

The Governing Body

Much Woolton Catholic Primary School is a Voluntary Aided school and its Governing Body consists of both appointed and elected governors.

What do Governors do?

The governors' work affects most aspects of the school's work. They establish, with the Head teacher, aims for the school, and approve policies - for curriculum, behaviour and discipline, for example; and are responsible for the school's budget and the use and maintenance of the premises.

The governors, together as a body, have a range of legal responsibilities, so being a governor is an important commitment and new governors should be willing to attend training to help them learn what is entailed.

Committees

Our governing body is split into 3 main committees who convene termly and report to the full body meeting which is also termly. These meetings precede the half term holiday each term.

These 3 committees are: School Improvement; Curriculum; Finance, Staffing and Premises.

There are also smaller committees which meet sporadically throughout the year dependent on need and the school calendar. These are: Pay, Admissions and Safeguarding. These committees also report to the full body.

Should the need arise, the governors will also convene disciplinary and grievance committees.

Class Links

Our governing body enjoys links with classes and year groups. If possible Governors will visit their assigned classes each term to see what they are doing, look at the work in books and spend some time with the children and the class teacher. This enables governors to see what is going on in and around the school and build closer ties with children and staff.

Foundation Governors

Foundation governors at the school represent the interests of the Archdiocese of Liverpool who are 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 provision for Catholic children of the Archdiocese.

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. The school has two elected parent governors.

Do Parent Governors have Special Responsibilities?

No. Parent Governors do not have 'extra' duties. All governors are equally responsible and discharge their responsibilities as a body, not individually. The Parent Governors speak as parents: they can't speak for all parents.

How are Parent Governors Elected?

Parent Governors must be people (aged at least 18) who have a child (ren) at the school when they are elected. Nomination forms are available from the school. Each form must be signed by the candidate. Candidates can also make a short statement about themselves - a maximum of 50 words will be allowed and this will be rigidly applied. A simple form for this purpose will be provided with nomination forms.

If more nominations are received than there are places to fill, there will be a secret ballot and the Headteacher will send to each parent, ballot forms (1 per parent) and a box at school reception for their return. The form explains how votes may be cast.

If the number of nominations received is the same as the number of places to be filled, then those people will be declared elected. If there are fewer, those nominated will be declared elected and it will be for the governing body to fill any remaining vacancy by appointing a parent governor.

Staff Governors

The Head teacher is automatically eligible to be a full member of the Governing Body by virtue of the office. Headteachers have the choice of being a governor. 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 the staff at the school. The school has two staff governors.

Local Authority Governors

Local Authority governors are appointed by the Local Authority of Liverpool. There is one Local Authority governor at Much Woolton, the position of which is currently vacant.

Associate Members

There are of associate members who attend meetings of the Governing Body at Much Woolton (such as School Improvement Partners, School Business Manager etc). Their presence provides valuable expertise in a variety of areas. Associate members, however, do not have the right to vote at meetings.

Further Information

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 Local Authority and the Archdiocese, and receive updates on salient issues from a variety of sources.

Governors provide guidance and support. The role of a governor is that of a 'critical friend', who is there to give direction and focus to the school leadership. The management of the school is the responsibility of the Head teacher.

Meetings of the full 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 Improvement Plan, target setting and monitoring, and the school budget.

Much of the work, however, is devolved to a series of committees to ensure the workload is dealt with effectively. The Governing Body is answerable to parents and the wider community. Correspondence for the Governors may be addressed to the Clerk to the Governing Body at the school.

The members of the Governing Body are as follows:

Foundation Governors

Fr T Buckley

Mr J Carson

Miss C Chapman

Mrs M Gormely

Mrs C Higgins

Mrs M McDonald

Mrs M Monkhouse

Mr R Walker

Parent Governors

Mrs K Small

Mrs T Graham

Staff Governors Mr M White Mrs D Bennett

Local Authority Governor Councillor R O'Byrne