



St George's School Governing Board Annual Report 2020

The Governing Body, with the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school and has three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Our Full Governing Body is made up of Parent Governors, Local Authority Governors, Church Governors, Staff Governors and Co-Opted Governors. The full membership list can be found on the school website at <https://www.st-georges-pri.essex.sch.uk/meet-the-governors/>

In order to fulfil our core functions, we have 3 committees, each meeting at least once per term:

- 1) Steering Group (Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of Resources, Chair of Curriculum, School Head)
- 2) Resources Committee: Overseeing all things pertaining to finance and buildings
- 3) Curriculum Committee: Overseeing all things pertaining to pupils' achievement and attainment

These committees report on a termly basis to the Full Governing Body.



The governing body holds our children's best interests, both academically and pastorally, at the heart of all their decision making. We enjoy making regular visits to the school, to support the children, parents and staff. We value our links with St George's Church and the wider village community. We have a very active role in the Stour Education Partnership, our School-led Improvement Group, and we collaborate with other small schools to provide challenging opportunities in sport and other enrichment activities. Through this provision of a wide range of extra-curricular activities and sporting challenges we aim to inspire and nurture every child to develop excellence in their own skills for future life.

The overriding concern for the Governors in 2020 has been the impact on our whole school community of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The initial impact was two fold:

- 1) Loss of a familiar, consistent learning environment and isolation from friends within the school as pupils and parents undertook the difficult task of home learning
- 2) A whole new way of working for all of our teachers and support staff, delivering remote education while also running school-based provision for critical worker and vulnerable children.



Leaders and teachers had to respond to ever-evolving guidance from the DfE, including the phased reopening of schools in June.

We are pleased to say that with generous support from parents / carers the measures put in place worked well and as a Governing Body a huge debt of gratitude goes to all.

As we return to our school environment for the new academic year, with many new safety measures and processes in place, once again with generous support and understanding from parents/carers, the children and staff are settling well into school life. Our risk assessment is reviewed regularly to ensure we are compliant with the latest government guidance and to ensure the school is as safe as it can be in the circumstances.

As a Governing Body we recognise the tremendous effort this has taken by all our staff and in particular our head Mrs Keitch who has exemplified our school vision, spent many hours in consultation with our Chair, the Local Authority and with our pupils and parents/carers to ensure our pupils continue as best they can in achieving their full potential.

Also in 2020 has been the completion of the dissolving of the PFI arrangement for 12 schools in N.Essex. This has been a significant transition which has required huge input and workload, particularly for our Business Manager, as we have had to forge new alliances for the provision of key service with minimum impact on our finances.

We recognise and our thankful to our entire school community for working together to make St George's a safe fulfilling environment for your children, our pupils, to thrive.

