

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020

About our school

The school has 163 pupils on roll that would normally be split into 6 classes. At the time of writing, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they are split into 7 classes; the school hall has been repurposed as a classroom; and the village hall has been commissioned every afternoon for PE activities. These decisions have been made both to ensure pupil safety during the pandemic, but also to augment educational opportunities for each child and to assist with catch up learning. This will be reviewed on a termly basis.

Our experienced Headteacher leads an excellent team, which includes 5 full-time teachers and 4 part-time. Our Deputy Head and Assistant Head teach full-time. We have 4 Higher Level Teaching Assistants (of which one is full-time), and 5 full-time Teaching Assistants (of which 2 work one-to-one). They are supported by 2 administrative staff, 2 catering staff and 1 cleaner.

The Ofsted short inspection in February 2017 states:

“This school continues to be good.

The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. A strong family ethos permeates all aspects of school life and your cohesive team members work effectively together. However, there is no complacency. You and your governors have a clear understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school and take swift action when improvements are needed “

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

The governing body comprises six governors appointed from the local community, one governor appointed by the local authority, three elected parent governors, the headteacher and one 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.

Attendance

You can see the full list of governors, their attendance at meetings and declarations of interest on the school's website.

Governing body structure

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

Meetings of the full governing body and committee meetings are clerked by our professional clerk.

Minutes of governor' meetings are available from the school office on request.

Effectiveness and impact of the governing body

Vision, Ethos, Strategic Direction

In March 2019, together with the Headteacher and leadership team, the governing body started work on its vision, ethos and strategic plan for the School over the next 3 to 5 years. The restrictions and challenges of Covid-19 interrupted this work and we intend to return to it when circumstances allow. We recognise that we are a local authority maintained school and have a PFI building. We will work innovatively and creatively within those parameters.

For the next year, the School Improvement Plan for 2020/21 includes Covid-19 catch-up throughout its remit and we will work closely with the Headteacher and leadership team as the situation evolves.

Impact: We know that the Headteacher and governors have full consensus in their vision and ethos for the school. The governing body has contributed fully in decisions about school structures during the Covid-19 pandemic and in the school recovery plan. Our early work on future planning has been informed by the Local Authority plans for education in the area.

Governor Monitoring Visits

Each governor has a responsibility for a specific area of the school curriculum and areas of accountability such as safeguarding and health & safety. Governor visits are focused on his or her particular area of responsibility. Governors observe lessons, discuss progress with subject lead and report findings to the governing body. In 2020/21 all visits will be Covid-19 compliant. As part of their visit, governors take a particular interest in pupil behaviours for learning and seek feedback from pupils about their work.

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 validating/ triangulating the information we regularly receive about pupil progress.

Data

The governors spend considerable time examining key data on pupil achievement and progress, so that they can be sure that the School is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils: 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 the data.

Policies and Procedures

An annual business planner records all policies and procedures for which the governing body has oversight, and the regularity with which they are reviewed. The governing body ensures they are all up to date and have been considered in depth by the appropriate committee or the full board to ensure the School is in compliance with all statutory, mandatory and best practice requirements.

Impact: Our systems and procedures are effective and fit for purpose.

Finance

The full governing body 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 members take part in a skills audit biennially (last undertaken in 2019), to inform ongoing training needs and to ensure the governing body continues to have an appropriate level of competency.

In 2021, we plan to undertake a board self-review using a model produced by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Education Governance & Leadership.

Impact: We remain up to date with current requirements, new legislation and responsibilities, and we 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 vroyston@perran-ar-worthal.cornwall.sch.uk

Val Royston
Chair, Full Governing Body
October 2020