

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL STATEMENT TO PARENTS



The Governing Board at St Neot School and Nursery endeavours to fulfil the role defined by Government supported by the Local Authority. In doing so we aim to make our school the very best it can be for the benefit of our children.

A governing board has three core functions for its school, as set out in the 2014 Department for Education's Governors' Handbook:

- *setting the strategic direction*
- *holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school*
- *ensuring financial health, probity and value for money.*

These core functions are consistent with the criteria that Ofsted will use to judge the governing board

The Department for Education guidance specifies that the annual statement should explain how we have fulfilled our responsibilities, including:

- the governance arrangements that are in place;
 - the attendance record of governors at board and committee meetings;
- and
- an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.

The Governor role is intended to be strategic in nature while being a “critical friend” to the Headteacher and the school leadership team who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school and nursery. In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained an enormous respect for all the staff. The amount of effort, care for our children, and “going the extra mile” we see on a regular basis from all our staff is nothing short of inspirational. It is not only academic progress that is in evidence in the school, but all the clubs and other activities such as musical and sports events that show what a broad and fulfilling education our children benefit from in our school. Can we take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all our staff for the level of effort and care they all contribute.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Board is made up of 10 positions as follows:

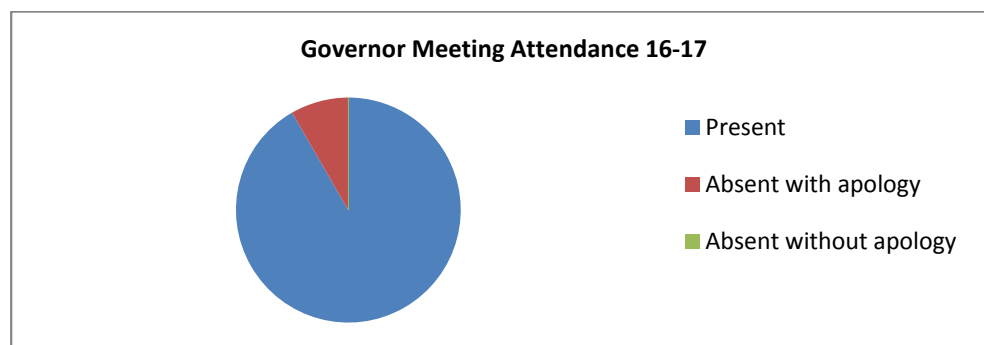
- Three Parent Governors appointed by a ballot of parents
- One Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority
- One Staff Governor appointed by a ballot of staff
- Four Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Board
- One Headteacher

The current governors are listed on the governor page of the school website and all have the same responsibilities. All are volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children.

Terms as a governor are for four years. Parent Governor vacancies are advertised through the school newsletter.

We have an agenda planner that helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered. The full governing board meets half termly to discuss a range of items including finance, the curriculum, policies, school development planning, safeguarding and staffing

Attendance Record



The attendance record for each of the governors is kept and apologies and absence recorded. In the last academic year there have been no absences without valid apologies being accepted. Many of us are not educational specialists but bring experience and skills from other professions that help us together to form an effective governing board. Attendance at meetings is only part of the role. Reading and preparation is required for each meeting and the various actions require following up. We talk to staff on different aspects of the curriculum and each of us undertake at least one governor visit a year relating to school development priorities, writing up a report afterwards. Governors also help at school events such as Sports Evening and the Christmas Fair. In line with our continuous improvement ethos we ask that all Governors undertake regular training, including two days of induction and training reflecting individual responsibilities such as SEN and Finance.

Effectiveness and Impact of the Board

We continue to review our effectiveness against departmental guidance, and discuss the effectiveness at each meeting we hold. Whilst we were very pleased that OFSTED found the school outstanding at the last inspection we strive to maintain and improve our performance so that we may again be considered “outstanding” next time OFSTED visit the school.

The main challenges we have addressed this school year include:

- Review of the School Improvement Plan
- Opening the Nursery, extending provision to 2-11 years
- Ensuring safeguarding is robust and effective
- Updating policies and procedures
- Health and Safety Audit
- E-safety audit
- Safeguarding Audit
- Budgeting
- Staffing
- Governor visits
- Monitoring pupil progress
- Challenging gifted and talented progress
- Building an outside classroom, developing outside learning opportunities
- Effective scrutiny of Pupil Premium and Sport Premium
- Investigating Multi Academy trust status
- Improved security