importance of positive mental health for all. Pupils value how customs such as daily meditation help them to be their best selves.

Staff value being part of the school because they are trusted to seek the very best for every child. A range of training opportunities enables adults to grow.

The culture of togetherness means that at times of difficulty there is extensive support for one another. This is a striking expression of the vision"

Thank you to all of you for making St Mary's such a wonderful community, for another successful term, and we wish all our families a wonderful Easter.

About the school governors

For those unfamiliar with the work of the governing body, we have three core functions:

- To establish the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school;
- To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for the performance management of staff; and
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure that resources are used effectively.

Our aim is to provide an environment at St Mary's where every child is seen as unique, feels loved, safe and empowered to achieve their full potential academically and personally. We are ambitious for all our pupils and constantly ensure that this vision along with the school's core values of kindness, courage and trust are embedded in everything we do.

What we have been talking about this term

Staff training

This term our vice-chair James joined a whole staff meeting to observe first-hand the focus of school leaders on continuing professional development (CPD). Ensuring best possible outcomes for our children through staff training is a key objective in our School Development Plan.

Subject leaders for Maths - Mr Baddock, and English - Miss Simmons presented in our last governor meeting on the CPD in these core subjects, including 43 teacher training courses in maths alone! We are impressed that St Mary's approach is now a model for other schools in the area, and we often have visiting teachers come to St Mary's to learn from our approach.

Spiritual Development at St Mary's

At the start of this term governors discussed our mirrors, doors, and windows approach to spiritual development. This term Rev John and Jo our governors for Christian Distinctiveness and RE, observed on their monitoring visit the implementation of this through the school values, opportunities for collective worship and writing prayers, the learning of all faiths, inclusive language used throughout the school, and opportunities for courageous advocacy.

Curriculum

James is also our governor for curriculum and met with Mrs Severn this term who is the leader for school foundation subjects. Through monitoring visits and progress reports, governors are confident that the school's curriculum is established and being embedded. The bespoke curriculum has been designed by our school leaders to ensure knowledge progression is in place, and pupils will build on their prior knowledge and themes as they grow through the school. We encourage you to take a look at the curriculum and the way that the learning on core subjects and 'big questions' develops through year R to 6 on our [website here](#).

Governors Julia and Geoff joined Miss Simmons for a learning walk this term to see what is in place to support all children at St Marys access our curriculum. They were pleased to see a fun drama session on The Twits with all children taking part, pre-teaching sessions and Teaching Assistants supporting children to engage with teacher inputs.

Enrichment

Governors always seek assurance that the school provides the statutory framework for lessons and subject delivery, but also that the curriculum offers enrichment and extracurricular opportunities. The St Mary's curriculum includes trips to Butser Farm and Painshill Park for geography and history, whole school enrichment days such as Egyptian Day and Life Bus at the school. Governors can also see the positive impact of school choir events, sports fixtures, as well as the range of teacher and sports coach led after school clubs on offer.

Premises

Nurture in Nature Garden - With thanks to National Highways, Balfour Beatty and their volunteers we have a new polytunnel, pond and extended outdoor learning area to further support the school enrichment provision for learning outside the classroom.



Peace Place - Thanks to the incredible fundraising of St Mary's PTA and Friends, and a grant from Your Fund Surrey with the support of Councillor Amanda Boote, we have our new Peace Place which will be an inclusive and quiet space that can be used throughout the school day.



Thank you Mr Campbell

Mr Campbell has worked tirelessly on all these projects, and we also thank him for continuously seeking to ensure the school premises in particular these outdoor areas are safe, fun and inclusive.

Pupil Vacancies

Occasionally, in-year school places become available, due to families moving away. If you know of any families who might be interested in a place at our school, please ask them to contact the school

office for more details and to arrange a tour. We would love to show them how wonderful school life is at St Mary's.

Other things you can do to help

Support your child's progress with learning at home, read with your child daily, talk to them about what they have learned, and make the most of the school funded resources, Numbots and TTRS

By offering your time to the PTA, as a Parent Rep and/or when we ask for Parent/Carer volunteer working groups.

Help us offer enrichment opportunities such as swimming and school trips by making contributions via scopay, or speak to the Home School Link Worker or school office if you are having difficulty financially as there is support available.

Check if your child is entitled to Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

If you have a birthday party or other event coming up you can rent our school hall. We offer fantastic rates for one off and regular hires. Please get in touch with the school office for more info!

If you or a family member has a trade or a small business that can help with repairs/maintenance and you are willing to offer your services, please get in touch with the school office.

Latest information on our school governing body, including contact can be found [here](#)

There are currently no governor vacancies. Please direct any enquires to clerk@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk

Name of Governor	Governor Position	Role and Responsibilities
Jo Ajani	Foundation Governor	Christian Distinctiveness
Charlotte Amison	Parent Governor	SEND / Children in Care / LAC
Jacquie Chambers	Staff Governor	Ex-Officio, Finance and Assets
James Felgate	Parent Governor	Vice Chair of Governors Curriculum/Equalities and Diversity Online Safety/Pupil Outcomes
Melissa Hackney	Parent Governor	Finance and Assets Health and Safety
Geoff Hurst	Co-opted Governor	Chair of Governors Finance and Assets
Julia Lamaison	Co-opted Governor	Chair of Finance and Assets
John McCabe	Foundation Governor	Finance and Assets Christian Distinctiveness / wellbeing
Michelle Oliver	LA Governor	Child Protection / Safeguarding
Helen Simmons	Staff Governor	Staff Representative