



# Greenfield St Mary's C.E (A) Primary School

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## School vision, strategy and governor actions

### Introduction

St. Mary's C.E. Aided Primary School was founded in 1884, in its present location, by the parishioners of St. Mary's Church, Greenfield, and today maintains strong links with the church and community, including through its governing body and highly active PTFA.

The philosophy of the school is based on our belief that each child is an individual. Therefore, the teacher approaches the teaching and learning in a variety of ways, ranging from class lessons to small groups or individual work, using appropriate materials.

The aims and objectives of the Governor and Staff at St. Mary's School are to provide a whole range of experiences and learning opportunities which will enable a child to learn and grow, acquire skills and knowledge, find fulfilment and pleasure in the things he/she thinks and achieves and then eventually to be able to play his/her part in the adult world, having an embedded desire for lifelong learning.

The school places great emphasis on fostering the personal and social development of each child. As each child develops, greater responsibility, maturity and self-reliance will be encouraged. The curriculum at St. Mary's provides each child with broad, balanced and differentiated learning experiences, within the National and wider curriculum. The study of English, Mathematics, Science and Information and Communication Technology are at the core of this curriculum.

St Mary's is a very special school. We believe children learn in response to the environment in which they find themselves and to the adults whom they encounter. We care deeply for the development of each individual child and put the child at the centre of all we do; they always come first.

Our school is a warm, welcoming, friendly place which prides itself on the positive relationships that it has with the children and their families. We have high expectations of behaviour and academic standards supported by our enriching learning challenge curriculum that maximises every opportunity to develop the whole child holistically. Our highly committed and professional teaching and support staff enable each child to achieve their best, support each other and above all enjoy their learning and develop into lifelong learners.

## Overarching objective

As governors we are proud of our school and its ethos and aim to maintain and protect it. At the same time we adopt a rigorous self-evaluation approach and aim to find opportunities to enhance the experience for our children.

## Guiding principles

Governors aim to promote a culture consistent with the following principles

- Openness for all staff and governors
- Personal familiarity with key issues
- Admitting mistakes and being realistic about status is the foundation for excellence
- Looking after pupils, staff and stakeholders, and protecting them from harm
- Deep and accurate understanding of the School's effectiveness, informed in a number of ways
- Striving for a climate promoting constant improvement and innovation in ways that are right for children.
- Avoiding fear of failure
- Promoting St Mary's "Golden Ways", and abiding by them
- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum in ways that are sympathetic to individuals. Including both diversity and British Values
- Enabling flexibility, wherever possible and advantageous
- Establishing and communicating clear and achievable targets designed to encourage individual improvement

## Strategy

Governors recognise that opportunities for improvement are most likely to arise from three broad areas.

1. Continue to develop operational excellence. A great number of gains can be made by making sure that everything we do is the best it can be. Robust self-evaluation is key to understanding where gains can be made, and where a school is already outstanding excellence likely comes from multiple small improvements.
2. Increase resource capacity. Operational excellence constrained by fixed resources can only take you so far. We aim to go beyond this, but can only do so by securing additional resources. In the current climate this may require out-of-the-box approaches.
3. Collaborate using the Dovestone Learning Partnership. The Dovestone Learning Partnership is a trust consisting of many of the schools in Saddleworth and is committed to enhancing schools for the benefit of children in the whole community.

This structure retains the existing foundation of the school and a formal governance link with the community, being ultimately accountable to the community. But it does take most of the benefits that a multi-academy trust can bring, such as sharing best practice and benefiting from economies of scale. We aim to support and promote the partnership.

### Governor actions

To support the aims and strategy, the governors have agreed the following actions as a priority for the academic year 2017/18.

AIM	ACTION
Challenge and support academic standards	Execute an improved governor visit schedule for key subjects
	Focus governor visits on evidence behind the schools priorities
	Gather objective evidence on the school's GDS provision
	Provide support for school council link governor
	Provide enhanced support to governors in planning class link visits
Ethos and well-being	How should RE committee best help/monitor bullying and behaviour?
	To periodically look at anonymised case studies of bullying and behaviour
Resources and premises	To find additional ways to generate income for school
	Embed new committee members and chair
	Perform Annual review of grant opportunities
SEN	To explore enhanced purchasing of products and services, possibly through DLP
	Monitor provision meets standards
Structure, foundation and planning	Establish DLP Link Governors and board positions
	Support the Dovestone Learning Partnership
	Identify opportunities for continuing the recent positive experience of distributed leadership capacity
Vision, challenges and objectives	Governors own their own narrative statement
	Train and prepare governors for Ofsted
	Encourage moves towards rigorous self-assessment and assessment through DLP
	Secure communication from committees to all governors
Working practices	Investigate reapplying for "Governor Mark"

Diamonds

Are there opportunities for a "Diamonds Max"?

What is an appropriate policy of contribution to school budget?