

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24

About our School

Perran-ar-worthal Community Primary School has 194 pupils on roll across 7 classes.

Our experienced Headteacher leads an excellent team comprising 10 teachers (5 full and 5 part time). Our Deputy Head, who is our safeguarding lead, and our Assistant Head, who is our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and inclusion lead, are included in that number.

We have 3 higher level teaching assistants (2 of whom work 1-1 with pupils with SEND) and 8 contracted teaching assistants (2 of whom work 1-1 with pupils with SEND), 2 casual teaching assistants and 1 casual lunchtime supervisor. They are supported by 2 administrative staff, 2 catering staff and 1 caretaker.

Governing Body Core Function

In accordance with the government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the governing body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governing body constitution

Our governing board comprises 6 governors appointed from the local community (co-opted), 1 governor appointed by the local authority (LA), 3 parent governors elected by the parents, the headteacher and 1 staff governor elected by the staff.

Governors appointed from the community are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

At the start of the 2024 academic year, we have no governor vacancies.

Governor details

The full list of governors, their attendance at meetings and the register of interests can be found on the governance pages of the School's website. Attendance is good across the board and reflects the commitment of governors to the School.

Governing body structure

The full governing board meets four times a year. We also have two main committees that meet once per half-term. One committee deals with curriculum, standards and engagement; the other deals with finance, personnel and premises.

Meetings of the full governing board and committee meetings are clerked by our professional clerk. Minutes of governors' meetings are available from the school office on request.

Effectiveness and impact of the governing body.

7th Classroom

Whilst our plans for the school size are informed by the LA plans for education in the area, we are delighted that, following our early work on a strategy for sustainability for our School which identified a 7-class structure was of the highest priority, last year the LA accepted the Perran-ar-worthal submission for small school expansion to 7 classes. The long-term sustainability of our School and effective use of the S106 funding allocated to the School some time ago were the key focus of the proposition to the LA. This building will be of brick-and-mortar construction and work will begin during the 2024-25 academic year.

Impact: The fluctuation in pupil numbers each new academic year that a 6-class structure produces is now resolved. As we complete this building and development work for the School, the Headteacher and governors will work on collective vision and strategy for sustainable growth at Perran-ar-worthal School which will be shared with the school community and will inform all the work we do.

School Minibus

The original school minibus required replacement after many years due to significant corrosion on the chassis. After several rounds of extremely successful FOPS fundraising projects and some additional donations, the School placed the order for the minibus in May 2022. The governors agreed to fund any shortfall between funds finally raised by FOPS and the cost of the minibus.

In the intervening two years, there have been a variety of reasons attributed by the supplier for the delay. There was already a waiting list for the particular type of vehicle, additional delays due to Covid, and continued problems attributed to post Brexit difficulty with parts supplies.

The governors noted during this period that there was no option to fix the price and thus committed to ring fence a significant figure in our reserves for this purchase. The school minibus was delivered at the end of the summer term and has attractive and prominent sign writing to promote the School as it takes our children around the county on sports and field trips.

Impact: Staff and Parents will no longer have the pressure of arranging trips in private cars or borrowing minibuses from other schools. Administrative work by all staff on these complicated arrangements will be reduced and parents will be relieved of the commitment. Perran-ar-worthal can be proud of this new minibus which also markets our School as our children go out and about in it.

EYFS Outside Space

For a number of years, the outside space for our EYFS children has been a challenge and the headteacher had been investigating opportunities within the school's budget constraints.

The headteacher and governing board have been notionally allocating capital funds in our reserves towards a project of this type for some time. The final proposal included removing a strip of raised land opposite the classroom and the hall which abuts the school boundary, building a retaining wall and flooring with tarmac to allow a greater area for our EYFS children which is becoming increasingly important as our numbers have grown.

The governing board agreed to allocate an additional sum of money required to ensure this project went ahead during the summer holidays and in particular, took advantage of an LA scheme to achieve this.

Impact: The resultant EYFS space provides an excellent indoor and outdoor area which has been the culmination of the headteacher's aspiration for our children for a number of years and will ensure our children have a first class start to their education at Perran-ar-worthal School.

Wraparound

The headteacher and governing board recognised the increasing demand for this type of service in the area and the government guidance related to ensuring equality of opportunity for children to attend after school activities. We undertook a full review of the facilities in the area, both public sector and private sector. We considered what we could offer and how we could improve the daily experience for our children and their working parents. We started a term-time wraparound service which is now fully operational and fully subscribed. In coming to the decision to start our own in-house wraparound, the board took into account parent views via two surveys.

Impact: We have ensured that we remain an attractive school for parents of children starting school and for in-year transfers. This service is financially viable which contributes to the school's sustainability. We are also able to subsidise a number of free sessions for Pupil Premium children.

Governor Monitoring Visits

Each governor has a responsibility for a specific area of the School Improvement Plan. Additionally, governors monitor mandatory and best practice functions. Governor visits are focused on our particular area of responsibility; we observe lessons, discuss progress with subject leads and report findings to the full governing board.

Impact: Governor visits assist open communication between the leadership team, staff, pupils and governors, and lead to an enhanced understanding of the progress of pupils. This process assists in triangulating / corroborating the information governors regularly receive about pupil progress which in turns enables us to constructively challenge from a sound knowledge base.

Data

The governors spend considerable time examining key data on the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that they can be sure that the School is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils by improving the rate of progress of all children and identifying and removing barriers to learning.

The governors carefully monitor target pupil groups, including disadvantaged children, and examine how the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium grants are best spent. They have assessed the impact these grants have had on outcomes.

Impact: Governors are developing a good understanding of our strengths and areas for development. They also continue to develop the skills and understanding to challenge and analyse our data.

Policies and Procedures

An annual Business Planner records all policies and procedures the governing body have responsibility to oversee and the regularity with which they are reviewed. We ensure that policies and procedures are up to date and have been reviewed as appropriate to ensure the school is compliant with all statutory, mandatory, and best practice requirements.

Impact: The school's policies and procedures are effective and fit for purpose.

Finance

The full governing board approves the budget annually. The finance committee receives monthly financial monitoring statements, carefully scrutinises the use of the school budget and monitors fluctuations within the year, keeping reserves above the minimum level set by our Reserves Policy.

Impact: Effective management of budgets, both short and long term, which impact on all areas of the school and thus pupil outcomes.

Governor Training

All governors take part in a skills audit biennially to inform ongoing training needs and ensure the governing board continues to have an appropriate level of competency.

Changes to ways of working following Covid have actually provided more opportunities to take part in on-line training from a wide range of sources and we maintain a record of training undertaken.

Impact: Governors remain up to date with current requirements, new legislation and responsibilities and are aware of our strengths and weaknesses.

Contact us:

Perran-ar-Worthal School governors welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can contact the chair of governors, Mrs Val Royston, via the school office or on email: chair@perran-ar-worthal.cornwall.sch.uk