

St Columba's Catholic Primary School

Tong Street, Dudley Hill, Bradford, BD4 9PY
 Telephone: 01274 681961
 Fax: 01274 688880
 Executive Head: Mrs C Markham
 Head of School: Mrs A Gautrey
 E-mail: admin@stcolumbas.bradford.sch.uk
 Website: www.stcolumbas.bradford.sch.uk



'Recognising every person is precious to God, our vision is to provide an excellent Catholic education.'

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

On behalf of the Governors I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to another exciting new academic year at St Columba's Catholic Primary School.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Gautrey, our new Head of School, all our hardworking staff and those who have recently joined us and not forgetting a very warm welcome to all our pupils. As a governing board we are very proud of our children and the school community to which they are central.

The Governing Board work hard to support the Executive Head, Head of School and all staff and pupils with the aim of ensuring St Columba's is the best it can be. This letter briefly introduces the current governors and gives a summary of some of the work we have done during the 2017/18 academic year.

Who are we?	What do we do?
<p>We currently have 7 governors on our governing board.</p> <p>We are: Jane Holdsworth (Chair and Foundation), Catherine Markham (Executive Head), Father Solomon MSP, Helen Halewood and Santina Taylor, (Foundation Governors), Marie Blakey (Parent Governor), Lizzie Goff (Staff Governor).</p> <p>A full complement would be twelve, so we have vacancies for a Parent Governor, Foundation Governors and LEA Governor. We are all volunteers; many of us are parents of children at the school or staff.</p>	<p>A school governing board has three primary duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school. 2. To hold the Executive Head, Head of School and Senior Leaders to account for the educational performance of the school. 3. To oversee the financial performance and ensure that money is well spent. <p>We are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school. Operational decision making is performed by the Executive Head, Head of School and Senior Leaders. Instead we are focused purely on the strategic and the longer term.</p>

<p>What have we done in the last year?</p>	<p>The governing board collectively volunteered around 500 hours of their time (approximately 60 working days) during the 2017/18 school year. Below are some of the decisions, actions or events we were involved in during the last twelve months:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have interviewed and recruited a new Head of School, Teachers, Administration and Site Staff. • Governors have contributed to the development of the new school web page. • Played a key role with the introduction of the Parents Friends Group. 	



- Governors contributed to the priorities on the School Improvement Plan. This is a document that contains the main short- and medium-term targets for the school.
- We examined the effectiveness of the new whole-school reading and mathematics programmes. This was introduced by the school to improve results in both these subjects.
- We checked how the school is spending pupil premium money to make sure that it is correctly targeted at closing any gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.
- We check that the spending plans are reasonable and are likely to produce the hoped-for effect on academic outcomes.
- We approved the staff performance management process and the resultant pay progressions.
- We analysed the current provision of before- and after-school clubs and benchmarked ourselves against other schools, both in terms of hours provided and pricing.
- We performed analysis on historical and projected pupil numbers to better understand how the school should be structured in the years to come.
- We had strategic discussions about the school premises and potential future improvements.
- We scrutinised the wider school curriculum and broader education beyond English and Maths.

Finances

Given the extensive news coverage on the topic, it probably hasn't escaped your attention that school budgets are under growing pressure. School income per pupil is currently planned to remain constant but costs will inevitably continue to go up (as prices and salaries rise). Around 85% of an average primary school's costs are its staff, so making efficiency savings with the remaining 15% has a limited impact. St Columba's is no different to any other school in feeling this financial pressure. Added to this, our school population is gradually decreasing (part of a demographic trend in our area) which will reduce our total income. The school finances have been well managed for the last few years so we are in the lucky position of having a secure base to move forward from. Our Resources committee will continue to focus on the difficult job of plotting a sustainable financial future whilst maintaining all the things that are good about our school.

Interested in becoming a school governor?

We have vacancies for Foundation Governors and Parent Governor. Being a school governor can be a very interesting and rewarding role, allowing you to contribute to the continuing success of a vital part of the local community. We are always looking to expand the range of skills and experience on our governing board, so if you are interested in becoming a school governor, or would just like to know more, please get in touch.

Contact details

To contact the governing board please feel free to speak to one of us in person, contact the school office, or email the school.

