

**ST NEOT SCHOOL AND NURSERY**  
**GOVERNORS' ANNUAL STATEMENT TO PARENTS**



The Governing Board at St Neot School and Nursery endeavours to fulfil the role defined by the 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.

*All Governance Boards, no matter what type of school or how many schools they govern, have three core functions, as set out in the Department for Education Governors' Handbook:*

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

The Governor role is intended to be strategic in nature while being a “critical friend” to the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team who are responsible for the day-to-day operational running of the school and nursery.

Staff and Governors are very proud of the success of the children this year and continually strive to achieve the school's aims through a sequential broad and balanced curriculum, offering a wide range of opportunities and experiences. Through high quality education the school endeavours to raise the standards of attainment as well as instilling mental health and British Values. Together, with the support of parents, pupils become successful learners and achieve their full potential.

The Governors, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers, have enabled the school to run effectively and provide excellent education to children.

- The Governing Board, the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team, and indeed all members of staff, are constantly striving to improve and develop the school, consistently ‘going the extra mile’ to ensure children have as many opportunities as possible including clubs and other activities
- Staff are supported to deliver an inspiring, broad, balanced and fulfilling curriculum
- The Governing Board has effectively continued to expand the learning opportunities for younger children in St Neot and the surrounding area by reviewing Nursery opening hours
- There has been effective allocation and creative use of Sports Premium funding so as to inspire and develop further the skills of our children and teaching staff
- Pupil Premium is used effectively to support and improve the attainment and well-being of disadvantaged children
- Partnership working with other schools has allowed effective collaborative practices to be developed and staff training shared

We would like to take this opportunity to give all our school and nursery staff a huge thank you for the significant degree of effort and care that they all contribute to the well-being and success of our children. They always go above and beyond their roles.

### **Governance Arrangements**

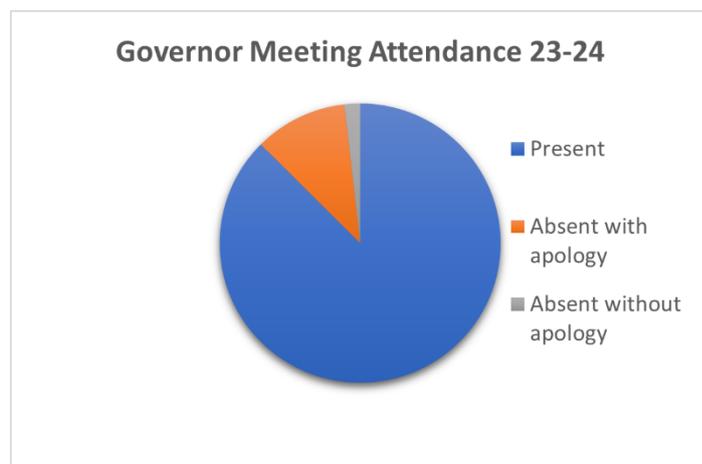
The Governing Board is made up of 10 positions as follows:

- Two 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
- Five Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Board
- One Headteacher

There has been a substantial change to the Governing Board this year, leading to a new Chair taking over in September and a new Vice Chair also being elected in September. A reshuffle of responsibility has ensured that those responsible for subjects have been able to evaluate and monitor their curriculum area.

The current Governors are listed on the Governor page of the school website. Governors are all volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children. Terms as a Governor are for four years.

There have been 6 formal Governing Board meetings this academic year. We have an agenda planner to ensure that all required topics are covered.



#### **Attendance Record**

The attendance record for each of the Governors is kept and apologies and absences are recorded.

Attendance at meetings is only part of the role. Governors talk to staff on different aspects of the curriculum and each one undertakes at least one Governor visit a term relating to school development priorities, writing up a report afterwards. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for Governors to be able to

work closely with staff members across the school. Link Governors follow a cycle which sets out the monitoring activities which they will be undertaking with the subject leader. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of Governors during their visits are provided and regular training is available. During this academic year Governors have received training in a range of subjects including Safeguarding, PREVENT, 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.

Our core responsibilities are:

- Setting and monitoring of the budget and overseeing financial management
- Monitoring and reviewing the School Development Plan
- Ensuring safeguarding is robust and effective
- Reviewing and updating policies and procedure
- Undertaking Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Finance audits
- Data analysis including monitoring pupil progress
- Staffing and classroom structures
- Governor visits
- Ensuring effective scrutiny of Pupil Premium and Sport Premium
- Setting and monitoring the school's visions and aims
- Ensuring all meetings benefit the pupils' education and well-being and staff well-being

The challenges we have addressed this school year include:

- Ensuring pupil and staff well-being is monitored
- Ensuring effective health and safety including managing building works to ensure continuing compliance and safety
- Monitoring absences
- Ensuring support for Staff and pupil mental health and wellbeing
- Ensuring effective use of catch-up tutoring spending
- Reviewing a new data collection programme for monitoring school data

The main proposals for the next academic year are:

- Reviewing and monitoring the progressive curriculum ensuring that the golden thread provides a framework for learning and helps to deepen children's understanding of what is being taught
- Monitor and promote high levels of attendance
- Continuous provision enables pupils to develop speaking and listening skills in the Early Years
- Using the new Pathways programme to improve writing skills through the development of spelling, punctuation and grammar across the school, including editing skills.
- A curriculum focus on science