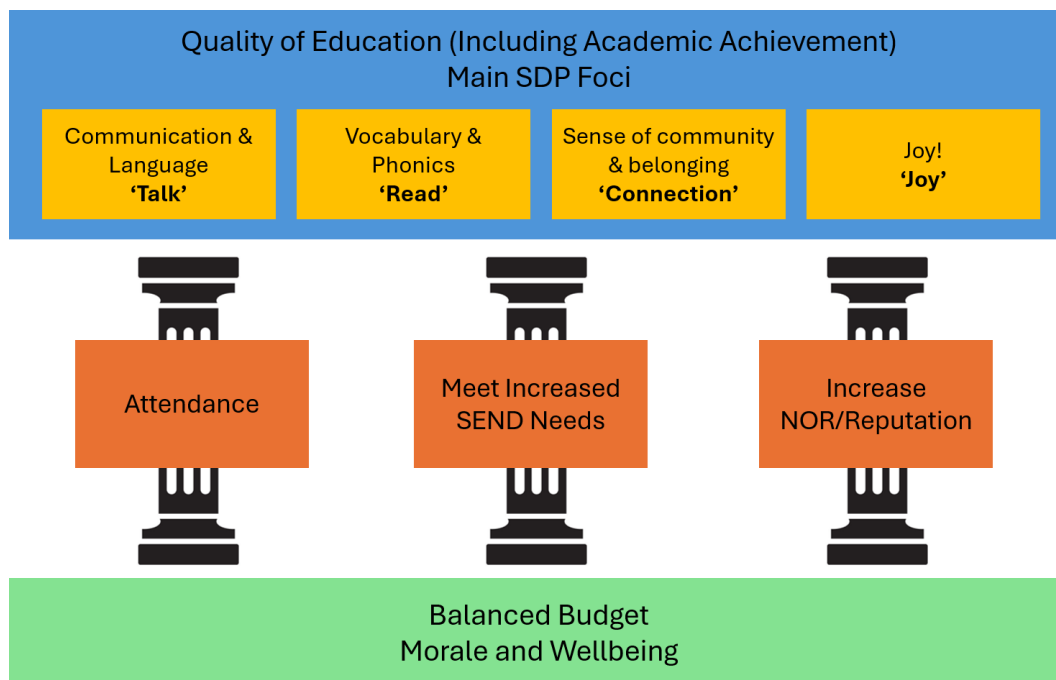




Governors Annual Statement 2025-26

Our Vision is of an inclusive, happy and successful school at the heart of the local community. Together, our families and staff help our children to become confident, independent learners that care for themselves, each other, and the surrounding environment. Be brilliant, be bold, be kind, and together we will believe, learn and achieve.

Our strategic long-term priorities are:



Overview of the Year

Marlborough St Mary's is a highly inclusive, values-driven school where pupils thrive both academically and personally. Leadership is exceptional, with a clear moral purpose and a relentless focus on ensuring that every child succeeds. The school demonstrates strong or exceptional practice across key areas, with secure foundations and a clear trajectory for continued improvement.

As part of the work to meet our strategic priorities, this year saw some exciting developments, including:

The launch of our **refreshed drivers**, which have been a delight to see in action all around the school:

Talk	Read	Connection	Joy
Communication & Language	Vocabulary & Phonics	Sense of Community & belonging	Joy!

A huge step towards building a State-of-the-Art **Marlborough Nursery and Family Centre**. We were delighted to announce that we successfully secured a £150,000 School-Based Nursery Capital Grant from the Department for Education (DfE). This significant investment, alongside generous privately raised donations, will help us create an incredible new Family Centre and Marlborough Nursery Provision right here in Marlborough, with the first phase of the plans due to open in September 2026.

At Marlborough St Mary's, we believe in making our voice heard within the wider educational landscape. As part of that we received very positive publicity for the school, including:

- **Mr Crossman** receiving the **Silver Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School** at the November Awards Ceremony. This honour places Mr Crossman among the very best leaders in the country.
- **Mr Goodman** presenting at the **Education Insights** national event about Citizenship in schools.
- **Mr Crossman and Mr Goodman** being **interviewed live by ITV** about the school's success in securing the DfE School-Based Nursery grant.
- **Mr Crossman** being invited to speak at Wellington College as part of the **Festival of Education** in July, where he will discuss the challenges and privileges of leadership.

Academic results remain excellent and have also shown strong improvement since last year. At the time of writing this report, the KS2 results are not yet available due to a national delay in the marking of the papers.

Provisional results for 2025-26 are as follows (including the Orchard Children): Numbers in brackets are the changes since 2024-25.

	Marlborough St Mary's	National
GLoD (Reception)	82.9% (+14.0%)	72.4%
Year 1 Phonics	84.1% (+1.1%)	82.0%
Multiplication Tables Check	66% (+25%)	45%
KS2 RWM (Reading, Writing, Maths)	To be announced	To be announced

Governors continue to visit school regularly to embed our understanding of the MSM **Curriculum** through subject leader discussions and hearing from the children in pupil voice.

Attendance remains an area of focus. Good attendance is not only important for improved educational outcomes, but it also has a serious effect on pupil well-being and resilience. As a result, we have been successful in increasing the number of pupils with excellent attendance and reducing the number at risk of persistent absence. Our overall attendance improved again from last year and continues to be in line with national figures. Nonetheless, the rise in persistent and severe absence remains a priority area. Continued targeted intervention, close monitoring and support for vulnerable families will be essential to ensure that improvements are sustained across all pupil groups.

Due to our effective **Pupil Premium strategy**, the gap between **disadvantaged learners** and their non-disadvantaged peers has continued to close, particularly in Reading (from 39% to 20% over the last 2 years) and Maths (from 32% to 18% over the last 2 years).

The **finances** continue to be well run, but with a national declining birth rate and increasing costs, the budget is continuing to be squeezed, causing additional pressures for staff. Governors monitor staff morale and well-being closely and understand that school life is a busy and stressful place that can also be rewarding and fun and aim to offer their support to maintain as good a work/life balance as possible.

Governors were delighted by the very positive **parental feedback** from the parent survey. Particular strengths that were highlighted included how happy, safe and included children and families feel at Marlborough St Mary's. Opportunities for further development included continuing to review the financial costs of attending school and looking at ways to further increase trips and extra-curricular activities.

This year also saw the school community rise to the challenge of **Mr Crossman** sadly being away from school for much of the year due to illness. Due to the amazing efforts and dedication of the school staff, and in particular **Mr Goodman** and **Mrs Stevens**, who both stepped up to expertly fill the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher roles respectively, the school continued to go from strength to strength. This was a remarkable achievement, and the Governors are truly grateful to the staff for the continued resilience, passion and dedication that they show on a daily basis. We were also delighted to welcome Mr. Crossman back full time in June and look forward to continuing to build this amazing school together.

Governance

Governors are volunteers who give up their free time to benefit the school. The role of Governor is to be "a critical friend" to the Headteacher and school leadership team who are responsible for the day-to-day operational running of the school.

Key Functions of the Governing Body

- *Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.*
- *Hold leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.*
- *Oversee the financial performance of the organisation and make sure its money is well spent.*

- *To consult with all stakeholders (staff, parents/carers, pupils/students and the wider community) about the vision, plans, progress and the impact of changes.*

Our Governing Body

This year we welcomed 3 new Governors to the board:

- Catherine Balston joined as a co-opted Governor, and brings a significant level of expertise in Communications and Marketing, alongside being a parent at the school.
- David Mayer joined as a co-opted Governor, after retiring from being a primary school Headteacher for over 16 years, and a teacher and Deputy head prior to that.
- Angus Taylor joined as an Associate Governor, to help with the Family Centre build. Mr Taylor is a Chartered Building Surveyor and Chartered Building Engineer with over 35 years' experience.

Dan Knight and Louise Barry continued to take on the roles of Co-Chair of Governors, with Kim Hall as the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) Chair and Dan Knight also Chairing the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC).

Our Governing Body is currently made up of 15 Governors and 2 Associate Members, appointed as follows:

- Two Staff Governors (including the Head Teacher = ex officio);
- Three Foundation Governors, appointed by Salisbury Diocese, in consultation with St Mary's Church, Marlborough (including the Rector of St Mary's Church = ex officio);
- Two Parent Governors;
- One Local Authority Governor, nominated by the Governing Board who can bring a range of skills, knowledge and experiences to the Governing Board;
- Seven Governors co-opted by the Governing Body who can bring a range of skills, knowledge and experiences to the Governing Board;
- Two Associate Members (no voting rights) appointed to support the oversight of financial matters & curriculum respectively.

A list of current Governors and their responsibilities can be found on the school website which is updated regularly.

School Governors are volunteers, and the role offers an interesting opportunity to share your experiences & knowledge to the benefit of the school. Our friendly and welcoming Governing Body is made up of volunteers from the parent body, the staff, the church and the wider community. We bring experience from a variety of educational, business, professional and community backgrounds with many of us either currently or previously having children at the school.

Governors attend six full governing body meetings each year which meet in the evenings and serve on one of two committees which also meet six times a year during the school day. These are the Finances and Resources (FRC) or Teaching and Learning (TLC) committees which cover the following:

The FRC monitors finance, health & safety, staffing and the school premises.

The TLC monitors the curriculum, pupil progress, attendance, safeguarding, Disadvantaged Learners, SEND and behaviour.

Governors also visit school on a regular basis undertaking pupil voice, curriculum visits, attending collective worship, helping out at social events or school outings, speaking to staff and in general getting to know the school.

An experienced professional Clerk supports the Governing Body, ensuring all relevant topics are covered.

Our Commitments

Marlborough St Mary's recognises the benefits of having a diverse governing board to mirror the community we serve and welcomes applications from all ages, gender, ethnic backgrounds, social standing, disabilities, religion, faith or sexual orientation.

Marlborough St Mary's CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.