



The Mortimer Federation of St John's and St Mary's Governing Board Review of our work 2024-25

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The Role of the Governing Board

Governing boards are the strategic decision makers and vision setters in every school. They play a vital role in ensuring the best possible education for every child by creating robust accountability for school leaders. Crucially that means using and being familiar with objective data on the performance of pupils, teachers and finances, to ask the right questions and ensure resources are allocated to school priorities. We are responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. Governors of church schools are also responsible for overseeing and maintaining the Christian Ethos of the school.

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The Three Core Strategic Functions of Governance:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring its money is well spent.

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Our Governing Board

- The Governing Board is a group of volunteers which includes parents, school staff and representatives from the local community and the church. We have met, as a full group, five times this year with the four sub-committees meeting at least five times to review and discuss the various aspects of the school, the children's progress and the school budget. All the Full Governing Board meetings were held face to face this year with governors able to join remotely if required.
- More information on the Governing Board can be found on the federation website:
<https://mortimerschools.org/about/governors/>

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- The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association has continued to do an amazing job arranging a variety of imaginative events and raising money to help the school. The money has been spent on maintaining the libraries at both schools, contributing to the running of the minibus, supporting Foundation Stage (FS) changes, supporting each class with resources and providing all Year 6 Leavers with a book and Year 2 Leavers with a Bible. The money has also been used to purchase new IT equipment including an interactive board and iPad trolley. The PTFA also funded all coach travel to London for theatre performances of Matilda and The Lion King, as well as live theatre show for FS and Year 1 pupils at Christmas.

The governors and staff wish to thank the PTFA for all their hard work.

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Focus

The Governors have:

- met with school staff (via Teams or face to face) to review progress against the School Strategic Plan.
- reviewed and challenged spending assumptions, ensuring sufficient funds to support the school improvement. Ensuring grants are correctly spent such as the Pupil Premium Grant and Sports Funding.
- reviewed and approved all necessary delegated school policies.
- ensured all statutory duties are met with safeguarding as a priority.
- monitored the school budgets.
- supported the Executive Headteacher and her staff through issues within the schools.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

The Governors have:

- supported the Executive Headteacher and staff through preparation for and during successful OFSTED (Mortimer St John's) and SIAMS (Mortimer St Mary's) inspections.
- carried out numerous school visits to ensure that subject leaders are supported with their strategic work in producing action plans and meeting their objectives.
- in March 2025, the Schools Financial Value Standard form was submitted for scrutiny to the Local Authority to show that we have secure financial management in place. The Executive Headteacher and School Business Manager have successfully ensured that the school has a positive, if very tight, budget for the coming year for which the governors are very appreciative.
- a highly effective Clerk to Governors who provides strategic support for the board.

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Governor Changes

Unfortunately, two governors have left this year as well as having two Foundation Governor places unfilled from last year.

Claire Woodburn stood down in October 2024 and, after an election, Daniel Hillman replaced her as a Parent Governor.

Janet Holder was appointed in January 2025 as a Foundation Governor to fill one of the vacant slots.

Scott Seton transferred from Parent Governor to Foundation Governor and, following two elections (the first was a tie), Charlotte Baggleley was elected to replace him.

Keith Shine stepped down in August 2025 and his place as Foundation Governor was filled by Colin Harbidge so we now have a full quota of governors.

The Governors would like to take this opportunity of thanking Claire and Keith for all their hard work for the benefit of the Federation. We also welcome Daniel, Janet, Colin and Charlotte to the team.

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In Conclusion

The Governors have:

- carefully scrutinised information about progress and attainment of pupils and financial performance and endeavoured to ensure that resources are in place to support everyone to achieve their best.
- identified that the school is financially sound, the standards of teaching and learning and pupil outcomes are excellent and the school has good strategies in place to achieve the targets set out in the School Strategic Plan.
- noted that Mrs Beswick and the staff are consistently demonstrating their passion and purpose in delivering the best for all the children. The Governors are proud to be associated with the pupils and staff at the school. We are pleased with the way Mrs Beswick continues to show her passion for teaching, the staff and the schools.

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- have carried out effective school visits to inform their strategic view of the schools in practice.
- have continued to streamline and further develop effective working protocols following on from federating four years ago.

The Governing Board wishes to acknowledge the continued dedication and support of the federation's staff, parents and carers, and finally the children of the federation who do so much to make us very proud.

Craig Hassey– Chair of Governors

Carol Macdonald – Vice Chair