

St. Gregory's Governing Board Annual Statement 2022 - 2023

The Governing Board consists of twelve members. During 2022 - 2023 there were some changes to membership due to governors coming to the end of their term of office or relinquishing their role due to personal circumstances. However, at the end of the school year, through the appointment of a Foundation Governor and parent elections, the Board is at full strength.

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all Governing Boards, the four strategic functions of St Gregory's Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of Catholic vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for the internal organisation, management, and control of the school, including performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent;
- Ensuring that St. Gregory's Catholic High School is at least as academically distinguished as other schools, locally and nationally.

There were three committees in operation with clear Terms of Reference:

- Standards: individual pupil progress and outcomes, curriculum matters and the quality of teaching and learning;
- Finance and Resources: all matters relating to the financial implications of staffing, curriculum demands, buildings and health and safety;
- Community: pastoral including safeguarding, well-being, attendance and punctuality, vulnerable groups, disadvantaged pupils, social, moral, and spiritual development.

The Board has used the expertise of its governors to staff the committees to ensure the appropriate level of support and challenge to the Head and Senior Leadership Team throughout the academic year through governor visits, its scheduled committee and full Governing Board meetings.

This year the Governing Board has continued to develop a better understanding of the day-to-day work of departments, through link meetings with some core and non-core subject leaders. The Board is moving to biannual meetings with subject leaders. These meetings have been welcomed by governors and staff. The Governing Board will seek to develop these links further during the next academic year by refocusing on core and EBACC subjects as well as other whole school issues. The Governing Board has participated fully in the staff appointment process throughout the school year, working with the Headteacher to secure high quality staff in all areas of school life.

Policies were scrutinised by the relevant committee before ratification by the Full Governing Board.

The Governing Board is fully committed to the school's Mission statement and working with all members of the school's community, and is resolute in its determination to see it in action on a daily basis.

The school has continued to focus on addressing gaps in pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding resulting from schooling affected by Covid. The robust online teaching and learning during the pandemic meant pupils in all year groups were in a strong position to make significant academic progress on their return to face-to-face teaching. Secure and

consistent teaching since then has contributed to ensuring that year 11 pupils were fully prepared for their GCSEs.

The school's Mission Statement underpins the school's work in all areas backed up by its statement of curriculum intent. During 2022 – 2023, the Governing Board has been delighted to see the school continue to build on good practice, drawing on its own very effective self-evaluation as well as the findings of regular external reviews of key elements of its provision. The school's development plan focused on identified priorities with clear success criteria as it continued to strive to provide outstanding educational opportunities for all pupils.

The school continues to expand and modifications to aspects of the building have been identified for action to reflect curriculum and whole school needs. This has all been subject to governor scrutiny and approval. During the academic year, work has been undertaken to provide a much-needed new reception to be operational for September 2023. This has meant the remodelling of some classrooms to provide appropriate teaching facilities for some subjects.

The Board recognises the strong leadership by the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team. Due to promotions, there will be some changes to the Senior Leadership Team from September 2023. The Governing Board took part in the appointment of the Assistant Headteachers to replace those leaving and were very impressed with the quality of those appointed.

The Headteacher and senior Leadership Team are held accountable by the relevant committees which continue to scrutinise fully the procedures and practice relating to:

- Curriculum intent and the quality of teaching and learning
- Assessment and marking
- Safeguarding
- Support for pupil premium, SEND and disadvantaged pupils and families
- Premises and Health and safety

In terms of Year 11, the Governing Board were pleased to see their excellent GCSE results, the result of hard work by pupils and the professionalism of teaching and support staff. Pupils have been able to move onto the next stage of their chosen educational pathway and their success reflects the school's continued progress in maximising pupils' academic potential in the context of the school's 'Ambition for All' culture.

The Governing Board remains under no illusion that the impact of the pandemic on pupils in all years was significant and its impact still apparent in some areas. The Governing Board will continue to support and challenge school in all areas of its work and especially in relation to the content and delivery of the pupils' educational entitlement to ensure that any gaps in knowledge, skills and understanding can be addressed and pupils' academic progress secured. Similarly, it will focus on the needs of disadvantaged pupils, health and safety, the well-being of the school community and will continue to support and actively promote the Catholic life of the school.

September 2023