



**The Bishops' C of E
Learning Academy**



Kernow Learning
Building Excellent Schools Together

Governor Impact Statement 22/23

Meeting your communication needs:

We want to ensure that your needs are met. If you would like this information in any other format, please contact us on 01637 876317 or email thebishops@kernowlearning.co.uk

Our Christian Vision

At The Bishops' Church of England Learning Academy, our mantra, 'Faith to Belong, Believe, Aspire and Achieve' is based on The Parable of the Mustard Seed:

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. Matthew 17:20

This underpins our Christian vision statement at The Bishops':

We belong to Team Bishops' where through our Christian distinctiveness and nurturing ethos we celebrate our differences. We believe that we will achieve through inspirational, exciting and challenging learning that utilises our natural environment. We aspire to create endless possibilities for our pupils and to make a positive contribution to society. We achieve by enabling everyone to flourish academically, spiritually and emotionally.

The Bishops C of E Learning Academy: Impact Statement 2022 – 2023

At the end of each school year the governors reflect on what has been achieved and what our next steps as a governing board.

This reflection is aided by feedback from all our stakeholders, parents, staff and most importantly, the children. It also includes recommendations from external partners, SIAMs and our trust improvement team and Challenge Partner.

As the role of a governor is to ensure that high standards are achieved and continue to exist within our school community, we have supported this focus and in all of our activities and discussions.

The role of the Local Governing Body

Working with the Headteacher Adam Richards, the Senior Leadership Team and school staff, the Local Governing Body contribute to all core functions, including, but not limited to:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school. Ensuring the resources of the school are utilised appropriately and managed effectively. 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.

To fulfil these responsibilities there have been six formal meetings this year and these have fed into the Kernow Learning governance structure. There has also been monitoring in key areas to support the school's development plan. Governors have been mindful of staff workload and ensured monitoring is robust and impactful.

The Local Governing Body has been successful in maintaining a full cohort of skilled volunteers who are dedicated to supporting the school as critical friends and children's champions. They are: Jo Harrison, Beata Nowak, Paula Riskin, Chris Smith, Ingrid Yeomans, Rev Anna Mason, Martyn Coles, Rachael Hatch and John Madge. Governors are a mix of foundation governors, appointed by the Diocese, and parent Governors, appointed by the parent body. We are always looking for more Governors in the near future and if you are interested, please contact the school.



All governors have benefitted from training from the Diocese and Kernow Learning to enable them to confidently challenge and support the school to achieve best possible outcomes for the children. This includes Safeguarding, PREVENT, Governor conference and Diocese SIAMS training.

Key achievements in 2022-2023

- 'Excellent' outcome in SIAMS inspection in March 23 with further Excellent grades in Collective Worship and The effectiveness of religious education (RE). The report stated: 'The leadership is overwhelmingly passionate making life changing differences for pupils and families. An example is the outstanding work staff share with Church and non-church schools across Cornwall. The rigour of monitoring the impact which the school's Christian vision has on daily life is exceptional. Leaders do this instinctively, making improvements. Governors' commitment is exemplary, ensuring all aspects of a Church school are extensively reviewed.'
- Robust monitoring of key elements of the school improvement plan is enabling governors to articulate how aspects of the school improvement plan is progressing and the how the impact of improvement is improving outcomes. Monitoring templates for SIAMS strands have been shared countywide as a example of best practice.
- Governors have supported at key whole school events, such as sports day and the summer fayre. This raises the profile of school governance and provides a link for families into the strategic oversight of the school.
- Governors have linked with key members of staff who are driving improvements day to day.
- A policy tracker has been developed this year to ensure compliance with all statutory and best practice guidance. This is reviewed at every meeting and our trust provides templates for statutory polices to ensure best practice.

Safeguarding at The Bishops'

Over the school year our safeguarding governor has worked with leaders to ensure the school is meeting requirements for safeguarding and have been impressed with what leaders are doing. Our safeguarding governor conducts 6 visits each year.

We have reviewed the school's safeguarding policies and ensured that everyone is aware of and following the responsibilities set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Governors have reviewed the Single Central Record to ensure it is kept up to date and the school only appoints staff who are suitable to work with children.

Our safeguarding governor, Beata Nowak, along with the Chair of Governors has joined Mr Richards to complete the 157 audit. We had to rate the school in several areas to ensure safeguarding was being fully addressed and provide evidence of this. This was then subject to a peer review by the DSL at Falmouth Primary School.

SEND at The Bishops'

We are very proud of the school's provision for SEND. Our SENDCO, Kim Price has been successful in EHCP applications and gathering requisite information for the Assess – Plan – Do – Review cycle as part of the graduated response.



SEND is carefully coordinated across the school with children's support plans being reviewed on time and all staff implementing the guidance. Referrals are submitted quickly to external agencies where appropriate to gain additional support. The school has a strong reputation for SEND in the community.

Our SEND governor has conducted 6 visits and produced detailed reports highlighting next steps.

Impact within Church Schools and our wider community

- The Governors have been recognised for the robustness of monitoring in the SIAMS report and the impact in maintaining high standards in Christian Distinctiveness.
- The Governors have taken part in training for SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Methodist Schools) visits and the new SIAMS framework.
- The Governing Body continue to share examples of Best Practice throughout Kernow Learning.

Priorities for the Local Governing Body for the next year other than our core functions:

- The school's journey towards its next OFSTED inspection and how Governors are prepared for this. We continue to be well supported by Kernow Learning School Improvement Team who are Quality Assuring the work carried out by the Senior Leadership Team including Governors.
- Ensure that Governors undertake Continued Personal Development training available through Kernow Learning
- Governors will continue to monitor the following areas:
 - Standards and curriculum
 - Safeguarding (with focus on SEMH/TIS)
 - Inclusion – SEND and disadvantage
 - Stakeholders
 - Christian Distinctiveness
- Ensure we have the right people around the table – enabling governors to become more skilled and filling vacancies with skills required.

J Harrison
Chair of Governors
July 2023

