

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021

About our school

The school has 168 pupils on roll in 6 classes. As at September 2021 Cornwall remains an enhanced response area (ERA) and our school is operating in three bubbles (Reception & Yr 1/ Yrs 3 & 4 / Yrs 5 & 6). This will be reviewed as government advice changes.

Our experienced Headteacher leads an excellent team of which there are 9 teachers (full and part time). Our deputy head and assistant head are included in that number and teach full time. We have 4 higher level teaching assistants, 4 teaching assistants (of which 2 work one to one). They are supported by two administrative staff and 3 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

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 governors' 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 board started its work on its ethos and values, leading to a school vision and strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years. The restrictions and challenges of Covid 19 interrupted this work but we restarted in 2021. Shared ethos and values are finalised and we are nearing completion of the vision and strategic plan covering the next 3 to 5 years which will be shared with the school community.

We recognise that we are a local authority maintained school and have a PFI building. We will work innovatively within those parameters. Our plans for the school size are informed by the Local Authority plans for education in the area.

As part of our work on the strategic plan we have conducted a full SWOT analysis on the curriculum, staffing, premises

- **Impact** : As we complete this work for the school, the Headteacher and governors have a collective vision and strategy for Perranarworthal School which will be shared with the school community and will inform all the work we do. We contributed fully in decisions about school structures during the Covid 19 pandemic and in the school recovery plan which is in its 2nd phase.

Ofsted

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 “

We are due to have an Ofsted inspection early in 2022, although Covid has had an impact on the timing of these inspections.

Our governors have undertaken Ofsted new framework training provided by the Local Authority (LA); a school specific training session is scheduled for early 2022.

As part of our work on the strategic plan we have conducted a full SWOT analysis on curriculum, staffing, and premises.

- **Impact:** At our next Ofsted inspection each governing board member will have a clear understanding and knowledge of our school’s strengths and weaknesses that they can articulate both in general and in the specific area for which they are responsible.

Governor Monitoring Visits

Each governor has a responsibility for a specific area of the school curriculum and functions. Governor visits are focused on their particular area of responsibility. Governors observe lessons, discuss progress with subject lead 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 we regularly receive about pupil progress.

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 is a record all policies and procedures the governing body have responsibility to oversee 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 ensuring 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 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 members take part in a skills audit biennially to inform ongoing training needs and ensure the board continues to have an appropriate level of competency.

In 2021 undertook a board self-review using a model which was produced by the all parliamentary group on Education Governance & Leadership .

Changes to ways of working during Covid has 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** : We 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