

## **Governors' Impact Statement 2022-2023**

After the unsettled disruptive period of the Covid pandemic, it has been good to see this year some normality in St Agnes and most schools across the land. For our school, it has been a year that everyone can be proud of as much has been re-established both in terms of learning and school activities. After some initial nervousness, parents and children have quickly settled back into school routines and any visit to the school demonstrates that it is a happy, busy place with a super climate for learning. Mrs Mills and her team should be enormously proud of their efforts to return school life to normal and they deserve a very big thank you, as do our parents whose support throughout these challenging years has been second to none. Our role as Governors has been to continue to support the school and a big positive this year has been our ability to make visits again and to spend time talking to staff and children. Without exception we come away feeling proud of the children and the terrific team that supports their learning and personal development.

As Governors we have met formally twice a term to discuss the work of the school, its progress, policies, and a whole range of issues, where we try to be supportive as well as at times asking more challenging questions. Often this work is linked to national issues and government policy, but we can raise more local concerns if appropriate. Fundamentally as governors our role is to look at the big picture of school progress across all fronts and to leave the daily work of the school to its highly professional and skilled staff team, and this year I would like to think we have got this balance right. When we visit, which we try to do regularly, it is a learning experience for us, but it does allow us to talk to the staff and above all the children and listen. Most importantly it enables us to share in the successes while being aware of the challenges and how we might help in tackling them.

The school is expecting an Ofsted inspection any time soon and hopefully some of our work as Governors will have helped prepare for this. Our conversations and questions of the school team and our work alongside the staff should ensure that we are in a good place and in a strange way we look forward to celebrating all we are achieving with an Ofsted team. There is so much to be proud of. During the year we have had the opportunity to work alongside the Trust team and Kernow Learning have been very supportive, while an ex-inspector who visits termly has been very generous in his praise of the school and its many successes. His formal termly reports help us to work with the senior staff team to tackle issues and move forward. Thankfully his thoughts and views have matched our own and he has been a very positive voice for us.

Each year the school produces an Improvement Plan as required by the Department of Education and part of our work as governors is to monitor this. Its aim is to focus on a number of elements, often in line with national policy or funding streams to ensure that the work has been successful. With the disruption of Covid and the challenges of home learning we have had a continued focus on disadvantaged pupils and already we are seeing real gains both in learning and the confidence of these young people. We are working hard in trying to enhance the outdoor provision for the children, while also taking every opportunity to

further develop our superb teaching team by ensuring they can have the very best in-service to allow them to flourish in their practice. We are very fortunate in having such a good group of staff and we notice how well they work together and mutually support each other.

As Governors we have a role to monitor the school's academic performance and regular meetings provide us with updates and information. After a period of limited national testing, this year has seen a return to regular SATs and we were delighted with the school's outcomes especially as for most of the children their learning at some stage had been disrupted by COVID. The Key Stage 1 outcomes were very pleasing with this group producing results above the national averages and in several cases well above. At Year 6 our Key Stage 2 results were a real delight as the children had worked so hard and were a pleasure to teach. They responded so positively to all the tasks set over their years at the school and we could not have asked for more. Hard work clearly brought its rewards. They responded so well to some excellent teaching and in most cases their results were an improvement on 2022. As well as SATs we get regular updates on how well the other year groups are doing and we continue to monitor progress thanks to excellent feedback from the staff.

Of course, school is much more than academic achievement and at St Agnes the balance is very good with so much else on offer to motivate, stimulate and develop our young people. We believe that personal development is at the heart of all we do and as Governors it is a privilege to hear about the rich programme available. Keeping healthy means a full PE and sport programme for all youngsters and it is good to see everyone participating. Music continues to be strong with lots of involvement in choirs or in the school productions. It is a pleasure to attend these and see so many parents and grandparents loving the occasions. The summer camp programme went well this year successfully engaging and exhausting pupils and staff. Living where we do, it is essential that the coastal environment is at the heart of our learning with beach cleans and seashore visits a high priority. With so much available almost our all children have been able to engage in some rich and varied extra learning and this is often very clearly shown through the displays in the school.

As governors we must ensure that the school safeguards its children, and the online world makes this a higher priority than ever. Not only have we met our legal requirements here but thankfully have faced no significant concerns this year. This is clearly a response to the caring and friendly school we have and above all to the excellent relationships between staff, parents, and pupils. As governors we are proud to support the school, but our contribution is relatively small when put alongside the team that are working on a daily basis. So, to Jess Mills and all the team at St Agnes there needs to be a huge thank you. We are so grateful for all you do and how you continue to make this a very happy and successful village school and one that continues to grow and flourish and one that prepares our children for the exciting world ahead.

**John Shears, Chair of Governors**

**July 2023**

