

Annual Governance Statement – March 2026



In accordance with government requirements, the 3 core functions of our governing body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure there is value for money.

Governance Arrangements

Our governing body is currently made up of an elected chair, 2 staff governors (including the headteacher), 2 parent governors, 1 local authority governor, and 5 co-opted governors. The Governing Board meetings are attended by a Clerk to Governors.

Governing Body Structure

We have a full governing body meeting at least once each term.

Within the governing Body there are two Standing Committees which are:

- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Quality Assurance Committee

The following committees are convened when required:

- Pupil Discipline Committee
- Headteacher Performance Review Group.
- Appeals Committee
- Health and Safety Committee

Working parties are set up as and when the need arises.

Governor Changes

This year we have been fortunate to recruit four new governors and a Clerk to Governors. This has strengthened the Board in breadth and depth of experience.

Each new governor has had a formal induction from the Chair of Governors and training provided by the Local Authority as required.

Attendance at Governor Meetings

Governor meetings are well attended and any absences are explained and approved by the governing body. We have never cancelled a meeting because it was not 'quorate'.

Financial Management

The finance committee continues to monitor and manage the financial situation of the school with the assistance of Cornwall Council finance team. The governing body has a five year finance plan,

which is updated annually in a cycle beginning in March, with final completion and approval in May. This is then the budget for the new Academic Year.

One of the key financial issues facing the school is the falling roll. Because of falling birth-rates nationally and particularly in Cornwall, the number of children in education is falling. Since education is funded by the government on a per capita basis through the Designated School Grant (DSG), the income to the school is falling and is forecast to continue to do so. Increments of the DSG do not compensate for falling rolls in maintaining the income to the school.

The school also has a higher proportion of children with SEN and those requiring free school meals than the national average. There is funding for this, but the impact remains, particularly in terms of demands on the staff.

Impact

The school continues to thrive under leadership of Mrs Watts (Headteacher) and Mr. Tudor (Deputy Headteacher). The Senior Leadership Team remains unchanged and provide strong support to the running of the school

Tightening budgets, due to the reducing number of pupils at the school, have led to the necessity to have mixed classes, reducing the number of active classrooms from 8 (two per year) to 7. This has required some adaptations of the Roots and Wings curriculum, and these have been successfully implemented.

The Breakfast Club continues to be popular and successful as has the successful introduction of wraparound care. The way in which these services are delivered are continually being reviewed in light of parental feedback and budgetary constraints.

Against this background governors have continued to support the Headteacher and Senior Leadership team in developing and monitoring the School Improvement Plan.

Governors, as is the norm, have continued to visit the school as part of their monitoring of the School Improvement Plan, and in regard to specific subjects and areas to which governors are linked. The Chair of Governors continues to have regular monthly meetings with the Headteacher.

Safeguarding is always a priority for the school and this includes the safety of pupils and staff at the school. The post of the Pastoral Support officer continues to be a key development in improving Safeguarding and parental engagement. The Caretaking role is important for this and involves working closely with the Headteacher and Facilities Manager to ensure the learning environment is both safe and inspirational for everyone.

The school was recently recognised by the Secretary of State for Education, who wrote:

"Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at St Ives Junior School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement."

This recognition of the school's inclusiveness embedded in the vision and mission of the school is a great achievement.

Away from academic matters very favourable comments continue to be made about the general behaviour of the children and the positive atmosphere and energy within the school by the many professionals that continue to visit.

How to Contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can contact the Chair of Governors via the school office (01736 796202). We also try to have governors at school events and open days so please feel free to come and have a chat. We would especially encourage parents/carers to express an interest in joining the governing board in order that their views and opinions can be taken into account at governing board meetings.

We would like to thank children, parents and carers for their continued support, patience and understanding in what has continued to be a time of considerable change and challenge at SIJS

Lastly the governing body would take this opportunity to welcome the new intake of children to year three, and at the same time wish those leaving us every success for the future. As usual it only remains to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer break.