



Governor News Letter



Meet your Governors

Well here we are at the end of another eventful and exciting academic year at St Michaels CE Academy. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of your Governors to thank you all for your continued support throughout the year. As you are aware since the conversion to academy status back in May 2013 the governing body had to reform with an entire team of new governors. Over the past year or so we have been finding our feet and settling into our new roles. We are all truly dedicated to the task at hand and strive to do the best we can to offer support in developing the best academy we can for all our children.

The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed of the work we have been doing in order to fulfil our roles as governors. Please take the time to read through, I hope it gives you a clearer view of our roles and I hope you find it interesting. If you wish to discuss any issues you may have with us, we can be contacted on governors@stmichaelsacademy.org.uk

Mr John McLeod	Chair of Governors
	Standards Committee
Mr Faz Islam	Head Teacher
	Standards/Resources Committee
Mrs Gemma Stringer	Vice Chair of Governors
	Parent Governor
	Training Link Governor
	Resources/Standards Committee
	Governor for SEN
Mrs Natalie Cooper	Diocesan Governor
	Resources Committee Chair
	Standards Committee
	Governor for Pupil Premium
Mrs Susie Murphy	Diocesan Governor
	Standards Committee
Mrs Michelle Woodward	Parent Governor
	Resources Committee
Mrs Bridgette Woods	Parent Governor
	Resources Committee
	Governor for Safeguarding
Mrs Lynn Cowling	Parent Governor
	Standards Committee Chair
Miss Laura Gorman	Staff Governor
Mr Stuart Cruickshank	Staff Governor

The Launch of the Academy Library

As I am sure many of you are aware, this year marks the opening of our very own, fully functioning school library. The library is a fantastic resource for the children to use and will really help to promote home reading. Reading is an area identified by OFSTED as something that requires improvement and will be a huge focus over the coming months.

Reading is an important part of every child's development and offers so many different life skills. Not only is it a major part of everyday life but also really helps to develop imagination and allows you to be lost in a magical land of make belief.

As the library is mainly open at lunch time, it had to be appealing in order to compete with time spent letting off steam in the outside play areas. This task required a highly motivated and dedicated individual in order for it to succeed. Our very own academy Governor Susie Murphy has taken on the mammoth task with great flare and dedication.

In the short time the library has been open, Susie has fully embraced her role and put a huge amount of work and time into the task at hand. With the help of a team of junior librarians from year 6 the library has already been a huge success. At present there are in excess of 270 books being borrowed by children. This is a massive achievement which shows the popularity and how the new resources have been embraced by all.

Susie has plans to make the library even better next year and is passionate about how she strives to achieve this. Her plans include positions of junior librarians being offered to children in years 5 and 6. She also has plans to work with literacy subject leaders and create displays of books to coincide with topics being taught in class. Wall displays will be present, displaying book reviews from some of our budding writers. The library is currently being used by children in years 1 to 6. Susie's plans for the future include story times being introduced for children in our foundation stages. This will get even the smallest of our children involved in literacy.

Governor Visits

Our role as governors requires us to visit school as often as we can. It is important that not only parents know who we are but also the staff and the children themselves.

As most of us have children attending the school, we have ample opportunity to attend events with other parents/carers. Events we have attended this year include

Welcome meeting	Harvest Festival	Nativity Production
Cathedral/Church Services	Mothers Day	Easter Productions
Sport Tournaments	Sports Day	Year 5/6 Production
Children's University Ceremony	School Trips	RE Open Day

Other visits we have made include:-

New Uniform Supplier Consultation	Lynn Cowling
Year 2 Attainment Visit	Michelle Woodward
Pupil Premium Visit to Waterstones	Natalie Cooper
Safeguarding Briefing with Mrs Ludvigsen	Gemma Stringer
SIAMS Inspection Briefing	John McLeod
	Gemma Stringer
	Natalie Cooper
	Lynn Cowling
	Susie Murphy
Learning Walk (Learning Environment)	Michelle Woodward
	John McLeod
	Natalie Cooper
	Gemma Stringer
	Lynn Cowling
Hand to Mouth Visits	Susie Murphy
	Gemma Stringer
	Natalie Cooper
	Lynne Cowling
Year six Pre SATS visit	Gemma Stringer
Robinwood Residential Visit	Gemma Stringer

Training Courses Attended

New Governor Training	Susie Murphy
	Natalie Cooper
	Gemma Stringer
	Michelle Woodward
	Bridgette Woods
Effective Resources Committee	Gemma Stringer
	Natalie Cooper
	Michelle Woodward
Safeguarding for Governors	Gemma Stringer
	Bridgette Woods
E Safeguarding	Gemma Stringer
	Bridgette Woods
Head Teacher Performance Management	Gemma Stringer
	Natalie Cooper
Pupil Premium	Gemma Stringer
	Natalie Cooper
Monitoring Schedule and Class Room visits	Gemma Stringer
	Natalie Cooper
	Lynn Cowling
	Michelle Woodward
Safer Recruitment	John McLeod
	Natalie Cooper
	Susie Murphy

Uniform

School uniforms can be ordered via the school office from our preferred supplier "Coptrin". The uniform consists of:-

- Grey trousers/shorts/skirts
- Grey Pinafore dress or red and white checked summer dress
- Red jumper/cardigan **must be complete with academy logo**
- White/red polo shirt (Logo optional but preferred)
- **Black shoes** (No black trainers)

Here at St Michaels we are passionate about our uniform. We have gone the extra mile to ensure that you have a choice of suppliers. Uniforms have been tested and prices have been negotiated with Coptrin to help with costs. Correct uniform is essential in providing the children with a sense belonging. We want them to feel proud of their school and wear their uniform with pride.

Gemma Stringer
Vice Chair of Governors

Summary

It has been a challenging year for us at St Michael's; an OFSTED inspection, a SIAMS (Church School) Inspection, and an OFSTED follow up visit by HMI, all in quick succession. It's a real tribute to the Head and all the staff that they have stayed resilient and cheerful, and that the children are getting a good learning experience. The net outcome of the Inspections confirms that we are very much on the right track. Yes, there are further improvements that we can make, and we will ensure that these are brought in over the next few months, but it's clear that we have the capacity to make the improvements ourselves.

I feel privileged to work with such a committed and enthusiastic group of Governors. In over 30 years in Education, I have rarely seen Governors so involved with a school. I'm glad that inspectors have acknowledged our ability to hold the leadership to account, and to ask the right questions in the right way.

We will see more developments at school next term, as we start to offer provision for 2 year olds, and we will also be having major roof repairs. In the meantime, however, we look forward to seeing the SATS results -and of course the production of "Joseph"

I hope everyone who reads this will have a great summer, and will come back fit and well for the new term.

John McLeod
Chair of Governors.