

Governors' Annual Statement and Impact Report

At the end of each school year, we reflect on what we have achieved and where we still have work to do.

This is an important activity for us; as a Governing Body we reflect on the year gone by in order to make changes and improvements where necessary. This reflection includes feedback from the pupils, staff, governors, PTFA, from parents via the annual school survey and external inspections. Results are analysed and feed into the new School Improvement Plan each year.

Working with the Head teacher Rachel Marsh, the Senior Leadership Team and school staff, the Local Governing Body contribute to all core functions, including, but not limited to:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school.
- Ensuring the finances of the school are utilised appropriately and managed effectively.

To fulfil these responsibilities there have been six formal meetings this year and these have fed into the Kernow Learning governance structure. There has also been monitoring in key areas to support the school's development plan. Governors have been mindful of the pandemic and the added pressures this has placed on the school community whilst providing appropriate support and challenge where necessary.

Context and rationale

Last year, the Local Governing Body established the following priorities for the current year:

- To ensure we have the right people around the table - enabling governors to become more skilled and filling vacancies with skills required; (from September we had 2 parent governor vacancies)
- To ensure risk management is embedded across all governing body meetings
- Support and provide challenge to the school as we prepare for SIAMS
- Look at succession planning for the Chair of Governors (outstanding from previous year).

To meet these priorities the Governing Body have:

- The Governing Body has strengthened by the introduction of Katie Kershaw, Dr Jemma Hughes and Liz Goldsmith. We are also looking to appoint Rev David Baylor and Katie Reynolds who will both strengthen the Governing Body for the challenges of the upcoming year. A new program of Governor training from Kernow Learning will ensure Governors receive high quality Continued Professional Development.
- Risk Management continues to evolve, which although embedded in Governing Bodies meetings is free to be altered depending on pressures placed on the School
- The Governors have been supported by Truro Diocese working with Kernow Learning in the creation of Governor Monitoring Forms for SIAMS. This will allow targeted monitoring to take place by our Incumbent Rev Geoffrey Bennett and Rev David Baylor. Training undertaken by the Chair of Governors on the new framework of SIAMS will also allow Governors to support the school going forward.
- Succession planning to fill statutory roles within the LGB. New governors have been given responsibility as safeguarding and SEND deputies. These governors have been provided with training and mentoring.

Strengths of the Local Governing Body

Extract from Two Day Review undertaken by Kernow Learning.

Governors' Annual Statement and Impact Report

- Local Governors have a sound understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses
- They have excellent working knowledge of their obligations under the Equalities Act 2010
- LGB Monitoring Visits are planned carefully alongside the priorities of the schools 100 day (school improvement) plan
- There is good evidence of challenge against the priorities from the Local Governing Board members with detailed monitoring reports and robust questioning seen in Governors meeting Minutes

Areas of Impact within St Francis

- The Head teacher, Rachel Marsh and the Chair of Governors have played an active role within the Kernow Learning Ethos Committee
- Safeguarding Governor, Christina Hourigan leads on Keeping Children Safe in Education updates
- Methods introduced by the LAB at St Francis School have been adopted across the Trust as examples of 'best practice' this has included Governor preparation for an OFTSED inspection and our Impact Statement
- The Local Governing Body write termly governor newsletters for parents and the local community to raise the profile of governance.
- Governors assigned to key monitoring areas and ensure that their monitoring links in with the priorities from the School Improvement Plan.
- Continue to be part of the school improvement journey, providing appropriate challenge and support where necessary.
- Continuing with high quality training.

Governor Training

The full governing body continues to stay up to date with safeguarding training and have ensured that a member of the LGB attended all other training opportunities that have been available throughout the year.

Impact within Church Schools and our wider community

- The Governing Body have continued to support other schools Local Governing Bodies across the country, promoting the innovative practice and preparation for their own inspections; this is in keeping with our Christian Values.
- Hannah Stevens and the Chair of Governors have continued to support another Kernow Learning Church school by serving on the Local Governing Body.
- The Chair of Governors has continued to support chairs within and outside of Kernow Learning.
- The Chair of Governors has continued to support another Local Governing Body within Kernow Learning.
- The Governors have taken part in training in preparation for SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Methodist Schools) visits.
- The Governing Body continue to share examples of Best Practice throughout Kernow Learning.

Priorities for the Local Governing Body for the next year other than our core functions:

- Ensure that Governors undertake Continued Personal Development training available through Kernow Learning
- Governors will continue to monitor the following areas::
Standards and curriculum

Governors' Annual Statement and Impact Report

Safeguarding (with focus on SEMH/TIS)

Inclusion - SEND and disadvantage

Stakeholders

E-safety and computing

Christian Distinctiveness

- Ensure that there detailed evidence across all areas of our school as we prepare for SIAMS
- Ensure succession planning for governors with statutory responsibilities.

Our school mission is to build a spiritual and dynamic community which is enthusiastic for learning and which embraces the achievement of potential for all. We use this to test our impact as governors.

It is an honour to work alongside the dedicated, supportive and hardworking team at St Francis School and the Governing Body is looking forward to what 2023/24 will bring.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Scott Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert Scott Wilson Chair of Governors St Francis School