

## Kernow Learning

### St Columb Minor Academy

#### Governors' Impact Report 2022-2023

##### Context

The Local Governing Board (LGB) is the school's Governing Body, accountable to the Kernow Learning Trust Board of Directors, and responsible for making sure our school provides a good quality of education for all pupils. We work as a team, monitoring school performance and supporting school leaders to raise educational standards.

This statement aims to summarise the work of St Columb Minor's LGB over the last 12 months. Although by no means exhaustive, it does illustrate how the Governing Body is contributing to our three core functions as outlined in the Governance Handbook 2020:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the school's educational leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

##### Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Actions this year include:

- As Governors, we fully support the school's aims to promote the highest expectations of pupils' achievement and behaviour, respect for all individuals and equality of opportunity in a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment. This academic year we believe school leaders, including ourselves, have met the significant challenges created by two years of COVID pandemic, making sure that the school successfully offers the full curriculum and focuses on high quality teaching and learning.
- We have ensured through Governor recruitment and targeted monitoring roles that our oversight is aimed specifically at the school's identified priorities for improvement.
- We took an active part in reviewing and renewing the school's vision and aims.
- Governor meetings focus entirely on the school's measures to ensure improvements in teaching and learning and the safeguarding of pupils and staff.

The impact of these actions has been that:

- We understand clearly and can successfully fulfil our oversight roles, thinking and acting strategically.
- Each of us contributes clearly to the LGB's strategic role; we are a strong team.
- We are confident about the strengths and areas for improvement of our school's provision and outcomes and both support and challenge school leaders to make improvements.

##### Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

Actions this year include:

- We ensure through the Governing Body's agenda for meetings that teaching and learning is a core focus for each meeting.
- Our governor monitoring roles are assigned on the basis of school improvement priorities and each of us has been kept abreast of progress in these areas through governor monitoring visit reports to the LGB. We also receive and discuss reports and presentations during meetings by school leaders at all levels. Focuses of governor monitoring this year have included the learning of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with additional educational needs, the development of writing and mathematics throughout the school, early years provision, safeguarding children and staff, developing high quality teaching in foundation subjects and PSHE and how the school is improving behaviour for learning.
- We contribute to termly reviews of the school's progress through prepared questions and commentary with regard to Headteacher's Reports, Challenge Partner Reports and Kernow Learning school review reports. The quality of the information we receive remains high and useful.
- Governors took an active part in the Trust's review of the school; Trust leaders were confident that we know what school leaders are doing to improve teaching and learning and the impact these are having on outcomes.

The impact of these actions has been that:

- We are able to validate school leaders' judgements about the quality of provision and pupils' outcomes and about the improvements the school is making.
- We ourselves know the quality of teaching and learning and pupils' achievement at the school. We know how our school has improved this year and where it needs to improve further.
- We are confident that school leaders focus relentlessly on improving school outcomes and that school and Trust leaders offer the highest level of safety, care and educational provision as our world climbs out of pandemic.

#### Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well

Actions this year include:

- Although the financial responsibility for the school sits centrally with the Trust's Business Team, our role is to monitor how the school is spending its funding and ensure that we are getting good value for money. This year we have focused mainly on the deployment of funds targeted at supporting disadvantaged pupils, pupils with additional educational needs and those who need to catch up in their learning.
- At a time when our pupil roll is falling, we evaluate school leaders' decisions on staff recruitment, retention, deployment and performance.

The impact of these actions has been that:

- Governors are confident that school spending on teaching and learning and deployment of targeted funding is having a beneficial impact on pupil outcomes.

- Governors are able to challenge high expenditure in certain areas. This year we considered expenditure to overcome significant short-term staff absence and measures to overcome the loss through promotion within the Trust of certain key school leaders.
- We have been able to ensure that expenditure is linked directly to school improvement priorities.
- We are confident that school leaders have viable longer term plans to continue to provide high quality teaching and learning at a time of shrinking income.

During the school's most recent inspection, in November 2018, OFSTED confirmed that our governance is good. They noted that 'governors know the school well as they visit frequently and take time to understand the strengths and weaknesses. They provide appropriate challenge to leaders to ensure that the school continues to improve outcomes for pupils'. We believe that we have maintained and enhanced that quality in the last year, mainly by using the collective strength of our Governing Body to focus on the well-being of staff and pupils and their families and ensuring that the school moves ever forward in its offer of high quality education for all our pupils.

As the educational community has opened up over this year, governors have been thrilled to learn of the impressive array of activities that have taken place. These include sporting events such as school marathons, sports weeks and sports days as well as a maths Olympiad and residential and space camps across the school, environmental learning opportunities such as recycling visits, rainforest cafe and beach cleans and community events like choir recitals, awards evenings and St Pirans celebrations. Moreover, we are proud of the exciting developments that are taking place in teaching and learning, from focuses on oracy, character education and outdoor learning to Blue School's signature International Primary Curriculum. We would especially like to pay tribute to all of St Columb Minor's exceedingly dedicated and hard-working staff and school leaders for the way they continue to enable children to overcome deficits in their learning arising from two years of pandemic.