



# Governor update newsletter

St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School

December 2025

## Welcome to our Autumn Term Newsletter

**Welcome to our termly Governing body newsletter, the purpose of which is to keep parents informed regarding the activities of the school's Governing body.**

As a Governing body we wish to extend a huge thank you to all the staff for their devotion and commitment to making St Anthony's such an excellent learning environment for our children and living out our mission statement: *Children in our heart, Christ at the centre—we love, we learn and we live.*

This Autumn term has seen new faces joining the Governing board, as well as existing governors taking on new opportunities. After many years in the role, Luke Bower stepped down as the vice-chair of governors. We are very grateful for his service and we are delighted to retain his expertise and experience in his new capacity as a co-opted governor. Although she continues to be a foundation governor, Kerry Meredith's tenure as a Trustee came to an end in September with Andrew Williams replacing Kerry as a Trustee. Andrew was also voted in as the new vice-chair of governors. Also, a big welcome to Dan Hobin who was appointed as the new parent governor during the Autumn term.

With the arrival of Advent and the festive period upon us, the Governors would like to wish all the children, staff and your families a very joyful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

**Torion Bowles, Chair of Governors**

## Who are the Governors?

Name	Type	Link subject/area	Link class
Torion Bowles (Chair of Governors)	Foundation	Development & Training, Computing, and School Improvement & Wider curriculum	Year 6
Katrina Straker (Headteacher)	Staff		
Lindsey Leask (Dep Headteacher)	Associate		
Fr. Ansel D'Mello	Foundation	RE	
Anne Taylor (Chair of S&A)	Foundation	High Attainers, Pupil Premium & SEND	Year 3
Gaye Perry	Foundation	Phonics	Year 2
Andrew Williams (Vice Chair & Chair of R&M)	Foundation	Art & DT	
Anita Fitzpatrick	Foundation	Early Years, Safeguarding, and Preschool	Preschool & Year R
Kerry Meredith (Chair of R&M)	Foundation	English & Computing	
Rose Leslie	Parent	PDL & Science & RSHE and Wellbeing	Year 4
Daniel Hobin	Parent	Maths	
Michael McPhillips	Co-opted	French	Year 6
Michele Rix	Co-opted	PE	Year 1
Luke Bower	Co-opted	Humanities & Music	Year 5
Michelle Taylor	Staff		
Rebecca Marshman (KS2 Lead)	Staff		
Vanessa Robertson	Clerk		

# Update from Governor meetings

## Below are some of the key areas looked at this term:

- The Governors agreed to continue to adhere to the Hampshire Governors Good practice guide and to adopt the new Portsmouth Diocese Code of Conduct for Governors for the new school year.
- Considered and approved the School Improvement Plan for 2025-27 and the Curriculum & Action Provision plan for 2025-26.
- Continued to focus on the RE curriculum and made preparations for the introduction of the new RE Directory.
- School attendance figures were discussed with a focus on vulnerable pupils and inclusion.
- A number of important policies were reviewed and approved.
- The Headteacher's Report from the Summer term was discussed in detail with Governors asking questions, offering challenge and praise.
- Increased focus on staff well being by introducing a standing item on the agenda for all Full Governing Board meetings.
- The Admissions Policy for 2027/28 was ratified by the Diocese and the Governing body.
- Management accounts, variances and debts were discussed and scrutinised by the Resources, Management, Audit & Risk committee.
- With the school entering its next OFSTED inspection window the Governors OFSTED Working Group met in anticipation of an inspection. Governors have improved their understanding of the new inspection framework, undertaken additional training and have contributed to the preparation of the School's Self Evaluation Form.
- Completed a thorough review and updated the Risk Register.
- All Governors were allocated subjects to monitor and year groups to support throughout the year.
- All Governors had a safeguarding update from Hampshire County Council and/or via online learning resources and all have read the new 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' policy for 2025.
- The Governors have undertaken a skills audit identifying their strengths and areas for additional training.
- Feedback from the successful fireworks event was discussed, acknowledging all the hard work of Jo Walsh, Shuan Riordan and the PSA team.
- Met with members of the St Anthony's Ark to discuss the smartphone childhood agenda, acknowledge the School's work to date and plans to better educate parents as to smartphone alternative devices.
- Discussed and questioned the School's auditors and we are pleased that the School successfully returned an unqualified audit.
- Raised reservations with the Bishop concerning the Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust programme.
- Involved with the updating of the School's website.



# Governor Fund

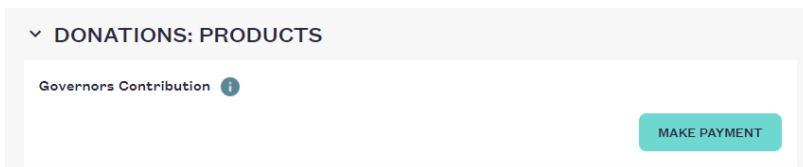
We would like to express our sincere thanks to all those parents who make voluntary contributions to the Governor School Development Fund. Many schools have a Governor voluntary fund which has helped raise much needed money to improve the quality of provision for all pupils. As I'm sure you are aware, this fund is more important than ever during the current situation to support our school. If you are not currently making a contribution, and you would like to, the school and Governors would be hugely grateful. Please ask the school office for a letter with further details as well as a Gift Aid Declaration form. Thank you.

You can donate:

- One-off payment via Scopy
- Setting up a regular standing order to the school bank account

**Sort-code:** 30-93-17

**Bank account:** 39364560



▼ DONATIONS: PRODUCTS

Governors Contribution ⓘ

MAKE PAYMENT



**Merry Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year**



Please visit our Governor webpages to find out more. This includes a 'meet the governors' page as well as past issues of this newsletter.

<https://www.saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk/our-governors/>