

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

About our school

Perran-ar-worthal Community Primary School has 171 pupils on roll across 7 classes. Our experienced Headteacher leads an excellent team comprising 9 teachers (5 full and 4 part time), which includes a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) who is class based for 4 days and has dedicated SENCO time for 1 day each week. Our Deputy Head and Assistant Head are included in that number and teach full time. We have 3 higher level teaching assistants and 9 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 and 2 catering staff.

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.

At the start of the 2023 academic year, we have no governor vacancies and will be appointing an associate member before the end of the autumn term with a view to replacing a governor who will be retiring at the end of the academic year.

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.

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 is a reflection of 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, the LA has finally accepted the Perran-ar-worthal submission for small school expansion to 7 classes. This is in no small part due to the continued championing of this issue, with governors' full support, by our Headteacher. 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 2023-24 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.

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 have 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 significant number of free sessions for pupil premium children.

Ofsted

The report from the Ofsted short inspection in June 2022 stated:

“Perran-ar-worthal School continues to be a good school. It is a happy, thriving school. Pupils come into school with a smile, keen to learn and enthusiastic about the day ahead. Pupils behave very well. They are polite, respectful and care for each other. They know that staff will not tolerate bullying and quickly sort out any problems.

Leaders and staff are ambitious for all pupils, including those with special needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils work hard in class. They listen carefully to their teachers and work well with their classmates.”

The full report is available on the school website.

At the feedback session following his interview with governors, the inspector commented that the governors know the School well and had spoken eloquently about it during the meeting. He recognised that the governing board included a wide range of backgrounds/experience, which is important. He stated that governors challenged leaders and bought into the ethos and values of the School.

Impact: The governing board has been able to validate with an outside 3rd party that the approach to and quality of our work is at an appropriate level, and this builds confidence and focus for our work as we go forward with the school expansion and maintaining and improving standards.

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