



St. Michael's Woolmer Green C of E School:

Governors Letter – Autumn Term 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors at the school and to outline the role of governors at St Michael's. I have been part of The Governing Body since September 2018 but have had a long association with the school as a parent in the 90s/00s, when I was chair of The Friends, and as the leader at St Michael's Pre-school until 2017.

What Governors do

The governing board is the school's legally accountable body and must operate in the best interests of the school. The task of the governing board is to lead the school strategically, at St Michael's this is focusing on the three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity and implementation of the school's unique Christian vision, ethos and strategic direction runs through all aspects of school life.
2. Holding the school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent

How we Work

The Governing Body has established two main committees:

- Finance and Resources (FRC)
- Learning and Pupil Progress (LPP)

The full governing body and two main committees meet each school term.

We have two other committees which meet only occasionally, or when the need arises:

- The Admissions Committee
- The Complaints committee

Your Governors

Debbie May	Parochial Church Council (PCC)	Chair of Governors Chair of Admissions Safeguarding Governor LPP and FRC
Jan Martin	Headteacher	LPP and FRC
Rev'd David Munchin	Ex-Officio	Chair of Complaints FRC
Stella Dunlop	Local Education Authority (LEA)	Chair of FRC
Gail Lumsden	PCC	Chair of LPP SIAMS Governor
Ashley Cordell	Parent Governor	LPP
Leah Peters	Staff	LPP Admissions
Rev'd Christie Gilfeather	PCC	LPP
Karen Wallace-Poultney	PCC	LPP
Jay Nair	Diocesan Board of Education (DBE)	FRC
Tawanda Hondora	Parent	FRC



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As Governors we also share a common objective which is the wider school community – working in partnership with you as parents and carers and staff to ensure that every child can succeed and reach their full potential. To achieve this, and to carry out our role as Governors effectively, we need to know what issues are important to you (so we remain responsive) and ensure that you know what issues Governors are discussing (so that we remain accountable). That is why as Governors we work closely with Mrs Martin and staff to ensure that we continue to deliver a high standard of education to our children

I think that the most important thing to note is that Governors are a team, not a collection of individuals or groups with separate agendas. However much we may differ in our opinions and experiences we are united by our commitment to the school and the responsibility we share for the school's long term success.

Becoming a Governor

Being a school governor is not only a rewarding opportunity to volunteer and help young people in your local community, it is also a chance to gain transferable skills - leadership, strategy, and management to name a few! We will soon have a vacancy for parent governor and information and application forms will be sent out shortly. Experience in education, marketing, human resources or finance are useful for governorship but enthusiasm and an appetite to learn and contribute can be every bit as important as more specialist skills.

Challenges

It is no secret that as a result of inflation, general underfunding and in particular the underfunding of staff payraises, balancing the budget is a prime concern for all governing bodies in schools. A particular concern for us this year is the replacement of aging computers that will soon be incompatible with new running systems. We would like to reach out to you with the hope that you might work for or know of companies that are replacing computers. To find out more about specification details please email James Lawson, our School Business Manager (SBM@woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk). We are also keen to update our website to include drone photography of the school. Perhaps you could help with this?

Contacting the Governing Body

I am looking forward to meeting you at events in the coming year, firstly at Parent Consultation meetings on Wednesday 29th November. As mentioned above, as part of our partnership with you, we are always happy to hear from you. Please email chair@woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. On behalf of The Governing Body, I would like to wish children, parents, carers and all staff a very happy year at St Michael's.

Best Wishes,

Debbie May
Chair of Governors.