

GOVERNING BOARD

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St Francis RC Primary School is proud to be part of the Emmaus Multi Academy Trust. Our Governing Body is made up of a diverse group of volunteers, including staff, parents, and foundation governors. Together, we work for the benefit of all pupils and staff at St Francis.

We bring a wide range of experience from educational leadership, business, the private and public sectors, HR, and finance. As governors, our role is to provide strategic direction for the school and to hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils, and its staff. While we do not become involved in the day-to-day running of the school, we help establish the criteria and principles by which the school is managed.

We work diligently to ensure that local and national legislation and targets are met, that the school's budget is used effectively, that the safety of our school community remains paramount, and that a broad, holistic, Catholic curriculum is delivered for the benefit of every pupil.

Being a governor involves more than attending meetings. Some of us are linked to a specific aspect of the School Development Plan and we meet with staff outside of regular governing body meetings. Although we take on individual responsibilities, we act collectively as one governing body.

If you would like to speak to a governor about the school, please feel free to approach us—we are always happy to answer questions.

Pat Jones – Co-Chair



My name is Pat Jones and I am a Foundation Governor appointed by the Bishop of Salford for St Francis RC Primary School. I am currently a parishioner of St Bernard's Burnage where I play the organ, read at Mass and lead the singing in church. I am a former parishioner of St Francis having lived in the parish from 1983 until 1994. I have over 35 years of teaching; school leadership; and governance experience working in primary schools in the diocese. For 22 years I was a Primary Headteacher in Manchester and Bury. Our Catholic school is where children can develop their faith and learn and flourish as members of our school and parish community.

Christine Maymon – Co-Chair



My name is Christine Maymon; a Foundation Governor at St. Francis R.C. School. I am also Chair of the Governing Board at Corpus Christi R.C. Primary School, Oldham and Acting Chair at St. Chad's R.C. Primary School, Cheetham Hill, which is part of the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust in the Diocese of Salford.

Retired now, I was a teacher of Modern Foreign Languages for many years in Rochdale, followed by Team Leader at Oldham Pupil Referral Unit. Recently widowed, I have two daughters who are both teachers. In my spare time, I enjoy swimming, walking, theatre, travel and catching up on the TV soaps. I really want to support the St. Francis family and I especially love to see the pupils' smiling faces.



Anne O'Dwyer – Headteacher

My name is Anne O'Dwyer, and I have worked in both Manchester and Trafford schools for over 26 years and was previously Deputy headteacher in Sale; prior to this I worked at Sacred Heart in Gorton for over 19 years. I am married with three children and a dog, who I love to take on his daily walk. I joined St Francis as acting Headteacher in 2024 and I am proud and privileged to be the substantive Head, working with a dedicated team of governors driving rapid school improvement for our wonderful children and families.



Mary Garvey- Foundation Governor

My name is Mary Garvey and I joined St Francis as a Foundation Governor in October 2022. I have worked in Oldham schools for over 20 years and was previously Headteacher at St Mary's RC Primary, Failsworth. I am now the Deputy Director of Education at The Diocese of Salford.



Maree Jordan – Foundation Governor

My name is Maree Jordan.
I joined the governing board of St Francis in September 2024.
I am a practicing Catholic and active member of the parish community of The Sacred Heart and St Francis.
As a recently retired senior leader of a Specialist Support School, I have a wealth of experience in the field of SEND. I have a husband, 4 adult children, 2 grandchildren and 2 granddogs! As a governor, I am fully committed to supporting the school on its continuing journey.



Leah Deighan – Staff Governor

My name is Leah Deighan. I am Deputy Headteacher at St Francis and I teach Year 6 two and a half days each week. I have been teaching since 2013, and have worked in a number of different schools, gaining a wealth of experience. I joined St Francis in December 2022 from another school in Salford Diocese, and I am passionate about providing the best possible education and opportunities for our children.



Father Kevin Murphy – Ex-Officio Governor

My name is Father Kevin. I have been Parish Priest of Sacred Heart and St Francis Parish since October 2019. Before that I served in parishes in Rochdale and Clitheroe. Before becoming a priest, I taught in two schools and two colleges for over twenty years. I am a keen guitarist and songwriter, I enjoy long distance walks such as the route of Hadrian's Wall and the St Cuthbert's Way (walked recently), and I also like to climb mountains and go running.



Louise McGeever – Parent Governor

My name is Louise, and I have a son Corey who is in Year 6. Corey has been attending St Francis RC since 2018.

I work within safeguarding, supporting both children and adults who may suffer or be at risk of domestic violence. I work with a variety of agencies, such as children’s services, health care professionals, probation and Manchester Women’s aid. I also have links with AFRUCA within the community and attend MARAC (Multi agency risk Assessment conference) to discuss high risk cases of domestic abuse.

I strive to make a difference to the lives of our school children and can be trusted with sensitive and confidential information. I apply myself honestly and with integrity, both personally and professionally.

During my spare time, I am dedicated to Corey’s education, sports development, and hobbies including Taekwondo, speedway, and football.