

St. Michael's Catholic School Trustee

St. Michael's School has a long and distinguished history since its foundation by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus in 1908. St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School is the present day descendant of the private school founded by the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus on the site in 1908. Under the direction of the Sisters, it became a voluntary aided grammar school in 1958 and continued to be directed by them until 1980. Today's Grammar School is acknowledged as one of the finest in the country, achieving excellence consistently in all disciplines. It is however first and foremost a Catholic school, and as such is highly valued by pupils and parents, and by the Diocesan authorities.

St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School is controlled by St. Michael's School Trustee, a Company Limited by Guarantee. This was set up by the Sisters some years ago in order to ensure the continuance of St. Michael's when the Sisters were no longer able to be actively involved. The school depends on the approval of the Bishop for its recognition as a Catholic School. However, it is not under the trusteeship of the Diocese and it has always been the wish of the Governors and parents to retain this independence and remain connected with the Sisters.

The Sisters retain overall authority and responsibility. This is exercised in the appointment of trustees who are members of St. Michael's School Trustee. The authority ultimately rests with the General Superior since there is no longer an English Province or Provincial Superior. The Superior General can delegate this task. Until now Sr. Mary Paul, has continued to exercise this role on behalf of the Superior.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the school continues to be run as a Catholic School according to the requirements of the Trust Deed. They do this mainly by appointing the majority of the Governors, that is the Foundation Governors. The Governors in turn appoint the Headteacher and staff and approve school policies. In practical terms this means that the Chair of Governors and Headteacher must always seek the approval of the Trustees in any matter which touches the Catholic ethos or identity of St. Michael's School for example, policies on Admission of pupils and Appointment of Staff to posts reserved to practising Catholics. Most of the land on the school site is held in trust by the Trustees and its use by the school depends on St. Michael's remaining a Catholic school. Any major building project requires their permission.

Although the Trustees only have direct authority in relation to Foundation Governors, this statement is offered to all members of the Board. Our experience is of all Governors working in unity for the good of the school. The Trustees are grateful to our Parent, Staff and Local Authority Governors as well as our Foundation Governors for their individual and combined contributions to the work of the Governing Board on behalf of St. Michael's Catholic School.

On behalf of Sr. Mary Paul Burtenshaw, Ursula Morrissey, John Shanahan, Karen Squire, Julian Ward, Richard Wilkins, currently Council Members of the Company of St. Michael's Catholic School Trustee.

November 2018