



## **Governors of St Mark's C.E. Primary School**

Talbot Village, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH10 4JA

Headteacher: Andrew Bright

🌿 *Loving God - Serving others - Flourishing together* 🌿

### **AGM Chair Report**

Lisa McGaw, Chair of Governors, January 2026

During my fifth year as Chair of Governors, it has continued to be a very busy but rewarding year for our Governing Body as we welcomed our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) September 2025 and continued to support and challenge our senior leadership team with their school improvement journey. As a Governing Body we have continued to hold some meetings virtually alongside meeting in school termly for our full governing body meetings. We have also been into school conducting link visits and attending school events.

The aim of this report is to provide parents and the wider community with information about the work of the governing body in providing oversight, support and challenge. It is to ensure governors have been performing their statutory tasks and that they have had an impact in supporting the school. The report is in three parts. The first explains the structure and function of the governing body, the second highlights changes to the governing body and the third describes the work of the governors during the last year.

#### **1. Structure and Function**

The governing body of St Mark's Primary school is made up of a mix of parent, staff and Foundation governors. The Headteacher also sits on the board with full voting rights. The governing body has three core functions determined by the Department for Education:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing and ensuring effective financial performance.

The full governing body meets at least three times a year. There are also meetings held by an Admissions and Ethos committee who meet at least twice yearly. In addition, the governors form panels to deal with matters such as pay, complaints and the Headteacher's appraisal.

Outside the committee meeting cycle, governors also have link roles for Inclusion, Ethos, Curriculum, Safeguarding and specific subject areas and, where possible or invited, they attend school events or training days, attend interview panels, join external review feedback meetings and liaise on finance, attendance, policy reviews and other areas. The Chair and Vice Chair of Governors also aims to meet the Headteacher monthly.

## **2. Changes to the Governing Body and members 2024-2025**

The Governing Body remained very stable in 2024-2025. However, Mike Evans became foundation governors and in June 2025 we welcomed Dr Rute Marsh as an elected parent governor and Marie Ellaway as a foundation governor.

In December 2025, Lisa McGaw was re-elected as the Chair of Governors and Nick Wells, Vice Chair of Governors. For 2024-2025, I chaired the admissions committee and Mike Evans and Simon Casey were on the Performance Management Appraisal Panel. Mike Evans continues as the Safeguarding Link Governor and I am the Inclusion Link Governor. We thank these governors for taking on this additional responsibility and to all governors that visit as part of link roles. We also welcome Liz McHugh as a new member and are currently looking to recruit a further two members.

## **3. The work of the Governing Body**

Alongside our committee and board meetings, the most significant aspect of governance this last year included our SIAMS inspection in September 2025. We would like to recognise and celebrate the outcome of the inspection and formally thank all staff for the extra effort that went into showcasing what we offer our children throughout the year. We are really pleased that the hard work and commitment to our children was recognised and valued and the recommendations will form part of our continued school development work.

As a Governing Body we were also pleased to offer attendance at INSET and whole school events.

As a Governing Body we wrote four main objectives for the academic year 2024-2025 including:-

1) To carefully monitor the progress and attainment of pupil outcomes throughout the year. The Curriculum and Standards agenda items ensured that discussions took place in relation to pupil progress and attainment at each of the termly meetings and questions were prepared in relation to pupil data. The School Development Plan was reviewed at each FGB and governors sent questions relating to this to the Headteacher before each meeting. Governors were also presented with a subject leader focus for Maths to better understand the delivery of our Maths curriculum.

2) To establish link governor roles and regular governor training. Link governor roles have been established for:- Inclusion, where a governor meets termly with the Inclusion Co-ordinator to discuss the provision that we provide for our most vulnerable pupils; Safeguarding, where a

governor meets with the Headteacher to complete an annual audit of this area and ensure that all actions are in place across the year; SIAMS, where a governor meets with the RE subject leader; Curriculum, where a governor meets with the Deputy Headteacher termly. Link roles for English, Maths, PSHE, Science, Computing have also been initiated. Reports from the link visits are summarised at FGB meetings.

3) To recruit foundation governors and ensure that the governing body is well-equipped for the next 5 years. We advertised our foundation governor vacancies through the Diocese newsletter and Governor for Schools website. We recruited a new parent governor and filled one foundation governor vacancy.

Governor training events, offered by BCP, have been attended by our members from including The Responsibilities of the Governing Body for Children in Care, attendance and exclusions, Safeguarding Link role, SACRE and Preparing for Ofsted. All governors complete The Key for School Governors Safeguarding training annually and new governors complete an induction of courses depending on experience.

All governing body members have been offered and are attending governor training events offered by BCP, the NGA and The Key.

We formally thank Mr Bright and his team for continuing to support our pupils to be the best that they can be in all areas of their school life. Mr Bright, Miss Roberts and Mr Cooke ensure that the Governing Body are well informed of all areas of school life and welcome our support and challenge to maintain the momentum of school development for the best of our pupils.

We would like to close this report by thanking all members of our community for their continued support.

Our parents have been welcomed into school for events and parent consultations and continued to support good attendance and engagement at school. Our staff have continued to work hard to offer additional opportunities such as extra-curricular clubs and educational visits alongside an engaging curriculum and impactful interventions as needed. Our children have continued working hard and rising to the high aspirations that we have for them. Together we have continued providing the very best for our pupils and should be extremely proud of their achievements.

Closing feedback from our SIAMS report, September 2025:

"The highly effective implementation of the revised vision ensures that St Mark's continues to live up to its legacy of serving others."

"There is a strong inclusive culture."

“Provision for pupils with SEND and those who are considered vulnerable is highly effective. Early identification of needs and continual monitoring ensure pupils flourish.”