



## Charlestown Primary School

### Governors Impact Statement 2022-2023

#### **Context:**

The governors of Charlestown Primary School form a Local Governing Board (LGB) which, in turn, is part of the Kernow Learning Trust. We work in partnership with the Head Teacher to improve the school and are accountable to the Board of Trustees. During this school year we have primarily held our meetings in person, although retained the ability for our governors to join remotely.

Effective governance is based on eight key elements :

1. The right people around the table
2. Clear understanding of the role and responsibilities
3. Good chairing
4. Professional clerking
5. Good relationships based on trust
6. Knowing the school
7. Commitment to asking challenging questions
8. Confident to have courageous conversations in the interests of children and young people

In essence our role is strategic and to act as a “critical friend” to the Headteacher and the school leadership team who are responsible for the day to day running of the school. In reviewing the way the school operates the governors have gained an enormous amount of respect for all the staff in the school. We would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to our team for the level of effort and care they contribute to our community.

#### **Contextual Information:**

This academic year has continued to present challenges as we regain our stride post COVID-19, however our school community has adapted well under all circumstances and shown exceptional resilience. Our LGB has gone through a period of change, with an experienced parent governor coming to the end of their term, being replaced by a new parent governor in the summer term. We also recruited a new community governor at the very end of the school year ready to start with us in the Autumn term. This puts us in a position of having a good mix of experience and fresh skills and energy. Over the year we have held 6 formal meetings, have had 3 monitoring weeks and some ad-hoc subject specific meetings. All meetings have been in person.

This statement aims to summarise the work of Charlestown's LGB over the last 12 months. Although by no means exhaustive, it does illustrate how the Governing Body is contributing to their three core strategic functions as outlined in the 'Governors Handbook':

**Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction:**

As governors, we fully support the schools' aims to promote the highest standards of work and behaviour and to provide opportunities for success for all children in a nurturing environment of mutual trust, respect and harmony. We are also committed to removing and breaking any barriers to learning that we may encounter.

The strategic direction is core to our 100 day school improvement plan – and this is agreed with governors and leadership teams. This is then monitored and scrutinised by Ofsted and our Challenge Partner initiatives. Reports of progress and internal monitoring enable our LGB to challenge effectively and support where required.

Governors are able to monitor termly and use findings to challenge and support the Head Teachers report and our strategic direction.

Governors adopt key areas of responsibility for curriculum in addition to the overarching responsibilities common to all – Safeguarding, Pupil Premium (Disadvantaged), Sports Premium, SEN and Compliance.

**Accountability of Head Teachers for the performance of school and pupils:**

Governors monitor both formative and summative assessment data and relate findings to our school priorities.

Governors hold the Head Teachers and Senior Leadership Team to account by challenging and supporting improvement and progress, via the Head Teachers report.

Governors monitor the 100 day plan to ensure its delivery and link monitoring visits to key Ofsted issues.

Governors regularly attend meetings and assemblies to experience celebratory occasions and offer support to FOCS, Friends of Charlestown School.

**Overseeing financial performance of the Academy and making sure it is money well spent:**

Although the financial responsibility for the school sits centrally with the Trust's Business Team, the LGB has contact with the Trust's finance lead should discussion be required, via our link governor.

The LGB scrutinises both Pupil Premium (disadvantaged) and Sports premium funding, plus the COVID catch up funding, and hold the Head Teacher to account on the impact of the spending.

**Other evidence of LGB impact on school improvement:**

Governors acknowledge and appreciate the contribution and support of the Kernow Learning Trust, particularly on following up on safeguarding support, training and any additional support that is required.

To drive forward our ongoing commitment of creating an Outstanding School, the LGB hold regular informal meetings to discuss matters not covered in our formal meetings, to offer robust monitoring and further discussions. The LGB ensures governors are visible and approachable to raise

prominence, with Governors committed to attending assemblies, PTA events, staff meetings and parent forums, as well as events in the wider community.

Governors ensure the effectiveness of the LGB by inviting key members of staff to their meetings, when appropriate, to present their subjects and show the intent, implementation and impact of those subject areas.

**Our key focus for the year ahead:**

- To embed our new team, and ensure everyone is well supported in their new roles, so that we can continue to hold the SLT to account for the provision of quality education and ensure the wellbeing of staff and pupils in the coming year.
- To continue with training to support us in fulfilling our roles effectively.
- To ensure that we continue to meet with middle leaders, and ensure they are offering an “inspiring, enriching and enlightening” curriculum to our children.
- To continue with our high expectations of all our school community, especially in terms of behaviour and attendance, to ensure that Charlestown continues to be an exciting, safe and nurturing environment.

We are looking forward to the new academic year, welcoming new families to our school and effectively fulfilling our roles as governors.

Best Wishes

Lynne Dewar

Chair Of Governors