



Governor's Newsletter. Spring Term 2024

Social Media and Pupil Behaviour

At our recent Full Governing Board Meeting we discussed the impact of social media and online gaming on the behaviour of some pupils. Recently the school has had to deal with some extremely poor and challenging behaviour, from a small group of pupils, as a result of inappropriate interactions on social media and gaming platforms. Unfortunately, while these interactions happen out of school hours, the fall-out in terms of aggression and anxiety is being brought into school. Senior leaders and staff are having to manage unacceptable behaviour from pupils, which is not a direct result of the pupils' experiences during the school day. I am sure you can appreciate that the main responsibility for overseeing and managing pupils' interaction with social media and gaming platforms is with you as parents and not the school.

As governors, therefore, we are asking parents to support the school by ensuring you appropriately oversee and monitor your children's access to and use of social media and gaming platforms. The school provides parents with access to advice and support via its [E-Safety Help](#) page on the school website. There is also a link to the [Safer Internet website](#). All parents are expected to abide by the Home-School Agreement, which does refer to your responsibility for overseeing your child's general behaviour and online safety.

The school will continue to work with parents to ensure children and families are given advice and support on how to manage social media and online gaming platforms. Governors are asking parents to continue to work with and support the school by being vigilant about overseeing and monitoring their children's online experiences.

Governing body

Our governing body membership is currently:
Peter Falconbridge Co-opted governor

(Chair)

Cathy Irons Co-opted governor

(Vice Chair)

John Forrest Co-opted governor

Vacancy Co-opted governor

Vacancy Co-opted governor

Vacancy Foundation governor

Mike Marsh Foundation governor

James Nicolson Foundation governor

Neil Turner Parent governor

Vacancy Parent governor

Dale Webster Parent governor

Mrs Dorothy Marlow Headteacher governor

Mrs Sarah T-Storey Staff governor

Thomas Dowle Local Authority
governor

Mrs Tracey Fisher Associate member

Mrs J. Devonshire Associate member

As you can see, we have vacancies for 1 parent governor, 2 co-opted governors and 1 foundation governor. The vacancy for a foundation governor has arisen because the Rev Rachel Pennant is no longer the Vicar at St. Catherine & St. Paul's Church. Until that vacancy is filled, we will be one foundation governor short on our governing board. If you are interested in applying for the parent governor post or either of the co-opted governor posts you can download the application form and a description of the role from the [governor page](#) on the school website. If you would like to discuss a role first before applying then speak to Mrs Marlow, or email the Chair of Governors at admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk.

Catch-up. As the chair of governors, I have met with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, during the spring term, for informal 'catch-up' meetings. We met on **09.01.24, 13.02.24** and **12.03.24** At these meetings we discussed information regarding pupils and staff; e.g., child protection concerns, staff vacancies and recruitment.

LINK VISITS

All non-staff governors have a 'Link Governor' responsibility. In this role they monitor specific aspects of the school to ensure good progress and management. The current link governor responsibilities are: -

Peter Falconbridge	SEND & Performance Management Vulnerable groups
Cathy Irons	Safeguarding & SFVS Governor training
John Forrest	Christian Distinctiveness
Mike Marsh	English
Dale Webster	Mathematics
Jim Nicolson & Dale Webster	Health & Safety.

Since January 2024 the following link visits have taken place;

Performance Management Link Visits. Mr Peter Falconbridge carried out his first spring term Performance Management Link visit on **01.02.24** when he chaired a meeting of the Performance Review Committee (PRC). The committee met with Mrs D. Marlow to agree appraisal targets for her role as Headteacher. Mr Peter Falconbridge carried out his second spring term Performance Management Link visit on **20.03.24** when he chaired a meeting of the PRC. The committee met with Mrs D. Marlow and Mrs J. Devonshire to review the spring 2024 Quality of Teaching and Learning Profile and review the current staffing structure.

Christian Distinctiveness Link Visit. Mr John Forrest carried out his spring term Christian Distinctiveness Link Visit on **08.02.24** when he visited Mrs T. Lines (RE Lead). They discussed time allocated for the RE Curriculum, opportunities to develop spirituality across the school and involvement in the Archbishop's Young Leader's Award.

Vulnerable Groups Link Visit. Mr. Peter Falconbridge carried out his spring term Vulnerable Groups Link Visit on **13.02.24**. He met with Mrs D. Marlow and Mrs J. Devonshire to discuss the progress of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium pupils.

Wellbeing Link Visit. Mr Peter Falconbridge carried out his Wellbeing Link Visit on **13.02.24**. He met with Mrs D. Marlow and Mrs J. Devonshire to discuss current strategies to support pupil and staff wellbeing.

Safeguarding Link Visit. Mrs Cathy Irons carried out her spring term Safeguarding Link Visit on **14.02.24** when she visited Mrs J. Fitzgerald (Safeguarding Lead). They completed

the autumn term safeguarding report, which was published to governors ahead of the FGB Meeting **14.03.24**

SFVS Link Visit. Mrs Cathy Irons is the School Financial Value Standards (SFVS) Link Governor. She is responsible for ensuring the appropriate SFVS criteria are met and good financial standards maintained. She met with Mrs T. Fisher (School Business Manager), in **February 2024** to complete the 2023-2024 SFVS Audit.

MEETINGS

Resources Committee Meeting. The Resources Committee met on the **16.01.24** to monitor; finance, premises, health & safety; and data protection. The meeting received reports on the allocation of Pupil Premium and Sport Premium funding. The meeting also received the Spring 2024 GDPR Report and discussed environmental sustainability and the development of the use of the swimming pool. The following policies were reviewed and approved; Teacher Appraisal and Charging and Remissions.

School Improvement Committee Meeting. The School Improvement Committee met on the **27.02.24** to monitor

- 2023-2024 Self-Evaluation Form
- 2023-2024 SIAMS SEF Summary
- 2023-2024 School Development Plan (Spring 2024 update)
- 2023-2024 Governor Development Plan (R.A.G. – 27.02.24)
- 2023-2024 Pupil Premium Grant. Monitoring impact of strategies
- 2023-2024 Sport Premium Grant. Monitoring impact of strategies
- Staffing and personnel (wellbeing)

The committee also received and approved the Spring 2024 PRC Report and Vulnerable Groups update. The committee also confirmed updates to the governor page on the school website. The Collective Worship and Succession Planning Policies were reviewed and approved.

Additional Resources Committee Meeting. The Resources Committee had an additional meeting on **13.03.24** to review the procedures for monitoring and evaluating Health & Safety issues.

Full Governing Board Meeting. The Full Governing Board met on **14.03.24**. Governors reviewed the School's Christian Distinctiveness, with reference to the development of 'Spirituality' and 'Courageous Advocacy'. Governors also reviewed the spring updates to the 2023-2024 SDP, SEF and GDP. The Headteacher's Spring 2024 Report was discussed. Governors reviewed the Spring 2024

DPO Report, the autumn 2023 Safeguarding Report and the autumn Attainment and Progress update. Governors also discussed environmental sustainability, the introduction of a School care Dog and the impact of social media and gaming platforms on pupil behaviour. The following policies were reviewed and approved; 2024-2028 Equality Statement, Pupil Premium, Safer Recruitment, Supporting Pupils with medical Conditions, Uniform, Virtual Attendance at Meetings, Physical Restraint and Time Off Work.

On behalf of the governing board can I wish all our families a very Happy Easter

Chair of Governors at St. Catherine's School

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