

ST NEOT SCHOOL AND NURSERY

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL STATEMENT TO PARENTS



The Governing Board at St Neot School and Nursery endeavours to fulfil the role defined by Government supported by the Local Authority. In doing so we aim to make our school the very best it can be for the benefit of our children.

A governing board has three core functions for its school, as set out in the 2014 Department for Education's Governors' Handbook:

- *setting the strategic direction*
- *holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school*
- *ensuring financial health, probity and value for money.*

These core functions are consistent with the criteria that Ofsted will use to judge the governing board

The Department for Education guidance specifies that the annual statement should explain how we have fulfilled our responsibilities, including:

- the governance arrangements that are in place;
- the attendance record of governors at board and committee meetings; and
- an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.

The Governor role is intended to be strategic in nature while being a "critical friend" to the Headteacher and the school leadership team who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school and nursery.

- The governing board, the head teacher and senior management team, and indeed all members of staff, are constantly striving to improve and develop the school, consistently 'going the extra mile' to ensure children have as many opportunities as possible
- Staff deliver an inspiring, broad and fulfilling curriculum. This has been successful with continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment with end of Key Stage results having risen consistently
- The board have effectively expanded the early years securing long term term time provision for younger children in St Neot and the surrounding area
- There has been effective allocation and creative use of Sports Premium funding so as to further inspire and up skill teaching staff and pupils
- Partnership working with other schools has allowed effective collaborative practices being developed and staff training shared.

Can we take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all our staff for the level of effort and care they all contribute.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Board is made up of 10 positions as follows:

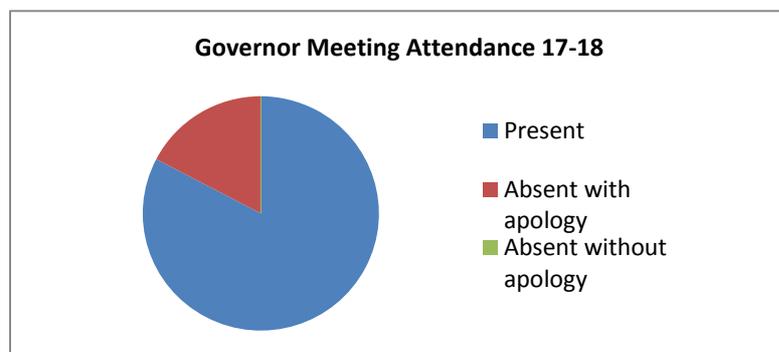
- Three Parent Governors appointed by a ballot of parents
- One Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority
- One Staff Governor appointed by a ballot of staff
- Four Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Board
- One Headteacher

One parent governor will finish their term as of the end of the 2017-18 academic year. Following a skills audit we have identified a need to recruit a co-opted governor with a speciality in HR. A governor with these specific skills has been appointed and will start their term in September-please see the newsletter for details in the Autumn Term. The governance structure for 2018-19 will change to reflect one fewer parent governor and one additional co-opted governor.

The current governors are listed on the governor page of the school website and all have the same responsibilities. All are volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children. Terms as a governor are for four years. Parent Governor vacancies are advertised through the school newsletter.

We have an agenda planner that helps us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered. The full governing board meets half termly to discuss a range of items including finance, the curriculum, policies, school development planning, safeguarding and staffing

Attendance Record



The attendance record for each of the governors is kept and apologies and absence recorded. In the last academic year there have been no absences without valid apologies being accepted. Many of us are not educational specialists but bring experience and skills from other professions that help us together to form an effective governing board.

Attendance at meetings is only part of the role. Reading and preparation is required for each meeting and the various actions require following up. We talk to staff on different aspects of the curriculum and each of us undertake at least one governor visit a year relating to school development priorities, writing up a report afterwards. Governors also help at school events such as Sports Evening and the Christmas Fair. In line with our continuous improvement ethos we ask that all Governors undertake regular training, including two days of induction and training reflecting individual responsibilities such as SEN and Finance.

Effectiveness and Impact of the Board

We continue to review our effectiveness against departmental guidance, and discuss the effectiveness at each meeting we hold. Whilst we were very pleased that OFSTED found the school outstanding at the last inspection we strive to maintain and improve our performance so that we may again be considered “outstanding” next time OFSTED visit the school.

The main challenges we have addressed this school year include:

- Review of the School Development Plan
- Ensuring safeguarding is robust and effective
- Considering possible future building projects
- Updating policies and procedures
- Ensuring the smooth implementation of the new statutory frameworks
- Health and Safety, E-safety, Safeguarding and Finance audits
- Budgeting
- Staffing and recruitment
- Governor visits
- Monitoring pupil progress
- Challenging gifted and talented progress
- Effective scrutiny of Pupil Premium and Sport Premium
- Investigating Multi Academy trust status
- Consideration of increasing wraparound care provision
- Liaising with School Council
- Ensuring all meetings benefit the pupils’ education and well-being