

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Body of Mount Charles School January 2021

Mount Charles School is part of Cornwall Education Learning Trust. The Trust Board delegates a range of governance responsibilities to the Local Governing Body (LGB), key responsibilities include:

- To assist the Board in monitoring and evaluating the performance, progress and attainment of those students/pupils attending the academy.
- To work closely with the Trustees and act with integrity, objectivity and honesty in the best interests of the Trust and the Academy.

This allows the LGB to:

- Monitor the quality of education that the school provides and the impact upon all its pupils.
- Monitor the CPD for all staff to ensure it is aligned to the SDP & aligned with the curriculum underpinned by robust performance management processes.
- Ensure accountability of the executive leadership of the school.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for the day-to-day management and running of the School. Governors are there to support and challenge the School through monitoring how its strategic direction and subsequent school-based initiatives and interventions impact upon the school in providing high-quality education for all pupils. The Governors will act as a critical friend in supporting the high ambitions the school holds for all pupils. Our role is strategic not operational.

Governors are all volunteers. We act as a corporate body, taking decisions as a group, and our overriding concern is the welfare of all children in the school. **Above all, our priority is to ensure that pupils are happy and eager to come to school every day. We work together to ensure that pupils achieve academically and we firmly believe in a rounded education that celebrates all pupils' strengths and achievements.**

About Our School

Mount Charles School has 400 pupils, 22 teaching staff and 24 teaching assistants. There is a dedicated pastoral team to support families. We are proud to have an Area Resource Base for children who have severe and complex learning and/or physical difficulties.

The vision of the school is "Motivating all and celebrating success".

Mount Charles School received an Ofsted grading of Good in May 2019. You can read the report for this [here](#).

About the Local Governing Body

The Governing Body is made up of 2 parent governors, 4 board appointed community governors, 2 staff governors, 2 associate governors (Assistant Headteachers) and the Headteacher.

The Governing Body meets once per half-term, in total six meetings per year. At these meetings we review the progress and attainment of pupils in the school. We receive reports from the Headteacher and other senior staff on key items such as the use and impact of Pupil Premium funding, effective use of Sports Premium funding and Attendance. We always look at how effective Safeguarding and Health & Safety is in the School. We approve policies developed at school level, for example behaviour, admissions and SEND. As part of a Trust, many policies are developed centrally and are standard across all Trust schools.

Each Governor has a link area for which they carry out monitoring visits at least once per term. These are closely linked to the School Improvement Plan.

All of our meetings are clerked and minutes are available from the school office on request.

The Chair attends half-termly meetings with the LGB Chairs from the other schools in Cornwall Education Learning Trust, the Trust Lead and member of the Trust Board.

A list of current members of the Governing Body is available [here](#), along with details of their link areas.

Effectiveness and Impact of the Governing Body over the past year

2019/20 was a year of two parts, with governance running as usual until March, and then of course came COVID-19.

Between September 2019 and March 2020, the LGB monitored how the school was meeting the school improvement priorities identified and addressing the areas for improvement identified in the 2019 Ofsted visit. Senior leaders presented to the LGB on key areas, such as phonics and early reading development enabling Governors to hold the senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school ensuring the planned strategic direction improved pupil outcomes.

Governor visits took place looking at safeguarding, pupil premium & attendance, reading, inclusion and health & safety. The impact of such visits ensured Governors effectively monitored the school in securing high quality education for all pupils including those identified as disadvantaged.

Our safeguarding governor took part in pupil conferencing, getting feedback from the children on how the PSHE curriculum is delivered and how this contributes to their safety and wellbeing. Through such meaningful engagement, Governors continue to demonstrate their ambition in ensuring the PSHE curriculum offer remains purposeful and relevant in helping pupils learn appropriate ways to remain safe.

We have been involved in appointment of new staff members, ensuring that Mount Charles maintains a focus on quality first teaching for all children.

Governors attend regular training. In the past year LGB members have attended training on assessment data, Ofsted & curriculum development, 'making a

difference' governor training, CELT governor training sessions. All governors completed safeguarding training through the Safeguarding Network at the start of the Autumn term 2020. Through such training events the Governors have ensured they maintain effective skills, knowledge and understanding which enables them to continue to hold the school to account in the Quality of Education provided and ensure safeguarding meets statutory compliance.

During the period of lockdown and the partial school closures from March to July, the LGB did not meet or visit the school, with the CELT Trust Board overseeing governance during this time. The Chair was in regular contact with the Headteacher to support and provide updates to the rest of the LGB.

We are extremely proud of the work of all the school staff during this unprecedented and very challenging period. During March – June, Mount Charles leadership staff and support staff worked at the CELT Childcare Hub for keyworker children and vulnerable children, with teachers working from home and available online to support those children learning at home and maintain contact with families. From 1st June, the school site re-opened and children in reception, Yr1 and Yr6, along with vulnerable and keyworker children, attended for the rest of the Summer term. Yr5 children were also able to have some school-based time. Wellbeing for children and staff was the key priority during this time and continues to be so. The LGB reviewed parent and staff surveys carried out in the Summer term which provided very positive feedback on how the school supported families and staff and also enabled the school to respond to any concerns raised.

The school has been proactive in addressing identified site developments; work continues to develop the school premises, indoors and outdoors. The LGB is supporting the Headteacher in developing a plan to improve the school environment for the benefit of all our children. Meetings were held in Summer 2020 to progress these plans, with significant work expected in the next 12 months.

We are grateful to St Austell Town Council for allowing the school to erect temporary fencing on Woodland Road Park from June 2020 to help with the spreading out of pick up and drop off points for families, and to provide additional outdoor space for the children to play in. As a result of such work the Leadership and Management of the school have ensured they continue to create an environment that is deemed appropriate for pupils to learn across all aspects of school life.

Governance Action Plan/Key Objectives for the Year

Obviously the key priority for this academic year is to keep staff and children safe as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The LGB will continue to be updated on the school's plans which ensure remote learning can continue should children not be able to attend school for any period of time. These identified developments secure the planned progress of all pupils over time in accordance to the pupil progress data sets held by the school; we aim to ensure no pupil will be disadvantaged by the education they receive during these unprecedented times.

As much as possible within the restrictions necessarily in place due to COVID-19, we will also continue to monitor the school improvement priorities and continue work to

monitor how children are accessing & benefiting from the full broad and balanced curriculum offered at Mount Charles School.

As always, we will monitor safeguarding to ensure children are kept safe.

We continue to be very proud of the staff team at Mount Charles School and how well they have worked together in this unprecedented year.

Contact Us

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can contact the Chair of Governors, Katie Chandler, via chair@mount-charlessch.org.

January 2021