



St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School

Governing Body Annual Report to Parents – September 2025

Our Vision

As a Christian school, St Martin and St Mary is an inclusive and happy community; nurturing confidence, a thirst for learning and resilience in a safe loving environment. Our priority is developing the whole child spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically to live the most rewarding life.

'Life in all its fullness' John 10.10

Our Values

Our school values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.

The aim of this school is to provide a rich, broad and balanced education within a caring and stimulating Christian environment, serving the whole school community.

To create an environment in which learners are encouraged to fulfil their potential and make a positive contribution to society.

These values will help make our school a great place to be.

Friendship Love Forgiveness Trust Honesty Faith

Introduction

Welcome to the Governors Report for 2025!

You will see within this report much of what has been achieved by everyone at school over the last year, despite the changes brought about by the many factors out of our control.

In these uncertain times, it is even more important that our children feel safe and happy at school and I'm sure that you will agree there is clear evidence of this in the report, alongside the children's achievements. Many thanks to Louise and every member of our Team for making this happen.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your contribution to the life of the school which makes it such a successful and special place for the children to grow and learn.

I wish everyone at St Martin & St Mary Primary School all the very best for this school year and beyond.

Jen Braithwaite - Chair of Governors

Meet the governing board

Name	Governor Category	Additional Roles & Responsibilities	Committee
Jen Braithwaite	Foundation	Chair of Governors, Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, Looked After Children, Attendance, Pupil Premium	Staffing & Finance, Fabric, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Pupil Discipline, Appeals
Rev. James Richards	St Martin's Church		Staffing & Finance Chair, Pay, Staff Discipline & Dismissal Appeals
Sarah Stables	Foundation		Staffing & Finance, Staff Discipline & Dismissal, Pupil Discipline Appeals
Amy Thompson	Parent	Vice Chair, Link Governor, Governor Training, Admissions, Curriculum	Fabric, Health & Safety, Staff Discipline & Dismissal Appeals, Pupil Discipline
Nat Norris	Staff		Standards & Curriculum
Mike Corrie	Co-opted		Fabric, Health & Safety Chair, Admissions
Andrew Jarvis	Local Authority		Staffing & Finance
Elizabeth Young	Foundation		Standards & Curriculum
Vikki Bolton	Parent	Health & Safety	Standards & Curriculum Fabric, Health & Safety
Paul Parry	Foundation		Staffing & Finance
Tracey Hogg	Foundation		Standards & Curriculum
Vacancy	Foundation		
Louise Swindlehurst	Headteacher		All Committees
Rebecca Penney	Clerk		All Committees

Our Governing Body currently operates the following Committees:

- Staffing and Finance, chaired by Rev James Richards
- Fabric, Health & Safety, chaired by Mike Corrie
- Standards and Curriculum, chaired by Elizabeth Young
- Pay Committee, chaired by Rev James Richards

The Governing Body also appoint a Governor to have a special responsibility for each of the following aspects: Health and Safety, Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium children, Looked After Children, Attendance, Safeguarding and a Link/Training Governor.

The role of the governing board

The governing board exists to make sure that the school runs effectively. It is a strategic role, and the governing board performance manages the headteacher who runs the school on a day-to-day basis.

The core functions of the governing board are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- hold leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- oversee the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

Our school objectives and progress

- The work of the Governing Body is underpinned by our vision for all the children who attend our school. We want children to be equipped to enjoy a rich and full life, taking advantage of opportunities, sharing and celebrating success and prepared to endure the challenges that they will inevitably face in life. We aim to meet the learning and developmental needs of all children.
 - Our governing body also aims to secure long-term financial stability and a future for our school in a community with a rapidly diminishing pupil population.
 - This year, the school has already reorganised classes and teachers in an attempt to realise this ambition. The reduction of our PAN to 30 has been agreed for September 2026. Further changes and adjustments are inevitable in the coming years to meet this challenge.
 - Areas of school development focus for the coming year;
 - ✓ Better attendance for all children, particularly are most vulnerable and SEND children
 - ✓ Curriculum development – defining and assessing essential knowledge
 - ✓ More effective assessment processes
 - ✓ Improved outcomes in reading, writing and maths
 - ✓ Improved behaviour and attitudes to learning
 - ✓ Development of courageous advocacy
 - Pupil progress has been very positive, particularly where some children have come from very low starting points to achieve well. However, this needs to remain a focus for development as we continue to recover and support children affected by school absence during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Attendance is still a concern where children miss chunks of learning that they don't recover from, particularly vulnerable children and those with SEND.
 - As noted, we face the ongoing challenge of falling pupil numbers, the impact this has on our finances and the subsequent impact this has on school organisation, curriculum management and teacher workload.
 - Parents can continue to support the school by engaging with staff and trusting us to maintain the quality of education and provision that has been established at St Martin and St Mary CofE Primary over many years. We have an incredible staff team who work tirelessly to achieve the very best for your children despite the challenges that we now face.
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