



The Bishops'
CofE Learning Academy

Annual **Governance Impact Report**

2024/25

Kernow Learning

#AsOne

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Introduction

This report serves as a means for the Local Governing Body (LGB) of The Bishops C of E 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 24/25

The priorities for this year have been:

- Leadership: Strengthen middle/senior leadership to embed lesson pedagogy, oracy and vocabulary.
- Culture: Positively advantage disadvantaged learners to enable all pupils to flourish spiritually, academically, and emotionally.
- Curriculum: Secure the writing curriculum to accelerate progress and attainment so KS1+2 RWM outcomes are inline or above national.
- Curriculum: Secure the maths curriculum to accelerate progress and attainment so KS1+2 RWM outcomes are inline or above national.
- Secure progress and attainment of KS1/KS2 RWM to be inline or above national outcomes.

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.
- 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 “4 S’s” Standards, Safeguarding, Stakeholders and SIAMs.

Changes in Local Governing Board

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

The LGB welcomed Rachel Murray to the LGB as the new headteacher in September 2024. It has been a real pleasure working with Rachel across the 24/25 academic year.

We welcomed Natalie Par to the LGB as staff Governor in January and Daniel Chapman as a Community Governor in February. We bid farewell to Beata Nowak, Beata Nowak, Ingrid Yeomans and Jenna Grassick.

We end the year with one Parent Governor vacancy. This will be advertised in the Autumn term when new Reception parents have stelled into our school.

Training and Network Groups

All governors have benefitted from training from Kernow Learning, which is designed to support Governors with confidently challenging and supporting the school to achieve best possible outcomes for the children. Sessions undertaken have included Effective Governor Monitoring, Disadvantaged Pupils, and SIAMs. Safeguarding and Prevent training is also undertaken by all Governors and our new Governors have received a full induction.

Governors have also attended, and played an active part, in various Network Groups within Kernow Learning including SEND, Safeguarding, Church Schools and Chairs.

The impact of this has been that Governors are kept up to date with the latest challenges facing Education both within our Trust and Nationally. The training also gives support and guidance on how

to be a critical friend to our school and ensures as Governors, we are aware of new initiatives and expectations.

Monitoring, Challenge and Impact

The following governor monitoring has been undertaken this year:

- Safeguarding
- SEND
- School Trips
- Writing
- SIAMS

In addition to this, Governors have spent time in school at Summer Fayres, After School Clubs and at Christmas and Easter events

The impact of monitoring and spending time in school has been:

- It has enabled governors to triangulate aspects of the school improvement plan, to evidence progression and impact towards improving outcomes.
- Supporting at key whole school events has raised the profile of school governance within our school community.
- Governors have been able to link with key members of staff who are driving improvements day to day.
- Governors have been able to stretch beyond and share their experience to benefit other schools within our Trust.

We were delighted to welcome Ofsted into our school in February and demonstrate the strength of our governance.

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.

We set the following objectives:

- Recruit for the Safeguarding Governor Role
- Submitting questions in advance
- Continued presence at network groups and training

Governors were successful in each of these areas.

School Priorities for 25/26

The School's priorities for 25/26 will be:

1. Strengthen middle/senior leadership to embed lesson pedagogy, oracy and vocabulary
2. Cultivate a school culture that actively promotes the spiritual, academic, and emotional flourishing of all pupils, with a deliberate focus on learning behaviours.
3. Strengthen the reading, writing and maths curriculum to accelerate progress and attainment so KS1 & 2 RWM outcomes are inline or above national.
4. Strengthen the mixed age curriculum in KS1 & 2 to enhance pupil knowledge in foundation subjects.

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 reviewed in September 2025 and this will inform the governance priorities for 25/26.