

Governor impact statement
September 2015-2016
St Catherine's Church of England School

Governors have actively supported and worked with the school through three types of change whilst maintaining statutory duties in monitoring the curriculum and its impact on learning, staying responsible for decisions about buildings and finance, safeguarding and supporting personnel changes and development. Relevant subjects have been monitored, courses attended after a skills audit and meetings well attended with data regularly examined and questioned. Our Key Stage One embedded the previous year's changes after our HMI inspection and now is seeing greater impact in the level of progress being made. Our writing and maths is consistently weak amongst PP children and SEN groups, and governors continue to analyse and question what can be done to change this.

The governors have kept abreast of current educational challenges by training, meeting with staff regularly and reading relevant papers: changes to the curriculum and assessment procedures have been not only explained to governors but also data has been analysed to allow progress to be understood across the year, and a new assessment system is being adopted.

The head teacher of 26 years retired in July 2016 and the governors were active in communicating with the Diocese of Truro, An Daras Trust and other advisory bodies before advertising an agreed position, interviewing, declining to appoint due to

lack of confidence in candidates and returning to redrafting the job description, which led to an appointment in May 2016. The school now has a strong leader with relevant experience and capacity to further improve with a team newly appointed around her who form a leadership team with strong, complimentary skills. The governors have been a central player in developing this new school leadership team and it is hoped it will not take long to see the positive impact of such a team at St Catherine's.

The governing body also led the school through the transition of joining An Daras MAT where our informal working together as local schools was cemented as we became an Academy on May 1st. The Governing Body communicated clearly and regularly with the An Daras leaders, the Diocese of Truro and other bodies about the joining of a Church School to a MAT with no other Church Schools, and identified the training and support needed to ensure St Catherine's maintains its Christian ethos and identity. The Governors have thoroughly questioned and reviewed each stage of the Academy and are confident that the new change will bring about positive impact for each of the pupils and staff. Rather than seeing our ethos as something to 'protect' we have instead seen it as something to 'project'.

These phases of change have meant the Governing Body have given extra time and needed levels of training and support not usually required but we are confident that this investment will pay off with children and teachers operating within a sound

educational philosophy within the MAT and being led by a new and dynamic Head.