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## Governor Autumn Newsletter December 2018

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### St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Finlay Avenue, Penketh, WA5 2PN

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### Letter from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to say hello and welcome to any new children and families in our school, particularly our new Reception children. I hope their first term at school has been happy and successful. Welcome also to our new members of staff: Mr Daly, Mr Parle and Mr Swarbrick. We hope you have settled well and enjoyed your first term of teaching at St Vincent's.

Sadly our parish priest Fr Malcolm took ill at the end of the summer term. He is recovering well but has retired as parish priest. Fr John Schofield is our new parish priest and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming him to our school community. He has been invited to join our governing body as an associate governor to advise when necessary.

The school website has now been updated and there is a dedicated section for school governors. This includes pen portraits of individual governors, committee membership, monitoring schedule and attendance registers. Please take a look and find out more about our work. Overleaf, I have listed governor priorities for this academic year and information about what we have done so far this year.

I am a frequent visitor to school and try to attend as many school events as I can. If you have any questions or ever wish to speak to me, please contact me via the school office.

On behalf of the governors, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

**Win Douglas – Chair of Governors**

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### Dates of Governor Meetings next term

**13<sup>th</sup> February 2019** – Pupil Support and Ethos

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2019** – Resources

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2019** – Standards

**27<sup>th</sup> March 2019** – Full Governing Body Meeting

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### Congratulations!

To all the staff and children on receiving a rating of 'Good' in our recent RE inspection. Well done and thank you for all your hard work !

### Thank you and Goodbye!

To Mr Hughes, we wish you every success in your new post.

### Good luck!

To Mrs Carroll who begins her maternity leave at the end of term. We will all be thinking of you and wish you every happiness.

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## Governing Body Membership

### Foundation Governors:

Win Douglas (Chair), Michelle Harrison (Vice Chair)  
Paul Atherton, Peter Johnson, Helen Chaplin  
Debra Pennington

### Parent Governors:

Kate Simpson, Steph Cooper

### Staff Governor:

Kathryn Long

### Local Authority Governor:

Peter Bacon

### Headteacher:

Dominic Vernon



### Governor Priorities 2018 - 2019

1. Ensure that the strategic direction and Catholic Ethos of the school is clear and at the centre of all discussions.
2. Drive up educational standards and financial performance.
3. Ensure the governing body has the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity.
4. Ensure committees drive improvements and reinforce the clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
5. Comply with statutory and contractual responsibilities.
6. Monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

### What have Governors done this term?

- Reviewed and approved Safeguarding Policies in light of changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education and attended training led by Mr Vernon
- Audited safeguarding procedures and documentation
- Attended interviews as part of the SEND audit and RE Inspection
- Interviewed School Council about anti-bullying week and school policy and procedures
- Completed an audit based around the Equality Act
- Gathered parent views using the Ofsted ParentView questionnaire
- Approved changes to the Admissions Policy which is now out for consultation

## Committees

The full governing body meets once a term.

We have three committees who meet at least once a term. All governors serve on committees as well as taking on other key responsibilities.

1. **Resources Committee**  
(staffing, finance and buildings)
2. **Pupil Support and Ethos Committee**  
(ethos, admissions, pupil wellbeing, safeguarding)
3. **Standards Committee**  
(monitoring curriculum, progress and attainment)

**The committees work to enable the governing body to fulfil its three core functions of :**

- Setting vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.