

Governance Statement year 2017-2018

The Chair's Blog

This occasional publication is available on the governor's section of the website and gives a picture of the work of the governors as it evolves during the school year.

What do we do?

The Governing Board meets twice a term as a full board and committees for specific things such as finance, premises, the curriculum (teaching and learning) and performance management also meet several times each term. The Chair of Governors and the headteacher have a meeting most weeks.

In the meetings governors discuss the vision of the school (where we are going), strategy (how we are going to get there) and progress (how well we are doing with the other two). We ask a lot of questions, we visit the school to check on the things we have asked about and then ask more questions!

The governors believe that Pennoweth School should be "Unlocking and Realising Potential" in all our children and also in our staff and to a degree in our parents and community.

What impact do we have?

When the school is inspected or assessed the impact is looked at alongside the progress made by the children.

Pennoweth School has made much progress in many ways, to the extent that the school is now the first choice for many parents in the local area and most year groups are at capacity with some having waiting lists. Our visits have noted the wonderful work on the structure of the school and grounds and how this has had a positive impact on the behaviour of the children. All visits note the calm and happy atmosphere inside the building, with the children being polite, friendly and eager to help.

Some things you might notice when visiting:

- The all weather pitch at the KS2 end.
- The boat and creative play facilities at KS1.
- The refurbishment and redesign of the nursery / foundation outside learning area.
- The continued development of the 'jungle' and its use for imaginative and creative play.
- The gardening poly tunnel.
- The evolving system for delivering the ICT (computers) curriculum with Chromebooks and charging / security trolleys.

- The work on the decor, furniture, flooring, lighting etc, all with the aim of providing an environment that will instil pride and encourage excellence in all things.

Although we think our final SATs results still have room for improvement, the school can show that excellent progress is being made throughout the school and governor questions and visits show that the senior leadership is working tirelessly to make all teaching and learning excellent.

Children need to be safe and feel secure in order to make good progress and governors monitor school procedures, making sure there are policies in place and that practice is always exemplary.

We make sure that:

- Food is cooked on the premises to an excellent standard of quality and value.
- Care is provided before and after school to enable parents to work, knowing that their children are safely and productively occupied.
- We listen to parents' concerns through individual contacts, parents on the board and focus groups, as well as other initiatives such as our meet and greet team and pastoral workers who relay relevant information to us.
- We listen and respond where appropriate to community concerns and try to make sure that parents have all the information they need through supporting and monitoring the weekly newsletter, the website and social media.
- We have ensured that training has been done to ensure knowledge of radicalisation issues and the Governing Board has its own Radicalisation safeguarding trainer.

What's next?

The governors have to respond to initiatives from the Government and decide on the best course of action to support our children and their families. A big decision has been made in deciding to join the Crofty Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and the further administration and consultations for this will be a major piece of work this year. The School Commissioner has agreed that this is appropriate for us.

We continue to look closely at school standards, the way it carries out assessments, moderates its work and ensures that data is both safe and secure.

We will continue our dialogue with families and the community so that we can refine and deliver the services that are required to ensure children get a sound and complete education.

Who we are

The Governing Board at Pennoweth School is comprised of about 17 people from staff, parents and the community. We have 15 formal governor positions and other people are invited to attend for their expertise and interest in supporting our school

Jim Seth—Chair of Governors – Retired primary school leader and now Chaplain in the Diocese of Truro

Sarah King— Business leader

Enid Ghent—Foundation Governor – Retired primary school teacher and now training classroom support workers at Truro College.

Rob Cooper—Parent Governor –Safeguarding lead at St Austell College.

Emma Thomas—Parent Governor – Graphic designer, project manager and small business owner.

Ian Jones—Community Governor – Cornwall County Council

Rob Adams—Headteacher Governor

Deborah Reeve— Vice Chair of Governors Redruth Town Council, Deputy Town Mayor

Karen Brokenshire – Education Consultant

Liz Shepherd – Royal Cornwall Museum

Staff Governor – Vacancy

Parent Governor – Vacancy

Parent Governor - Vacancy

Wendy Randle—The Clerk

Currently we have some vacancies and we are actively looking for people who have skills to help our board.

What do governors do?

School governors are people from the school's community who want to contribute to children's education. They perform one of the most important voluntary roles in education, raising school standards in different ways:

- ✓ Supporting the headteacher and the school as a 'critical friend.'
- ✓ Enabling the headteacher to carry out his or her vision and providing the correct support so that day to day management can be efficient and effective.
- ✓ Setting the school's strategic direction.
- ✓ Providing a way of holding decision-makers in the school to account
- ✓ Assessing how the school is performing overall.

Our work as a governor includes:

- ✓ Agreeing budgets, policies and objectives.
- ✓ Making sure budgets and objectives are being met.
- ✓ Reviewing the work of senior staff.
- ✓ Helping to appoint staff.

Pennoweth's governors are expected to attend:

- ✓ Two termly full governors' meetings.
- ✓ School monitoring visits.
- ✓ Monthly curriculum committee and other committees as needed.
- ✓ Some training! New governors have to do two full days in understanding their duties and how they can help the school most. We also do other courses about recruiting staff, being a good chair and so on.

How do people become governors?

All types of people can become school governors. Schools welcome new governors who can bring skills and expertise they've developed at work, or who have a good understanding of the community served by the school. You don't have to have a child at the school in question—anyone who's interested in education and supporting their local community can get involved. No special qualifications are required, but you must be 18 or over on the date when you are elected or appointed.

If you are interested in becoming a school governor please contact our clerk at wrclerking@outlook.com

Where can I find out more?

The School Governors' One-Stop Shop has information on what's involved in being a governor, where the opportunities to get involved are, and how you can apply.

Email : info@sgoss.org.uk

Tel : 020 7354 9805

<http://www.sgoss.org.uk/home/>

How can you as parents or carers help our school?

Governors are only a small part of a much bigger team. Please do take part in PTA activities and volunteer where you can, for example in hearing readers or helping on school trips—it really does make a difference!