

Composition and Role of the Governing Body

St Mary's Catholic High School is a Voluntary Aided school and its Governing Body consists of both appointed and elected governors totalling 18 in all.

Foundation Governors

Foundation governors at the school represent the interests of the Archdiocese of Liverpool who are the Trustees of the school. The role of the foundation governor is to ensure that the school is clearly recognisable as Christian in its ethos and that its role is seen in the context of the provision for Catholic children in the whole of the Archdiocese. There are 10 foundation governors at the school.

Parent Governors

Parents of pupils registered at the school are eligible to stand for election as a parent governor. They are elected by other parents at the school. Full time carers of pupils may also stand for election. There are 3 elected parent governors on St Mary's Governing Body.

Staff Governors

The Head teacher is automatically eligible to be a full member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office. Head teachers have the choice of being a governor. If a Head teacher chose not to be a governor their place on the Governing Body could not be taken by any one else. Both teaching and support staff who are paid to work at the school are eligible to stand as staff governors. They are elected by other members of staff at the school and, in the case of St Mary's, consist of 2 teaching staff governors and 1 non-teaching staff governor.

L.E.A. Governors

L.E.A. Governors are appointed by the Local Education Authority, in this case Wigan Education Authority. A person who is eligible to be a staff governor may not be an L.E.A. governor. There is 1 L.E.A. governor at St Mary's.

Associate Members

There are several associate members who attend meetings of the governing body at St Mary's. Their presence provides valuable expertise in a variety of areas. However, associate members do not have the right to vote at the meetings.

Governors generally hold their office for a period of four years at a time. During this time they have the opportunity to attend training courses and workshops on a comprehensive range of topics, provided by the LEA and the Archdiocese, and regularly receive updates on salient issues from a variety of sources.

Governors provide guidance and support rather than manage. The role of a governor is essentially that of a 'critical friend', who is there to give direction and focus to the school management. The management of a school is the responsibility of the headteacher.

Ordinary meetings of the governing body are usually held once a term throughout the school year. Topics covered in meetings may include planning the school's long term vision through the school development plan, target setting and monitoring, the school budget, reporting examination results and the ratifying of school policies. However much of the work is devolved to a series of committees to ensure that the increasing workload is dealt with efficiently.

The governing body is answerable to parents and the wider community.

It should be noted that elected governors are not delegates or representatives of their electorate, but form part of the corporate body governing the school. The Governing Body makes and acts upon its decisions as a unit. No governor has the power or right to act on behalf of the Governing Body unless delegated to do so for a particular function by the Governing Body.

Correspondence for the Governors may be addressed to the Clerk to the Governing Body at the school.