

Local Governing Committee (LGC) Impact statement 2025/26

St Philip Howard Catholic School (SPHCS) is an Academy of the Bosco Catholic Education Trust (Bosco CET). Bosco CET is a multi-Academy trust which was established on 1st April 2016. Bosco CET have, through the Scheme of Delegation, established Local Governing Committees for each of the Academies. The Ofsted inspection in October 2021 stated: “*St Philip Howard Catholic School continues to be an outstanding School*”.

The LGC at St Philip Howard Catholic School (SPHCS) governance structure is as follows:

- ✓ Local Governing Committee (LGC), Catholic Ethos Committee, Standards Committee and Resources Committees who meet each term
- ✓ Sub Committees for Pay, Head Teachers Performance Management and Admissions
- ✓ Designated Link Governors for Safeguarding, SEND, Inclusion, Website Governance, Curriculum and Disadvantaged Children (Pupil Premium), training and careers

Our core strategic functions

In accordance with our legal obligations, we endeavor to operate at a strategic level, leaving the School's senior leadership responsible and accountable for the operational day-to-day running of the School. It is by achieving these aims that we can be sure that our Academy has effective governance. Our core strategic functions as a local governing body are:

- ✓ Ensuring the clarity and application of Catholic vision, ethos and strategic direction
- ✓ Holding the appropriate senior leadership within the School to account for the educational performance and Catholic character of the School
- ✓ Overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure funding is spent for the benefit of the students

We understand that the Catholic Church expects Catholic schools to promote and uphold exacting standards, including academic standards as an integral part of its educational vision for the holistic formation of children. We adhere to the Church's social teaching which is a rich treasury of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. As a Board of Governors, we strive to ensure the School's Mission Statement and ethos are at the forefront of our governance and support of the School leadership:

Ethos

St Philip Howard is a vibrant school that natures individual talent and respect for others.

Mission Statement: 'Becoming the people God calls us to be'

Our School

SPH is a special place and is first and foremost a Catholic school, guided by Gospel values. We recognise everyone as being made 'in God's image and likeness' and as such everyone, regardless of their own faith perspective is welcomed and valued for who they are.

We believe in nurturing the whole person and seek to develop responsible, caring and committed young Men and women who make a positive contribution to society and fulfil their potential.

To achieve this, we have a 'can do', no excuses culture, setting the highest of possible standards and Working in close partnership with parents.

We are a designated National Teaching School, enabling us to work with and support schools across the South East and are proud to be a part of the Bosco Catholic Education Trust, the Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust for Sussex.

Faith in Action

Our school exists for the children and our distinctive Catholic ethos guides every aspect of life at SPH. We believe that it is important to make our faith relevant to young people today.

This means being outward-looking as a community; inclusive of all people, regardless of their religious beliefs, making sure we live out our faith on a day to day basis.

Prayer and the sacramental life of the Church is at the heart of our school community as is providing Children with opportunities to live out the gospel values.

Every year the children at SPH raise thousands of pounds for worthwhile causes, help people in the local community, serve within school as reading mentors and buddies, attend the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes and visit our partner schools

Core Committee Key Duties. (Full terms of reference which include policy responsibilities are in place)

Standards

- To monitor, review and report on the whole curricular experience of pupils in the light of the School's Mission Statement and Home-School agreement.
- Receive and monitor the School's performance data and monitor all related policies
- Demonstrate accountability for the use of the Pupil Premium and provision for all groups of vulnerable children

Catholic Ethos

- Support the spiritual and moral life of the School as a Catholic Community
- Ensure that Religious Education at the School is in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church
- Ensure that parental engagement is part of the School Community

Resources

- Have oversight of matters relating to finance, premises, health and safety and staffing
- Evaluate spending to ensure the budget provides value for money in terms of raising standards of education
- Ensure that the appointment, remuneration and welfare of staff is maintained to the highest standards
- Strategically managing investments in the School's infrastructure is a key role for the Chair and the Resources Committee. Recent successes include the two new multipurpose canopies that have been installed and the planning process for a new classroom block.

Safeguarding

- Lead and Deputies are in place and present at each LGC meeting
- Governor attendance and focus on safeguarding questions are included in each interview for new staff
- Governors receive regular safeguarding training

Monitoring

- Committee members conduct monitoring visits and complete monitoring reports which are shared with the LGC

The 2021 Ofsted Report stated the following *“The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The welfare, well-being and safety of all pupils is a priority of the school. All staff and governors receive regular safeguarding training, which helps to ensure a consistent approach to safeguarding. Staff know how to identify risks and what to do if they have any concerns about pupils' welfare. Leaders work effectively with other agencies, and they are not afraid to challenge professionals where necessary. Pupils are well supported and well known. There is a strong culture of safeguarding across the School.*”

Governor Training

All members of the Governing Body continue to receive ongoing training to ensure they are kept informed of the latest requirements to carry out their role:

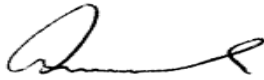
- Annual training reviews are carried out for safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Relevant governors have completed “safer recruitment” training to ensure that the School is able to recruit the right staff for the pupils.
- A skills matrix and full training support is provided for each governor and there is a checklist and mentoring system in place for all new governors

- Link governors have specific responsibility for specific areas of interest within School and are in receipt of the relevant training and regular contact with the relevant School lead.
- Governors continue to monitor policies throughout the year. The impact is that all policies are kept up to date, parents and staff are very well informed about expectations and it also ensures compliance with statutory duties.

Summary

The Ofsted inspection conducted in October 2021 noted: “*The leadership of the headteacher inspires and motivates the school. Leaders and teachers, as well as governors, have exceptionally high expectations of all pupils*”.

The LGC is fully committed in its objectives to supporting the School’s Leadership Team and staff to maintain these standards through their strategic guidance and governance.



Richard Meredith
Chair of Governors September 2025