



## The Saints Federation Annual Governance Statement

Published Autumn Term 2019

In accordance with Government requirements that apply to all governing bodies, the 3 key functions of this Governing Board are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
2. **Holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of all three schools and the pupils**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.**

### How we are organised

The Federated Governing Board was formed (constituted) on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014, and at that time reflected 3 separate governing boards coming together with 19 governance positions. Since that time, while each school has maintained its own identity, many supporting functions have been streamlined and improved to better effect. During summer term the constitution of the governing board was reviewed, and to this end positions will be reduced to 14 as follows; 1 Headteacher, 2 Elected Parents, 1 Staff, 1 Local Authority, 8 Foundation, and 1 Co-opted. Our names and any key responsibilities are listed at the end of this statement.

Foundation governors are appointed through a combination of Parochial Church Councils, the Diocesan Board of Education, the Bishop of Norwich and a charitable trust. A Co-opted governor is appointed by the Governing Board and would be a person who, we consider, has skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the Federation.

The full Governing Board meets once each half term, and we employ the services of a professional school governance clerk. We also have 4 committees to consider different aspects in more detail. Each Committee has comprehensive terms of reference, but broadly they have the following remit.

**Resources Committee** collaborates with the Federation Management Team, working to ensure the most efficient use of all resources – property, people and assets – to drive up standards and provide a safe working environment for all pupils and staff.

The **Curriculum & Standards Committee** challenges and supports the Federation Management Team, with the aim of driving up standards by ensuring delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum that enables every child to reach his or her full potential in a stimulating environment. The committee works with Foundation governors to enhance and develop the Federation's Christian Ethos.

**Continual Improvement** is the committee that considers current performance and conformance against various criteria, check lists and guidelines, seeking to drive changes that will give incremental and/or large scale improvements. On occasions this group will be given specific tasks or issues to investigate or deal with.

**Foundation Committee** liaises with the Management Team to uphold and promote the distinctive Vision and Christian Ethos of the Federation Schools, ensuring that a daily act of Christian Worship takes place, while recognising that the schools must meet the needs of all members of their local communities. In cooperation with the Curriculum Committee they ensure that the provision of Religious Education accords with the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus.

	<p>We also ask individual Governors to focus on and maintain awareness of specific key topics such as Pupil Attendance, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Health &amp; Safety, Disability and Special Educational Needs, Governor Training and Succession Planning.</p> <p>Governors have excellent levels of attendance and proactive involvement in all meetings. As a group we review the skills that we have, consider the skills we need, and seek training and knowledge to equip ourselves to best serve the Federation. We collaborate as a team, drawing on individual's strengths, knowledge, skills and experience. Individuals give freely of their time, energy and enthusiasm, and we strive to balance our governance workload around our personal and working lives.</p>
<p><b>The past school year and the future</b></p>	<p>As a three school federation, we continue to seek increased efficiency and economy. During our meetings we consider the three schools side by side, acknowledging the necessary differences and individual characteristics, but also seeking to understand what works best, why and how this can be replicated elsewhere. Resources committee will continue to scrutinise spending and seek best value. This is the second year of running a single federated budget which has provided simplified accounting procedures and monitoring.</p> <p>Having previously secured 'good' status of each school through Ofsted visits, this year we will continue to collaborate with and challenge the executive head teacher and her staff in the continued pursuit of the best possible outcomes for all pupils. The Curriculum and Standards Committee continue to focus on the implications of the curriculum and assessment changes that the Government has introduced. They also regularly review summarised, anonymous data showing pupil progress, so that governors can be sure that each school is on track to fulfill ambitious targets for all pupils as well as Government targets. We are always concerned about our "vulnerable groups" of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent and what impact this has on outcomes. The impact of the way PE funding is being used, and the sustainability of the new initiatives, is a current focus, as we seek to improve outcomes for all pupils. In each of our Ofsted visits it was recognised that all our children at each school make good progress and those with SEN are supported effectively, and we strive to ensure future Ofsted judgements would observe the same.</p> <p>New SIAMS Schedule focuses on the Federation's Vision Statement, and judges how this is realised via seven different strands. Extensive consultation with parents and pupils preceded work on the schedule. Both Foundation and Continual Resources committees are contributing to this.</p> <p>We undertook a comprehensive schedule of school visits, monitoring English and RE, In English, the focus was on the use of English across the wider curriculum, via book scrutiny as well as direct observation of pupils. The children's understanding of Christianity as a world wide faith was evaluated in discussions with varied age groups after a visit by the Maasai Warriors from Kenya. For this year we plan to focus our monitoring visits on PE during the Spring term. The second area of focus is undecided at the time of producing this statement.</p> <p>Minor and more major building repairs and improvements have been undertaken, as part of our ongoing responsibilities for the buildings our schools occupy, making best use of capital funds available to us.</p> <p>In general the governing body has and will continue to keep abreast of changes in educational methods and ways of working, fully aware of the need to actively understand and manage the sustainability of small rural schools. This includes the legislation that originally indicated that all schools become academies by 2020, and the Church of England's new Vision statement regarding its VA and VC schools.</p>
	<p><b>Want to know more, got any questions?</b> Your suggestions, questions, feedback and ideas are always welcome – please contact us via the school office.</p>

## List of Appointed Governors

List of Appointed Governors Alphabetical List of Governors	Category - Appointed by	Term of office expires	Committees				Any Specific Responsibilities
			Resources	Curriculum & Standards	Continual Improvement	Foundation	
Mrs Jan Bates	Local Authority	11/06/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Mr Joe Bernard	Parent Elected	28/11/20		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Mrs Rebecca Bouchard	Foundation – Trust	20/06/23		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mr Neil Levitt	Co-Opted	15/07/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Mrs Caroline Louth	Parent Elected	15/07/23		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Mrs Jane Marchant	Foundation - DBE	28/03/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chair of CI Committee
Rev David Mills	Foundation – Bishops Choice	14/02/23			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mrs Maxine McGarr	Executive Headteacher	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mrs Gill Partridge	Foundation – PCC	31/08/21		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chair of Foundation Committee
Mr Oliver Pearson	Foundation - DBE	11/03/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Mrs Sue Savereux	Foundation – PCC	09/11/22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Chair of Resources Committee
Mrs Margaret Styles	Foundation – PCC	22/07/23				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mrs Jennie Vere	Foundation - Bishops Choice	28/01/23		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chair of Curriculum & Standards
Ms Jess Woolner	Staff Elected	31/10/22		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

DBE=Diocesan Board of Education

## Register of Business & Personal Interests – The following declarations have been made as at 17<sup>th</sup> September '19

Name	Interest	Details
Rev David Mills	Business	Rector of Winfarthing Group
Oliver Pearson	Personal	Member of St Andrew's Pre-School Managing Committee