



End of Year Governor Impact Statement

Upton Cross ACE Academy

2022/2023

NB This report is being completed by Peter Woodward Chair of Governors 2023-24. He was not part of the LGB for most of the year being reviewed. This is a summary that was largely gleaned from talking to staff and Minutes of meetings.

Our 3 core functions (Governor Handbook 2019)

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

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The year started with a change of focus for the strategic aims of the school. In line with the rest of the trust schools, Upton Cross adopted the 100 day Plan model.

Staff at the school had received training with Matt Middlemore, DCEO. As part of the training he looked into how the school uses its data. The school would now have much less data to capture and the focus would be on professional dialogue to drive improvements, with less time spent on data drops. The Challenge Partner noted that there is a high-quality learning environment that celebrates pupils' outcomes, and that staff morale is high thanks to effective leadership.

Holding the school's educational leaders to account for the performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effectiveness and efficient performance management of staff.

The school improvement plan was written to a new template. This caused some initial difficulties because the template was not activated until September, a challenge for a small school with a teaching head. Pupils are demonstrating pride in their presentation with particularly good examples in mathematics workbooks.

There were some changes to teaching staff and a significant re-deployment of teachers across the Key Stages. The challenges of this were, to some extent mitigated by the introduction of a revised data analysis and management structure that reduced some of the reliance on data which allowed professional dialogue to take a role in improved learning. There were further

changes at the end of the year with the departure of Tom Clack but the new colleagues appear to have settled in quickly.

The LGB noted the Headteacher's reports throughout the year and discussion covered the following areas:-

- The number on roll has stabilised, there are some potential areas where numbers may increase from a number of potential demographic factors and physical house building projects.
- Data. From report-
The autumn data drop indicated that there were concerns about relatively slow progress. However, by the end of the year the results were in line with or above expectations for KS1, Y5 were close to expectation and Y6 SAT results were pleasing. The main concern remains Y4 where significant intervention is still needed. At the start of the year the HT advised that the Y6 children had a massive hill to climb. Thanks to targeted support and a massive focus on need the hill was successfully climbed. Writing is still an issue and there is training planned and a renewed focus on developing writing across the school.
- Parents are generally supportive and there is active community engagement with volunteer adults, Open the Book etc.

Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure money is well spent.

The LAB continues to challenge the school on the effective use of SEND, Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funding. We are aware that the strengths of provision have provided the school with an excellent platform to continue to deliver high quality education throughout the school. Equally the Ofsted priorities have been monitored where possible and we were pleased to see that the most recent SIP visit, identified the strengths and challenged the staff on the development priorities. Other financial responsibility sits with the Kernow Learning Trust.

Conclusion.

Governors would like to thank and praise the staff for their unflinching commitment to the school. The leadership of Emily Goodey has been outstanding. The school has managed to come through the aftermath and effects of a most challenging period of upheaval and has shown dedication to the needs of the children and resilience in the face of adversity. The current level of stability amongst the teaching staff and their high level of professional dedication are appreciated.