St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School

Governing Body Annual Report to Parents – November 2026

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 2026!

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

In these continued 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 continuing to go above and beyond to make this happen.

I would like to thank all of you for your contributions to the life of the school, which makes it such a successful and special place for the children to grow, learn and thrive.

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, Pupil Discipline, Appeals
Sarah Stables	Foundation	Pay & Performance	Staffing & Finance, Staff Dismissal & Appeal, Pay
Amy Thompson	Parent	Vice Chair, Link Governor, Governor Training, Curriculum	Standards & Curriculum, Pay, Fabric, Health & Safety, Staff Dismissal & Appeals, Pupil Discipline, Admissions
Nat Norris	Staff	Cyber security	Standards & Curriculum
Charlotte Casey	Staff	Health & Safety	Fabric, Health & Safety
Elizabeth Young	Foundation	Pupil premium, behaviour & Attendance	Standards & Curriculum, Admissions, Pupil Discipline
Tracey Hogg	Foundation		Standards & Curriculum
Chris Burstow	Parent		Staffing & Finance, Pay appeals, Staff Dismissal & Appeals
Vacancy	Foundation		
Vacancy	Parent		
Louise Swindlehurst	Headteacher		All Committees
Megan Preece	Clerk		All Committees

Our Governing Body currently operates the following Committees:

- Staffing and Finance, chaired by Sarah Stables
- Fabric, Health & Safety, chaired by Jen Braithwaite
- Standards and Curriculum, chaired by Elizabeth Young
- Pay Committee, chaired by Sarah Stables

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.
- The reduction of our PAN to 30 has been implemented for September 2026. Further changes and adjustments are inevitable in the coming years to meet the challenges of falling pupil numbers.
- Areas of school development focus for the coming year;
    - ✓ Better attendance for all children, particularly are most disadvantaged and SEND children
    - ✓ Curriculum development – defining and assessing essential knowledge
    - ✓ More effective assessment processes
    - ✓ Improved outcomes in reading, writing and maths, in particular for disadvantaged
    - ✓ 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.
- Attendance is still a concern where children miss chunks of learning that they don't recover from, particularly disadvantaged 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.