

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Body of Mount Charles School October 2022

Mount Charles School is part of Cornwall Education Learning Trust. The Board of Trustees is the legally responsible body, and delegates a range of governance responsibilities to the Local Governing Body (LGB) as set out in the scheme of delegation. The LGB has an important role in challenging and supporting the school to operate effectively.

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 enable the school to provide a high-quality education for all pupils. The Governors 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.

About Our School

Mount Charles School has 365 pupils, 25 teaching staff and 21 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, this is operated by the Special Partnership Trust.

The vision of the school is "Motivate and Celebrate 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 parent, community and staff governors. The Assistant Headteachers also regularly input into LGB meetings.

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 are responsible. Governors carry out monitoring visits for these areas at least once per term. All of our meetings are clerked and minutes are available from the school office on request.

The Chair attends 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 and areas of responsibility is available [here](#).

Activities, Effectiveness and Impact of the Governing Body over the past year

The DfE Governance Handbook states that effective governance is:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The LGB considered our impact during the 2021/2022 academic year and considered this could be seen through a high level of challenge in the minutes and the work being undertaken in pursuing a solution for the children in respect of the school field.

To support understanding of how the curriculum is delivered, governors joined an all staff briefing from subject leaders early in the school year, enabling them to monitor progress as the year developed.

Throughout the year governors sought assurance from the senior leaders on key areas including:

- The impact of the Behaviour Policy on students and teachers, how the LEARNing ladder approach has supported improving behaviour in the school;
- How the school is monitoring provision for children attending alternative provision.
- How the school ensures appropriate support for children with medical needs.
- How attendance initiatives can improve attendance, particularly persistent absence of vulnerable pupils.

Every meeting involves discussion of safeguarding in the school.

Governors scrutinised attainment and progress data provided to them throughout the year, seeking further detail on how children not achieving at expected levels were being supported, what interventions were being put in place to close gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children.

Governors were able to review initial analysis of the 2022 KS2 SATs results at our July 2022 meeting. Notable progress has been made for reading progress and attainment for our children in receipt of pupil premium. We discussed areas for improvement – for example writing, and will monitor how the school is addressing these areas throughout 2022/23.

Governors met with Trust finance staff to review the budget and understand how this supports the school's school improvement plan, and ensuring pupil premium and sports premium funding is spent appropriately and effectively.

Governors were involved in interviews for senior leaders for 22/23 and discussions around the future staffing structure. Our Headteacher Mrs Bunting has been supporting at Fowey Primary School, with the LGB monitoring the impact on Mount Charles.

Governors have continued to engage with the Town Council to secure safe, every day access to the school field. Sadly, efforts were not reciprocated by the Town Council to enable a solution to be found. We will continue to work with the Trust to secure this access for our children.

Governors welcomed being able to spend more time in school this year, after the challenges of the COVID years, for example meeting new reception children and their families.

Governance Action Plan/Key Objectives for the Year

For this academic year we are approaching governor meetings and monitoring visits differently. In the first half of each term, we will hold a full LGB meeting, reviewing a range of documentation including Headteacher Report, School Improvement Plan, Pupil Premium Plan, Budget updates, School Self-Evaluation, Attainment and Progress data, Attendance data, Safeguarding Report, Health & Safety information. We will hold discussions with Senior Leaders to further understand and where appropriate challenge the information provided.

The meeting for the second half of each term will be more practical, with governors meeting with staff relevant to their specific area of responsibility, visiting classrooms, reviewing pupil work. Key standing reports and updates for example safeguarding will still be shared each half term.

The LGB will monitor and evaluate progress towards the key priorities in the School Improvement Plan:

- To improve attendance for all, in particular that of our disadvantaged, SEND and mobility.
- Improve Standards, particularly that of our disadvantaged, SEND and mobility
- Identify barriers for effective parental and community engagement.

We welcome a new parent governor and three new community governors for 2022/23.

Contact Us

If you would like to know more about the Local Governing Body, or would like to provide feedback you can contact the Chair of Governors, Katie Chandler, via chair@mount-charlessch.org.

October 2022