



Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of

Richard Lander School

July 2022

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Governing Body of Richard Lander School are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

About our school

Richard Lander School is located on the west side of Truro with 1503 pupils split into 5 years. Years 7-9 are placed in vertical tutor groups and Year 10 & 11 are in discrete tutor groups. This allows for a focus on community values at KS3 and GCSE revision at KS4, through the tutorial programme.

There are 95 teaching staff, 65 support staff including 20 TAs and 12 in administration.

Our aims are threefold - to enable all our young people to become:

- 1. Successful learners, who strive to reach their potential in all they do**
- 2. Confident learners, who develop a fine sense of identity and self-worth**
- 3. Responsible citizens, well prepared for life and work and keen to make a positive difference to the world they live in**

Our Ethos - The school has much to celebrate and be proud of. The achievements of students, both within and beyond the classroom, are part of the rich tradition of this school. Our inclusivity and nurture have been built upon by successive generations of students and staff. We must continue to build upon this.

The school was graded as Good at the inspection in March 2018.

Constitution

The Governing Body was re-constituted on the 1st September 2014 and is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 4 elected parent governors, 1 local authority governor and 11 co-opted governors. The Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies are invited as associate members for the students & curriculum committee each year.

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body and are people who in the opinion of the governing body have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school:

On our governing body, 1 of the co-opted governors is a parent, 1 is staff and 5 are members of the local community.

Attendance

Governors' attendance at meetings this year has been good. All governors are provided with the meeting dates for the academic year in advance and advise the clerk prior to each meeting if they cannot attend to ensure the meetings are "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). Since the shut down for Covid 19 and throughout the remainder of this year, the governing body meetings have utilised the school's on-line video conference facilities via the Big Blue Button. This has enabled the governing body to carry out its duties effectively whilst learning new skills.

A full list of governors and their attendance at the meetings is available from the Clerk to the Governors.

Governing body structure

The full governing body meets at least once per term, and we also have four committees that each meet at least once per term. Each committee has fully delegated powers to make decisions according to their terms of reference.

The Policy committee consists of the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the other committees.

The Personnel committee is restricted to no more than 7 people (currently 5) including the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

The Students & Curriculum committee has 7 governors including the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. On occasion, the Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies are also invited as associate members of this committee.

The Finance and General Purposes committee has 5 governors including the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. A separate working party is sometimes convened to look in detail with the Headteacher and the SLT at the issues on creating a balanced budget. The committee chair keeps

close to the budget setting process through regular liaison with the Headteacher and School Business Manager.

All of our meetings are minuted by our clerk and minutes are available by applying to the clerk.

Effectiveness and impact of the governing body

Historically, student GCSE attainment has been well above national average. Progress from KS2-4 has also been significantly above national average. In all, the governing body would judge the progress made at the school to be good. The governing body would also judge the curriculum offered to students at the school to be good and effective in producing outcomes in GCSE well above national averages.

The governing body continues to offer the school, via the senior team, effective support and challenge. We support the senior team's ambition to raise its Progress 8 score beyond +0.4 and then beyond +0.5, which will represent around half of the GCSE's taken at this subject being better than the national average.

The governing body holds the senior team to account on a regular basis with regard to progress data as well as data on a range of other issues such as behaviour, attendance and exclusions.

Pupil Premium students remain a constant focus for the SLT and governing body to ensure that the correct level and types of support is provided.

The responsibility of the governing body includes the scrutiny of performance management of all staff, where governors are able to consider the recommendations of the Headteacher and this is done by a small delegated pay committee comprising of three governors. The governors have ensured the Headteacher has maintained standards within the limitations of remote teaching and other measures in place for a Covid safe environment.

Whilst the school currently has a healthy budget surplus, we are mindful of the new school build on the north coast which may significantly impact on our pupil numbers and consequently on our funding. We therefore have to continue to apply best value principle to all of our expenditure. This has been well steered and supported by the School Business Manager by restricting spending in some budget headings along with supporting the governors' scrutiny for effectiveness and ensuring the best outcomes for all the students whilst looking to the future security of the school.

The school has increased its pupil admission number from 290 to 310 until 2025 to enable the school to maintain a healthy budgetary position, ahead of the following years which may see a significant budgetary fall. The school is anticipated to start with 320 Year 7 students in September 2022 following the admissions and appeals process.

The governing body has offered effective support to the student and staff team both during and post the Covid-19 pandemic years. We are pleased to report that for the 2022 exam series,

students have sat their exams in person; it is the first occasion we have had in-person GCSE's since 2019.

Whilst we encourage all governors to visit the school on a regular basis to review activities in the school, this has been limited by the closure of all schools. We have encouraged all governors to make visits as appropriate whether in person or virtually as they are a method of gathering information to help the governing body form a fuller picture of operation in the school so that the appropriate support and challenge can be provided.

A number of new staff have been recruited with support from the governing body where this has been appropriate and possible under the current restrictions.

Students at risk of exclusion have been a focus this year for the governing body where it has supported the school's leadership team in the range of sanctions and alternative provisions for those who find main stream education presents significant difficulties. There has been 1 permanent exclusion issued this year.

Governance objectives for the future

The OFSTED inspection in 2018 is still a focus for the governing body. The key action points from that inspection were with regard to:

- improvements in mathematics continue so that more pupils achieve better standards in the subject
- school self-evaluation processes are broadened and sharpened so that they have even greater impact on improving outcomes.

The senior team keeps the governing body up to date with developments on these points through the school development plan and governors meetings.

Additional to the Ofsted key action points, the school has a continued focus on the following:

- To raise P8 across the school, and in each subject to +0.4 and then beyond +0.5
- To narrow the in-school gaps between boys' and girls' performance
- To improve performance specifically in English (and especially boys in English Literature)
- To increase the number of students continuing to study for a Modern Foreign Language at KS4

The governing body are aware of potential ongoing issues towards the government's desire for all schools to become part of an academy trust group. At this stage, no action is planned.

Contact us

The governing body are always open to suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and the community. Parents can contact the Chair of Governors (Yvette Butterfield) via the Clerk to the Governors (Alison Laity) via the school office.