

Meet the Governors

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Nympsfield

Introduction

When talking about school, most people have an understanding of the role of the headteacher, teaching and support staff, but the Governing Board is often a bit of a mystery. The question is often asked, 'who are the governors and what do they do?' We hope that this information sheet gives you an insight to our role in school life and who we are!

Further information can be found on the school website under the 'Our School' tab, including the board's governing documents and attendance at meetings.

Our four core strategic functions

In accordance with our legal obligations, we endeavour to operate at a strategic level, leaving the school's senior leadership responsible and accountable for the operational day-to-day running of the school. Our core strategic functions, as a Governing Board, are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Acting as a critical friend by providing support and advice to the school;
- Holding the school to account for the educational standards it achieves and the quality of the education it provides, including the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure its money is well spent.

Role of the Governing Board

The headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, the implementation of policy and operation of the curriculum. Governors have a responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review, plans and procedures within which the school operates.

As a Board, our overarching responsibility lies in ensuring that we comply with our legal and canonical duty to ensure that the Catholic character of the School is preserved and developed. All governors have a duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school in order to fulfil the objects set out in its governing documents.

Membership of the Governing Board

Governors come from all walks of life, not just from an educational background.

The current Instrument of Government, which was revised on 1st October 2020, makes provision for 12 governors as follows:

| Type of governor | Name | Appointed by |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 x Foundation Governors | Sydney Gwyer (Co-Chair) Gabriella Tiley (Co-Chair) Nicola Connolly 4 x Vacancy | Bishop of Clifton |
| 2 Parent Governors | 2 x Vacancy | Parent election |
| 1 Headteacher | Clare Howells (Acting) | Ex Officio |
| 1 Staff Governor | Charlotte Hathaway | Staff |
| 1 Local Authority Governor | Loraine Patrick | Nominated by the LA and appointed by the governing body |

All governors have equal status. Although governors are appointed and elected by different groups, their central concern is the welfare of the school as a whole.

Governors have a general duty to act fairly and without prejudice at all times.

Governors do not normally act alone but as members of a corporate team. Individual governors have power only when it is delegated specifically to them by the whole governing board, or in certain exceptional circumstances, such as, calling an extraordinary meeting.

The governors

Nicola Connolly – is a barrister specialising in family law, with vast experience of finance and children matters. She is a parent of children who attend the school.

Syd Gwyer - moved to Nympsfield with her husband in 1971. Their 7 children all attended the school. Syd worked as a dentist in the NHS, with her husband and have both been active within the Parish, supporting schools via PTA and Governors. She is a catechist and runs Communion classes at the school.

Clare Howells –Headteacher of the school.

Charlotte Hathaway – Year 5 class teacher at the school.

Loraine Patrick – is a member of Dursley Town Council, has previously been an elected member of Stroud District Council, and is currently the County Councillor for Dursley Division. She met her Husband whilst they were both in the Army serving in Hong Kong, he was the chief instructor of the parachute club and she was the chief instructor of the saddle club. They moved to Dursley in 1993. Loraine runs the Highdale Stud, breeding competition horses. She is a BHSAPC (British Horse Society Accredited Professional Coach).

Gabriella Tiley - following careers in banking, commercial asset management and the Army Reserve, she spent some years working in her local parish and as a Registrar of births, deaths and marriages. Her 4 sons attended St Joseph's between 2000 – 2020, before moving on to St Peter's Catholic High School in Gloucester. Gabriella is in her 7th year as a Foundation governor at St Joseph's, has a strong commitment to Catholic Education and

feels privileged to be able to use her professional skills in support of the school. She is also the Vice Chair of the Interim Executive Board at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Malmesbury.

Governor Roles

Every year governors agree which functions will be delegated to individual governors, normally during the first governing board meeting in September. Nominated/link roles are identified according to the needs of the school and include any statutory roles, as required. Nominated governors, liaising with members of the Senior Leadership Team and subject leaders, as appropriate, take responsibility for monitoring and decision making, as appropriate and report on their work to the full governing board.

The table below identifies the governor nominated/link roles for 2023/24:

| Nominated/Link Role | Governor |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Art | |
| Chaplaincy and Collective worship | Syd Gwyer |
| Communication, including Parental Engagement | |
| Computing | |
| Design Technology | Gabriella Tiley |
| Data Protection | Loraine Patrick |
| Drop Everything & Read | Nicola Connolly |
| English | |
| Finance | Gabriella Tiley |
| Geography | Syd Gwyer |
| History | Syd Gwyer |
| Health & Safety + Premises | Gabriella Tiley |
| Maths | Nicola Connolly |
| MFL | Syd Gwyer |
| Music | Gabriella Tiley |
| PE & Sport | Syd Gwyer |
| Pupil Premium and Children in Care | Gabriella Tiley |
| RE & PSHE + RSE | Syd Gwyer |
| Safeguarding and Child Protection | Nicola Connolly |
| Science | |
| Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and Inclusion (including Attendance and Behaviour) | Gabriella Tiley |
| Staff Well-being | Nicola Connolly |
| Eco Champion | Syd Gwyer |

To fulfil their link role, governors may visit the school to meet with senior leaders and subject leaders, and sometimes carry out a learning walk and may also spend some time meeting pupils to learn about their experiences. Our work must not disrupt the smooth running of the school day, therefore many of our meetings take place after the end of the school day, which probably accounts for why we seem to be invisible!

Full governing board meetings

The governing board must meet at least three times per school year. For the school year 2020-2021 the governing board has elected to hold a minimum of nine meetings.

Delegated Committees/ Panels

In addition to the full governing board meetings, there are two standing committees/panels:

- Pay and Conditions committee
- Head Teacher's Performance Management Panel.

Other Panels

From time to time, other panels will be called by the clerk from amongst the membership of the governing board, according to need, for such matters as: complaints, exclusions, staff conduct and appeals. These Panels will be comprised of three governors.

Interested?

Do think seriously about coming forward to serve as a school governor at St Joseph's and be part of our team. Helping to shape the education of the children in our community and support our excellent staff, is very rewarding. Previous experience is not necessary, and full training is given. It is not a requirement for parent governors to be Catholic. Members of all faiths and none are welcome to serve as parent governors.

If you have any unanswered questions about the Governing Body, do not hesitate to contact me: foundationgovernor3@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk or our Clerk, Roger Slater: clerk@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk

Gabriella Tiley
Co-Chair