



St Margaret's CE Primary School
Governing Board Annual Report to Parents 2025-2026



Governing Board Annual Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Governing Board annual report for 2025/26. Along with our Headteacher, Mr George Lumley, and our amazing staff team, we are committed to ensuring that every child in our school can flourish academically, socially and spiritually, living out our school vision 'Created to Shine' and through our core Christian values of Love and Aspire. We have enjoyed a very busy school year with much to celebrate.

The appointment of Mr Lumley in April 2025, and a new senior leadership team in place, have marked the beginning of a new ambitious phase in our school. Developments have included a new Teaching and Learning Policy, the roll out of Quality First Teaching, and strengthened accountability, curriculum development and monitoring.

We were delighted with the outcome of the highly positive SIAMS inspection in May 2026, which recognised and highlighted many strengths of the school, reflecting the dedication and hard work of the staff and all who support and help to enrich the life of the school. The Governing Board are now working with the school to ensure that the two development steps noted in the report are carried forward. The full report can be found on our school website.

One of the most rewarding parts of being a school governor is the opportunity to spend time with the pupils, seeing them engaged in their learning and with each other, and having the chance to chat to them about their experiences. During the year we visited the school at various times, carried out learning walks, observations, attended various events, and ensured that our vision and values are being embedded and lived out in all aspects of school life.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and we thank for your valuable contribution to the life of St Margaret's CE Primary School. Your ongoing support is highly appreciated.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Governing Board, or have any comments, we would love to hear from you. You can email us via the School Office at school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Jane Burke and Emma Craughan
Co-Chairs of Governors



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Your Governing Board – who we are

The Full Governing Board is made up of enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers from a variety of backgrounds, with a shared passion and commitment to the education of children attending St Margaret's CE Primary School. As governors we play an important strategic role, leaving the day-to-day running of the school in the capable hands of our Headteacher and his staff team.

Our core functions are to:

Ensure the school has a clear Christian vision, ethos and strategic direction;

Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and our pupils, and the performance management of the staff;

Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure our money is well spent.

We work in partnership with the school, acting as a 'critical friend', whilst ensuring our school's vision '**Created to Shine**' and our school values of **Love** and **Aspire** are at the heart of, and embedded in, all that we do. In seeking to carry out our core functions, we have monitored progress throughout the year against the School Development Plan, visited the school to see learning in action, attended various school events, and helped to make important decisions regarding finance, safeguarding and recruitment, Health and Safety, and premises.



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Meet the Current Board

Our Board consists of parents, school staff and volunteers appointed by the local authority and Chichester Church of England Diocese.

Our **Headteacher** is Mr George Lumley.

Our Co-Chairs are Mrs Jane Burke (Local Authority Governor) and Mrs Emma Craughan (Foundation Governor). We are supported in our work by our clerk, Mrs Sarah Caws.

In addition, we have five **Foundation Governors**, appointed by the Chichester Church of England Diocese:

Mr Brian Baker

Mrs Leanne Kyte

Mrs Carolynn Lorimer (Special Education Needs (SEN) and Inclusion Lead Governor)

Rev Ben Martin

Mr Chris Snell

Our **Ex-officio Foundation Governor**, incumbent of St Margaret's Church, is Rev Mark Standen (Vice Chair)

Our **Parent Governors**, elected by parents at the school, are:

Mrs Kate Goater (Safeguarding Lead Governor)

Mrs Ilana Le Roux

Our **Staff Governor**, elected by staff, is Miss Ellie Joice



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Vision and Values

One of the Governing Board's core objectives is to ensure the school has a clear Christian vision, ethos and strategic direction. The new vision and values were put in place in September 2025, informed by feedback from staff, parents and governors. Guided by our theologically-rooted vision 'Created to Shine' we are committed to enabling every child and adult in our community to flourish – developing character, building confidence and achieving their God-given potential.

Our vision is lived out through our Christian values of Love and Aspire, ensuring that love shapes our relationships and daily life, and we aspire to setting high expectations and inspiring pupils to grow in character and be the best that they can be.



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1. Curriculum and Learning – To deliver an ambitious, inclusive and progressive curriculum leading to improved academic performance and high standards of work across the school. Quality First Teaching principles were prioritised to ensure excellent and inclusive teaching practice across all year groups.

Throughout the year, governors monitored school performance using a wide range of evidence. This included national assessment data (Early Years, Year 1 Phonics, Year 4 multiplication tests and Year 6 SATS). We were pleased to note that the Phonics data remains in line with or above national average, showing the effectiveness of the school's phonics approach. Maths has historically been a key development area, but with a dedicated focus on the Maths Mastery approach, we are now broadly seeing higher numbers of children across Key Stages 1 and 2 reaching the expected standard, alongside improved maths fluency. This continues to be a priority area. Our Early Years assessment data (82% showed a good level of development) was above last year's data of 74%, and above both national and local authority targets, showing our pupils are given a very strong start to their school lives.

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure children achieve their full potential and to build friendships. Our whole school attendance rate for the year was 94.3%, broadly in line with the national average, with persistent absence below national averages. Throughout the school year, the Governing Board monitored attendance closely and worked with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that the right support is offered where attendance has been a concern, in particular identifying those who may be vulnerable to under-achievement and low attendance. We thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring that children attend regularly and punctually.

Other areas we monitored were the curriculum and enrichment opportunities and how pupils are encouraged to create, discover and explore. We looked at pupil progress information, feedback from parents and pupils, and from visits by advisers from West Sussex County Council and the Diocese. During class visits we observed pupils engaged in their learning, their behaviour and the classroom environment. We held meetings with school subject leaders and the senior leadership team, and were kept updated through regular reports to our Full Board meetings. This provided us with a balanced picture of how our school supports learners to make good progress and how areas for further improvement are identified.



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2. Safeguarding and Inclusion – Highly effective systems ensure timely support and intervention where required. Staff are supported to embed Special Educational Needs best practice so that individual needs of all pupils can be met. Health and Safety audits and inspections demonstrate effective management and compliance with policy.

Keeping children safe is a key priority for us all. We learned from the Designated Safeguarding Lead how the new CPOMS system was helping to improve the recording and follow up of safeguarding concerns. We were pleased to learn that this area of work has been identified as a strength by the WSSC Safeguarding Audit (commissioned by the school in June 2026) and that this good practice has been shared with other schools.

During our Governor Days, we saw staff in the playground at the start of the day offering support to children where needed, and giving parents and carers opportunities to discuss any concerns they may have about their children before class started.

School Council pupils told us what makes them feel safe in school, how Collective Worship and PSHE lessons help to reinforce safety, who they can go to if they feel worried about anything, and the 'worry boxes' in place in the school hall and in Year 6. They also talked to us with confidence about online safety, their understanding of how to stay safe on the internet, boundaries, 'trusted adults' and online bullying.

Our Health and Safety Governors took part in a health and safety walk of the school, to observe improvements and to discuss future plans.

Governors are aware that inclusion is everyone's responsibility and the school is keen to ensure this is a thread running through all areas of school life. This was demonstrated to us during our school visits where we saw how children are supported in a variety of ways to help them to access learning opportunities.



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3. Behaviour and attitudes – A consistent behaviour curriculum supports every pupil to flourish, ensuring that positive behaviour and mutual respect are observed across the school. Our curriculum represents different cultures, identities and perspectives to help pupils to develop empathy, respect and understanding.

During our school visits, we have consistently observed excellent behaviour throughout the school. This observation is supported by external review, including SIAMS, WSCC and Diocese adviser visits, and surveys. The SIAMS inspection commented on how our pupils show kindness, responsibility and leadership, and actively contribute to the school and wider community.

Pupils told us about the rules they have helped to set and are expected to follow, for example, 'kind words, kind hearts', 'respect your surroundings', and to 'only talk when given permission'.

An increase in extracurricular provision and lunch time opportunities for all, with extra play resources provided, has shown an impact in reducing lunch time behaviour incidents.

A revised Behaviour Policy was put in place in the summer term, and governors will continue to monitor the consistent application of this through the year ahead.



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4. Leadership and Management – Effective leadership structures are in place to drive change, increase capacity and support improvement. Systems are well established to help leaders to identify areas of support, development and challenge. Improved effectiveness of communication.

During 2025/26, governors worked with the Headteacher to develop the new Senior Leadership Team structure. The impact of this new structure has already been felt with extra capacity where it is needed, and staff feedback reporting improved accessibility and presence of leaders, with key roles and responsibilities helping to distribute leadership effectively across the school.

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that all available resources, including finances, are used wisely to the benefit of our pupils. The budget is scrutinised and agreed by the Full Governing Board, with the aim of ensuring the school can provide the best learning environment possible whilst also maintaining financial sustainability.

Mr Lumley's weekly newsletter and the new website have provided an excellent means by which all parents and carers can be communicated with easily and regularly. We were pleased to hear that parents, carers and staff have recognised these communication improvements in their surveys.



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5. Professional growth and development – *Every member of staff is supported, equipped and inspired to grow in their role.*

Staff wellbeing is a key priority. Our school's vision and values are focused on ensuring every member of our school community can shine. Development opportunities for staff, including coaching and mentoring, have been closely aligned with the school's priorities.

During the year, our co-chairs met regularly with the Headteacher to discuss areas of school life, priorities and challenges, plan agendas for the Full Governing Board meetings, and to act as a supportive sounding board when that was needed.

Governors also need to ensure they are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to carry out their role effectively. Through the year we have taken part in various training opportunities provided by the Diocese, West Sussex County Council and the National Governance Association.



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6. Worship, Ethos and Community – Our Christian ethos, values and vision are visible, lived and shape a loving and aspirational culture, visible in our policies, procedures and practices. Partnerships with the Church, diocese, families and the community deepen engagement, equipping pupils to act with compassion and justice. Collective Worship is central to school life, deepening understanding of Christian belief and supporting spiritual development for all.

Community engagement has been a significant strength of the school, with stronger partnerships developed with parents, local organisations and the wider community.

The SIAMS inspection described the valued partnership with St Margaret's Church as 'strengthening our sense of belonging'. Governors have observed that this partnership has resulted in continuity and consistency between Collective Worship sessions, with children showing they make connections between teaching in Collective Worship and the different situations they face in life.

Increased community engagement through various community projects, such as weekly book clubs with residents from a local care home, and supporting charities chosen by the School Council, have helped children to develop a sense of place and belonging.

The priority of embedding the new vision and values into every area of school life will continue to be a focus in the coming year, including within governance.



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School priorities for 2026/27

We enter the new school year with optimism, excitement for what lies ahead, and a commitment to helping every child and adult to flourish. Our new School Development Plan outlines the priorities for the year ahead, including improved outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs, an emphasis on handwriting and grammar, continued improvement in mathematics, and strong monitoring, governance and professional development. We will also be in the Ofsted 'Window' and look forward to showcasing our school and discussing our future ambitions and plans with the inspection team.

Further queries and comments

If you would like more details on any aspect of our school, please see our school website at <https://www.stmargaretsprimary.org.uk>

You can contact the Governing Board via the school office – school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk

Please note that if you have a complaint about any aspect of school life, there is a clear complaints process which can be accessed via the following link to our website - [St Margaret's CE Primary School - Policies](#)