



**SCHOOL
GOVERNORS
ANNUAL
REPORT
2014-2015**

“We learn, we play, we laugh, we achieve together”

Who are the Governors?

Attendance has been very good at the meetings held under the Chairman Mrs Diane Aplin and Vice Chair Mr Mike Done. Our meetings cover various issues:

MRS DIANE APLIN (Chairperson) Foundation Governor

Diane is a Mum of two boys, Sam at St Mary's and Jack at Penley. By profession she is a Solicitor but is currently Director of the Moneypenny Foundation, a small charity helping young women in Wrexham gain work and life long skills and full time employment. In her spare time she tries to keep fit but socialising with very good friends is always more fun.

REV'D CANON DAVID CHILD Ex-Officio

Rev'd Canon David Child was appointed Priest in Charge of Overton and Erbistock in January 2012. He worked as a Consultant Physician in the Maelor from 1979 – 2003 and started his training for the ministry just before he retired. David married Diane in August of this year, the service being conducted by the Bishop of St. Asaph in St. Mary's Church. He is a keen supporter of Wrexham Football club.

MRS CYNTHIA DAVIES Foundation Governor

Cynthia is a true native of Overton, where she lives with her husband and her dog, Henry. She is the Registered person for the Before and After School Club. In her own time she enjoys doing all types of puzzles and is involved with Overton Amateur Dramatic Society.

MR MIKE DONE (Vice Chair) Foundation Governor

Mike is a local dairy farmer who has recently converted to organic status. His interests include amateur dramatics and skiing. He attended St Mary's School as a child as did his three sons.

MRS CATHERINE EVE Foundation Governor

Catherine has lived in Overton since 1981, where Catherine and her husband have raised their three children. She was a member of the Community Council and also a member of, and Secretary to, the PCC for several years. Having recently retired from Oswestry School, where she was Head of the Learning Support Department, teaching and assessing children and young adults with a range of specific learning difficulties/differences.

Catherine is the Chair of Shropshire PATOSS (Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Sp.L.D). A member of St Mary's choir, she enjoys acting and first joined Overton Amateur Dramatic Society in the 1980s. She has performed in the Chester Mystery plays, Chester Fringe, and has been a member of Grove Park Theatre, Wrexham, for ten years. Catherine also enjoy painting, reading and pottering about in the garden.

MRS KATE EDWARDS Staff Support Governor

Kate is a mum of two boys and lives in Hanmer. She is a Teaching Assistant within the Foundation Phase at St Mary's School for the last three years. She thoroughly enjoys working with children and her little role within the School.

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Who are the Governors?

MRS RAFELA FITZHUGH

Foundation Governor

Rafela has three children (one child left at St Mary's School). She moved to Overton over nine years ago, but has visited family in Overton all her life. She is a teacher of Geography and PSHEE Co-Ordinator in a secondary school and feels strongly that children should have a passion for learning. She is on the PCC of St Mary's Church.

MRS RACHEL HARRIS

Foundation Governor

Rachel and her family moved to Overton seven years ago. She has three children. One child is at St Mary's School, one son now supported through the County Communications unit at Darland High School and another son at Bishops Heber High School. She helps at the St Mary's Church toddler group and is involved in the Messy Church. Rachel is a Foundation Governor and is a ALN Governor.

MRS SANDRA JONES

Teacher Governor

Sandra started her teaching career in 1975. She has taught in St Mary's School since January 1986. Sandra has many interests which include music, dance, historical buildings and artefacts. Living in Johnstown, Sandra has one daughter who shares her love of music and teaches singing locally.

MR JOHN Mc CUSKER

LA Appointed Governor

John is the LEA elected representative. He has lived in Overton for over 20 years and is married with 4 children and 2 grandsons. He is a semi retired businessman and has been a Governor for over 18 years and in his current role for 7 years. He enjoys socialising, golf and rugby union.

MRS CAROLINE ROGERS

Local Council Governor

Caroline has been the Local Council Governor since June 2012 following her becoming a co-opted Community Councillor for Overton in December 2011. Caroline has three children and as well as being a full time Mum she helps run her husbands business whilst enjoying cooking, swimming and tennis.

MRS HELEN WILLIAMS

Parent Governor

Helen is the mum of twins Joshua and Ella Williams. Helen was elected as Parent Governor in 2014. She is a biochemist and works in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and prior to that worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 20 years in technical development and staff management. As a full time Mum and full time working Helen doesn't have time for hobbies, however enjoys socialising (very much). She and the family enjoy Welsh Rugby Union, Joshua plays rugby, Jeff her husband is a junior coach, Ella retired from rugby earlier this year (just prior to "contact") and we all enjoy visiting Cardiff and watching Wales play at the Millennium stadium.

MRS ANGHARAD VENEKLAAS SLOTS

Foundation Governor

Angharad is the mother of two children (Sara and Caitlin) at St Mary's School. She is a Veterinary Surgeon working in Oswestry and Johnstown. She runs the facebook page for St Mary's Messy Church Group. Her first language is Welsh and she also plays various musical instruments.

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Board of Governors for St Mary's Church Aided School, Overton. This report will give you an insight into what has been happening in St Mary's over the last academic year. The purpose of this report is to give parents/guardians an account of the duties the Governors have undertaken and how St Mary's School is being managed by the Governing Body. A copy of this report will be available from the School and on the School website (which is currently being updated).

SCHOOL ETHOS STATEMENT AND AIMS

Our commitment to our pupils is to provide a secure and happy environment in which to learn. Within a caring and disciplined framework, St Mary's endeavours to provide a balanced education in the fullest sense and to encourage pupils to develop their individual personalities, interests and potential to the full. We respect pupils equally regardless of gender, race or creed.

We aim to:

- *To help our pupils to develop lively enquiring minds, to achieve, ability to question and argue rationally, to evaluate and make judgements and decisions.*
- *To use language effectively and imaginatively*
- *To provide a basis of mathematics, science, technical and artistic knowledge*
- *To have an understanding of the world in which they live*
- *To be pleasant, polite and respect moral values and other people*

As a Church Aided School, the focus is always on developing the whole child, not just the parts to be tested and to appreciate and understand the Christian values by which we live.

All members of staff are involved in school management and curriculum planning. There is no substitute for the basis of a sound education and we aim to achieve this by well planned, imaginative and committed teaching.

A great deal of care is taken in planning the curriculum and the organisation of the School to meet the individual needs of every child. Class Teachers meet with parents each term and provide details of the curriculum and their child's progress. At Key Stage 2 we incorporate specialised teaching on one day per week, this enables Teachers to teach in their specialist subject to all pupils in the department.

We strive to make the curriculum appropriate to pupils needs with a variety of teaching styles that develop positive attitudes to learning, the understanding of concepts and the acquisition of knowledge and skills to create lifelong learners.

GOVERNORS AIMS

As Governors, we aim to ensure that the best possible education, both academic and social is provided by St Mary's School.

We strive to cover four main categories:

- *The admission and welfare of the pupils and the appointment and welfare of both teaching and non-teaching staff.*
- *The curriculum and conduct of the school.*
- *The provision, maintenance and upkeep of the school buildings, grounds and playing fields.*
- *The provision of resources, including additional needs and the monitoring of costs incurred in running the school.*

This year the Governors have worked very hard with Headteacher, Mr Wyn-Jones and his Staff to implement the recommendations from Estyn following the inspection in 2014. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

Management, Administration & Finance

Both Staff and Departmental meetings are held on a regular basis covering curriculum, management issues and following priorities as outlined in the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan has been presented and discussed at each Governors Meeting termly. Regular links with Local Education Authority Advisors have continued throughout the year, by visits to the School or by training provision for Staff members.

Further School Updates & Improvements

St Mary's School is running a SAP (Student Assistance Programme) facilitated by two trained members of staff. This is for children and young people aged between 4 –19 years of age. SAP's purpose is to create a safe place in School such as St Mary's, where pupils can share feelings, thoughts and concerns about their lives and to provide support whilst they work through any difficulties that may impede their development, education and life changes.

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Provisions for Disabled Pupils/Additional Educational Needs

St Mary's School adopts the same attitude towards pupils with physical disability as those with Additional Educational Needs.

The Schools policy on Additional Learning Educational Needs (ALN) is available to all parents. Provision is made for children with AEN including more able and talented children to follow the Foundation Phase Framework and the Key Stage Two National Curriculum and to participate in all the aims and objectives of the School. Early identification and monitoring are implemented and these pupils are integrated in mainstream education with modification of tasks, where appropriate. Close home—school liaison is encouraged.

An increased number of Teaching Assistants ensures a lower pupil/teacher ratio to support pupils with additional needs. The dedication of both Teachers and Teaching Assistants with the involvement of Parents and children is to be commended. Parents can be assured that their child is receiving the best possible education whatever their needs, giving them confidence in reaching their full potential.

Health & Safety Updates

There are regular Health & Safety checks throughout the school year including regular fire drills and electrical equipment checks.

- A school defibrillator has been purchased following Mr Wyn-Jones sponsored bike ride to Snowdon.
- A school emergency salbutamol inhaler has been purchased and training for all Staff given.
- Don't Touch Tell Visit was held on 24 June 2015.
- St Mary's School has been awarded the National Healthy Schools Quality Award following assessment in June 2015. A copy of the full report, which highlights the numerous excellent features of the school, is available from the main Reception area.

Behaviour

Positive behaviour management is promoted throughout the School, which has resulted in a harmonious atmosphere. Circle time is held weekly to encourage the children to discuss relevant issues and getting them to take responsibility for their own actions and to respect moral values.

Equal Opportunities

The School has adopted the LA Equal Opportunities Policy. The Student and Eco Council remain actively encouraged by the Governors to enable the children themselves to have a voice in the running of their school.

Charity Fundraising

A great deal of emphasis is placed on pupils helping others through raising money for various charities. Whenever possible the School tries to focus on organisations which have direct impact on children. This year fundraising has been held for various charities including Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, Sports Relief, The British Red Cross, The British Heart Foundation, Comic Relief, Barnardo's, Hope House and Wrexham Maelor Hospital Children's Ward.

Sporting Aims and Extra Curricular Clubs

Children at St Mary's have an opportunity to take part in all sorts of activities from Football, Cookery, Yoga and much more. The children have had some fantastic times once again this year with lots more organised for the coming year. Our annual Sports Day was great fun and the PTA held a School Bonanza following the Sports Day with stalls, games, bouncy castle, BBQ and much more. The Governing Body wishes to thank all the Staff and volunteers for the giving of their own time so that pupils have been able to access these additional opportunities.

Religious Education

The ethos of the school rests on Christian values and the children are taught according to Christian standards. Mrs Maureen Williams (Bishops Visitor) visited each term. The Canon David Child visits the School on Tuesdays and leads Collective Worship. Monthly School services are held at our Parish Church in addition to the festivals for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Parents and the Community were welcomed to join the Church Services. *Parents wishing to withdraw their child(ren) from any of these activities are asked to write to the Headteacher.*

Admissions Statement

Admissions to St Mary's School are the responsibility of the School Governing Body. Application forms for admissions are available from the School and online. Parents wishing to visit the School may do so by prior arrangement with the Headteacher. A copy of the Admissions Policy is available from the School.

Additional Leaflets/Booklets Available

Various leaflets/booklets are available from School in the Reception area.

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What's been happening?

All classes have been on a variety of exciting trips this year including:

Autumn Term 2014/2015

Theatre Visit—Horrible Histories (Year 3)
Rimbojam (Year 4)
Pantomime (Whole School)
Wrexham Football Coaching (Whole School)
Didi Dance (Foundation Phase)
A Start Sports

Spring Term 2015

Bodelwyddan Casle (Years 5 & 6)
Bangor Racecourse 'Maths in Action' (Year 6)
Blist Hill (Year 5)
Spaceport (Reception)
Panic Circus (Foundation Phase)
Dewa Roman Experience (Year 3)
Cycling Proficiency (Year 6)

Summer Term 2015

River Study at Ty Mawr (Year 3)
Moreton Hall Science Festival (Year 5)
Welsh Mountain Zoo (Nursery & Reception)
Year 6 went to Condover Hall for a week in May as their Year 6 leaving trip

The whole school celebrated World Book Day, dressing up as their favourite characters and St David's Day Eisteddfod, where they performed songs, drew and created Welsh Dragons, created their own poetry and dressed up in traditional costume.

E-Treble are running a 'Ecadet Scheme' across the School.

St Mary's School has participated in a variety of tournaments during the year including Football, Netball, Rugby, Swimming, Dogdeball, Athletics and Multi Skills days at Maelor School, Penley

Attendance

A record of late attendance monitored in line with pupil attendance by HT/ESW means a fixed penalty has been introduced by the Welsh Government and used by Wrexham Local Authority. There is a continued concern of the Welsh Assembly and Schools in general about the amount of absenteeism during the school year. A major cause of this is family holidays taken during school time. We would therefore respectfully ask the whenever possible holidays are not taken during term time.

Attendance Figures 2014-2015

Overall 96 %

Financial Statement - Year Ending 31 March 2015

Statement of Expenditure (Local Authority)

Employees	£560,259.41		
Premises	£19,976.38		
Supplies	£28,426.76		
Support Services	£36,748.00	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£645,410.55</u>

Destination of School leavers in July 2015

The Maelor School, Penley	14 Pupils
Lakelands Academy, Ellesmere	1 Pupils
Abbey Gate College, Chester	2 Pupils
Bishops Heber High School, Malpas	3 Pupils
Dinas Bran, Llangollen	2 Pupils

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Action to review School policies and procedures

During our meetings throughout the school year, we review the various school policies in line with the school review timetable. Many of the Local Authority model policies have been adopted and all are available on request from the school office. Please see below comparative performance results for Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two.

Foundation Phase Teacher Assessment 2015

(% of children gaining outcome 6+)	St Mary's School	Wrexham	Wales
LCC (English)	46.4%	31.7%	34.2%
MD (Maths)	42.9%	32.8%	34.3%
PSD (Personal & Social)	57.1%	47.9%	56.0%

(% of children gaining outcome 5+)	St Mary's School	Wrexham	Wales
LCC (English)	89.3%	87.2%	88.0%
MD (Maths)	89.3%	87.7%	89.7%
PSD (Personal & Social)	100%	93.9%	94.8%

Key Stage 2 Results 2015

(% of children gaining level 5+)	St Mary's School	Wrexham	Wales
English	63.6%	38.9%	40.8%
Maths	54.5%	39.9%	41.2%
Science	68.2%	41%	41.1%

(% of children gaining level 4)	St Mary's School	Wrexham	Wales
English	100%	89.8%	89.6%
Maths	100%	90.4%	90.2%
Science	100%	91.8%	91.4%

How our overall results compare nationally:

FFI (Foundation Phase Indicator) (% of pupils achieving Foundation Phase. Outcome 5 or above in all areas of learning)

St Mary's	Wrexham	Wales
89.3%	85.5%	86.8%

CSI (Core Subject Indicator) (% of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in each subject at Key Stage Two)

St Mary's	Wrexham	Wales
100%	87.7%	87.7%

Terms dates for 2015/2016

Autumn Term

Term Opens 2 Sept 2015 Half Term Closes 23 Oct 2015
 Half Term Opens 3 Nov 2015 Term Closes 18 Dec 2015

Spring Term

Term Opens 5 Jan 2016 Half Term Close 12 Feb 2016
 Half Term Open 22 Feb 2016 Term Close 25 Mar 2016

Summer Term

Term Opens 12 Apr 2016 Half Term Closes 27 May 2016
 May Day 2 May 2016
 Half Term Opens 6 June 2016 Term Closes 19 July 2016

TRAINING DAYS

1 Sept 2015 2 Nov 2015 4 Jan 2016 11 Apr 2016 20 July 2016

CTD (Common Transfer Day) on 2 July 2016 when Year 6 pupils visit their new High Schools and all lower Years go upto their next Year for a taster day.

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Our links with St. Mary's Church

St. Mary's Church continues to welcome the school for their monthly services. It's the children's own service, they lead it, it's a delight to all present and it's great to see so many parents and grandparents in the congregation supporting the children.

Services have included the School Harvest Festival where the children brought non-perishable items which were later given to the Salvation Army for distribution to the homeless in Wrexham and the School Remembrance Service where the children observed a minutes silence and laid poppies at the foot of the Roll of Honour. Children representing the School also laid a wreath at the cenotaph during the Remembrance Sunday Service. Christmas celebrations included Key Stage 2's Nativity play which was played to a packed church!!! Other themes have included 'Jesus, light of the world' and 'Creation'.

The school year again ended with our now traditional service in which year six shared their hopes and fears for the future as they prepared for their move to secondary school and year 5 presented each of them with a lighted candle and a prayer. Whenever we hold this service I cannot help but remembering that wonderful line from one of my favourite carols, 'the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.'

I very much enjoy my links with the school and attend most Tuesdays to lead collective worship. I try to make them as interactive as possible and continue to be amazed at the thoughtful responses I get.

With every blessing,
Canon David Child



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