



## Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St Stephens Community Academy School October 2016

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Governing Body of St Stephens Community Academy are:

1. **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the Head of School 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**

We are located in Launceston, a town in Cornwall. We are located in a growing area of deprivation within the town. Latest Cornwall Stats data shows the deprivation index for the school is getting lower. At present we are around 208 on roll- which includes our ARB. We also have a pre-school now formally attached to our school which service approximately 30 children at present. We are a one form entry school so we have seven classes, as well as ARB and pre-school Staffing numbers reflect around 10 teachers and 20 support staff (HLTAs/ LSAs) We also have a non-teaching staff who lead our pastoral team of SENDICO/ Safeguarding Manager/ Parent Support Advisor and Pastoral Team Member. Our vision and ethos is regularly reviewed by staff and displayed on our website and around the school. The school had an Ofsted since becoming an Academy. The school is part of the Andaras Multi Academy Trust which is a collection of location schools, lead by CEO Will Herman,

### **Governing Body Constitution**

The Governing Body was re-constituted in Autumn 2016 and is now made up of 2 staff governors (including the Head of School), 2 elected Parent Governors, 0 Local Authority Governors, 0 Foundation governors and 2 Co-opted governors. There is/are also 0 Associate members.

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, 0 are staff members and the remaining 1 are members of the local community.

### **Attendance**

Governors' attendance at meetings this year has been good and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

You will be able to see the full list of governors and their attendance at meetings on the new school website.

### **Governing Body Structure**

The full Governing Body meets 6 times each term, and we also have Andaras Multi Trust committees that meet half termly. **(Number of governors on each committee, their remit and the frequency of meetings. )**

All of our meetings are clerked by an experienced clerk and minutes are available from the school office on request.

### **Effectiveness And Impact Of The Governing Body**

The Governing Body has had a particularly busy year 2015-2016.

A Chair was appointed, Mr Stevens, who supported the Acting Head of School Miss Taylor into post. Miss Taylor was appointed a permanent Head of School in September 2016.

During 2016-2016 the school focused on driving standards in teaching and learning by writing their own schemes of learning from the guidance of the New National curriculum. The school

then focused on designing Assessment without Levels grids to support a robust teacher assessment progress.

The governors have spent time considering the introduction of new curriculum schemes of learning and Assessment without levels grids. The governors have also discussed key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. Data in July 2016 showed that children achieved inline with National or above ARE expectations.

Governors have also been monitoring our “vulnerable groups” of children and have discussed how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes. The Chair and Head of School have discussed this regularly. Data from July 2016 shows impact of PPG Grant provision map designed by the school.

The Head of School established a robust monitoring timetable which provides rigour into the system that has ensured staff are working towards high target setting. The school was moderated for its Foundation Stage Data by County in Summer 2016. The Head of School, in role as KS1 County Moderator, lead on assessment procedures and system throughout the school and supported across the MAT.

The Head of School ensures continuity of learning, consistency of approach to the curriculum and a seamless monitoring of children’s progress from early years through to the end of KS2.

Parents / carers will also have more understanding of their child’s development and are invited into termly parent learning meetings. Parents are given a short report to take home and receive a full written report at the end of the school year.

The governors have continued their focus on good attendance and behaviour. The Head of School has regularly reported on the above. Governors have made visits to the school and completed a Governors written report. The Head of School and Senior Leadership team have taken their thoughts under consideration. The Chair has met with the Head of School at least every fortnight, if not weekly to ensure a carefully monitoring process of the school systems. The Chair or Vice chair have been part of any interviews of new staff.

Governors are responsible for overseeing the maintenance and development of the school premises. Governors have made suggestions that have gone to the ADMAT Central team. The playground has been updated over Summer 2016. The governors have supported decisions about how the school should use the budget especially in relation to the AIP.

There is a Health and Safety Governor who carries out termly checks of the premises with the Head of School. Governors have undertaken a termly learning walk with the Head of School.

Another important role for governors is ensuring the safety and well-being of the children and we have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding who reports to the governors about any safeguarding matters. The Safeguarding Manager meets with the Chair and Vice to regularly update them and attends governor meeting to keep governors abreast on current updates and research findings.

The governors have provided advice and guidance on communication methods for the school. They have been supportive of the range of methods such as newsletter, New website, text system and now the development of school Twitter account. The Head of School is working with different stakeholders in careful consideration of further social media communication methods.

Governors also review and agree key school policies. These continue to be updated and amended as part of an annual cycle. This is carefully planned out in the Governance Cyclical Plan followed by all ADMAT schools.

Minutes of Governing Body meetings are public documents and you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

<b>Governance Action Plan/Key Objectives for the Future</b>	<p>A focus on the formal joining of the St Stephens Pre School to the main school. The Foundation Stage governor has a joint role of the pre-school. The governor will work with the Head of School to support development of the premises as well as monitoring teaching and learning procedures inline with the main school linked to the AIP 2017.</p> <p>To work with the school on working towards UNICEF Level One recognition badge which is enhancing many aspects across the school- SMSC/ British Values as well as the schools focus on pupil voice- through the pupil forum/ sports leaders/ librarians etc linked to to the AIP 2017.</p> <p>Governors will develop their understanding of visible learning with the support of the Head of School and Senior Leadership team to continue to raise attainment and progress standards as well as the development of BLP skills as identified in the AIP for 2017.</p>
<p>Other headings which may be useful - Achievements and performance; Leadership and Management; Behaviour and Safety; Quality of Teaching- these areas will be commented upon in more depth in the next statement.</p>	
<b>Contact Us</b>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can contact the Chair of Governors, (Acting Chair Mrs Eccles), via the school office.</p>