



St Newlyn East
Learning Academy

Annual **Governance Impact Report**

2023/24

Kernow Learning

#AsOne



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Introduction

This report serves as a means for the Local Governing Body (LGB) of St Newlyn East Learning Academy to be transparent about its activities and outcomes throughout the academic year, showcasing how the LGB has fulfilled its responsibilities in line with the Kernow Learning scheme of delegation and the school's vision and values.

School Priorities 23/24

The priorities for this year have been:

1. SAFEGUARDING of children to be the highest priority, promoting positive behaviour and a personal development curriculum leading children who have a high aspirations and a high percentage if attendance.
2. To combine powerful narrative, rich vocabulary and purposeful reading into the wider curriculum in order for children to be hooked into their learning, leading them to know and remember more.
3. To build a reflective, passionate team of staff who teach with excellence and have high standards for all children, particularly North Star (disadvantaged) and SEND children.
4. To continue to build excellence in maths, both in terms of high quality teaching and increased automaticity in number.

Purpose of Governance

Governance exists to provide strong strategic leadership to a Trust and school, ensuring accountability for its educational and financial performance.

There are four core functions of governance:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. (In Kernow Learning, this responsibility lies with Trustees overall, although local governors do ensure specific grant funding, such as pupil premium and sports premium, is used effectively.
- Ensure the voices of school stakeholders are heard.

Within Kernow Learning, the Trust Board is the employer and ultimately accountable for ensuring compliance with the core functions. Each Kernow Learning school has a Local Governing Board (LGB) that is delegated responsibility to monitor the “3 S’s” Standards, Safeguarding and Stakeholders.



Changes in Local Governing Board

Across this academic year, our LGB has seen the following changes:

We welcomed 2 Community Governors (Ellie Watkins and Jodie Hyatt) and 1 Parent Governor (Hannah Elford) to the LGB.

We bid farewell to Michelle Hague (Community Governor and Chair of the LGB)

We end the year with 1 vacancy, for the above post, and have been lucky enough to co-opt Janine Bisson as Community Governor and proposed Chair of the LGB. The vacancy will be filled at the start of the 24/25 academic year subject to ratification by the Kernow Learning Board of Trustees. This will mean that, once again, the St Newlyn East LGB will have a full complement of members.

Training and Network Groups

Across this academic year, our governors have undertaken the following key training:

Keeping Children Safe in Education – All Governors

Trust Induction for Governors - 3 Governors (EW, HE, JH)

Disadvantaged pupil training – 2 Governors (MH, JH)

Effective Governor monitoring – 3 Governors (AB, HE, JH)

Safeguarding training with Lisa Farmer - 1 Governor (HE new Governor)

RSHE Training – 1 Governor (JH)

Safeguarding Network meetings - attended by MH

SEN network meetings – attended by EE

Trust Chairs network meetings – attended by MH

The impact of this has been that all the members of the LGB are able to work with the school towards delivery of the priorities for the 2023 / 2024 academic Year.

- Through training, networks and induction, all LGB members are aware of the importance of Keeping Children Safe in Education and their responsibility for discharging their duty. This has supported the school to work towards its highest priority of effective safeguarding. It has facilitated appropriate challenge and support around safeguarding issues such as attendance and behaviour.
- Attendance at effective monitoring training has ensured that all LGB members are appropriately skilled and confident to complete monitoring visits and therefore able to triangulate reports from the School Improvement team and Head teacher accounts with pupil conferencing and real time observations. This means that the LGB are not just assured, but reassured, that the school is working well towards its priorities, particularly for Maths and Oracy.
- Disadvantaged pupil training and regular attendance at the Safeguarding and SEN Networks has cemented the importance of delivering high quality education, having high aspirations and ‘getting it right’ for the North Star Children. This is something that is addressed in monitoring visits and through challenge, particularly with reference to specific grant funding at LGB meetings.

- Through Chairs Networks and preparing for Inspection training, the LGB has a good understanding of how the school can showcase its achievements and how the LGB members can influence this.

Monitoring, Challenge and Impact

The following governor monitoring has been undertaken this year in line with the 100 day School Improvement Plan and specifically looking at the work towards delivering the Key priorities:

Priority 1 – Safeguarding

- Termly safeguarding review and weekly catch up between Headteacher and Chair
- Personal development
- Behaviour and safeguarding – coinciding with review by Trust Safeguarding lead
- Online safety

Priority 2 – Vocabulary in the wider curriculum

- Music
- AI in Foundation
- Just Read
- Computing
- Narrative

Priority 3 – Developing teaching excellence with a North Star focus

- All visits have a North Star Children focus element.
- Termly SEND monitoring by SEN Governor
- Quality of Teaching

Priority 4 – Building excellence in Maths

- Maths review – Spring and Summer term

The impact of this monitoring has been that:

- LGB members, particularly those from an educational background have been able to share ideas of good practice.
- LGB members have been able to see at first-hand how working towards the school priorities is affecting the learning experience for the children. There has been feedback at LGB meetings, so that all members of the LGB are reassured that there is good practice evident throughout the school.
- LGB members have been able to provide effective challenge about behaviour and consistency of approach across the school.
- Monitoring has allowed the LGB members to triangulate reports from educational professionals with Head Teacher accounts and personal experience / pupil conferencing.

Feedback to the Trust Board

At the end of all LGB meetings, we feedback to the Trust Board so they are aware of any potential risks and challenges, along with progress against the school Improvement Plan and notable successes.

Self Evaluation and Development Plan

Our LGB undertook a self-evaluation process at the start of this academic year. This then informed our Governance development plan. Development points were:

- Succession planning for the LGB has been the main focus. The LGB were aware that vacancies in the Board had to be filled and that there needed to be a viable option for taking over the role of chair in the 2024 / 2025 academic year, in order for robust governance at St Newlyn East Learning Academy to continue. A very accomplished Chair will be joining the LGB in September.
- Upskilling the new members of the team to ensure that they were confident and effective in their monitoring, and wholly aware of their role in providing support and challenge to the head and the Senior Leadership team. All members can now complete effective monitoring visits and are confident to ask questions and provide challenge at the termly LGB meetings.
- To be involved in the appointment of the new Headteacher, so that the LGB could ensure that the new Head would be able to uphold the school values and continue to strive to deliver the excellence that the children deserve. LGB members were present at a meet and greet, the candidate presentations and the formal interview. LGB views were very much taken into account throughout the process and the LGB were satisfied that a good outcome for the school has been secured.

School Priorities for 24/25

The School's priorities for 24/25 will something that the LGB will look forward reviewing with the new Headteacher.

The LGB will continue with a robust and carefully planned schedule of monitoring to ensure there is progress against these priorities.

The LGB self evaluation process will be repeated in September 2024 and this will inform the governance priorities for 24/25.