Governor Impact Statement

2020-21

At Ottery St Mary Primary School, **governance continued** throughout the pandemic. Planned committee meetings and Full Governing Body meetings continued virtually. The impact on governance was in the content and subjects of our questioning and discussions. Our expectations were changed around the school's ability to report on children's progress and data and, as governors we were unable to carry out our usual visits to the school due to the restrictions and mitigations in place as a result of Covid-19.

Instead, we questioned around:

- children's participation in learning (both in person and remote)
- ensuring that the school were prioritising support around vulnerable pupils
- ensuring that risk assessments were complete and updated in line with changes in government and public health advice
- questioning around Covid secure measures in school
- discussions around how the school could effectively assess children's progress when they are learning at home
- ensuring isolating children had continued access to learning
- questioning around staff wellbeing and concerns
- questioning around feedback from parents and children

Above all, our role was to support the staff to ensure ongoing learning and education. The school never closed. The headteacher and senior leaders along with all of the staff did an excellent job in very difficult circumstances. The governors continue to be committed to supporting their worl.

Area of focus	Impact notes
	Support Challenge
Quality of education	Support: ● Continue the system of termly data reporting to the Learning and Development Committee ● Extend discussions at Learning and Development Committee around the wider curriculum ● Supporting the recruitment of a SENCO Assistant to work alongside the SENCO in supporting staff and children and securing multi-agency advice and funding. ● Supporting the recruitment of additional Teaching Assistant hours across the school to support needs. ● Supporting the school to secure a balanced budget through the Resources Committee ● Ensuring continuing governance throughout the pandemic ● Adapting to virtual meetings to ensure continuing governance during periods of national lockdown ● Supporting staff and leadership wellbeing Challenge: ● Securing updates from SLT about the system of ST observations and continual improvement of staff performance ● Scrutiny of termly assessment data from teacher assessments ● Targeting questions to senior leaders on assessment outcomes, resulting areas of focus and plans to address these ● Scrutiny and discussions around Assistant Headteacher reports ● Securing updates about the system of staff appraisals in school

	- Securing regular updates on the progress of children with SEND - Continual scrutiny of the school budget
Behaviour and attitudes	Support: - Supporting staff to enable them to support specific children with behavioural needs - Decision making and supporting senior leaders around staffing needs to support specific SEND children - Safeguarding governor visits - Governor safeguarding training Challenge: - Interrogating attendance data during and following periods of lockdown - Questioning around and continued scrutiny of the school's adherence to the Safeguarding Policy - Challenging school procedures and actions taken following a permanent exclusion
Personal development	Support: - Discussion and support for implementing RSE within the PSHE curriculum Challenge: - Securing updates from SLT about the system of ST observations and continual improvement of staff performance
Leadership and management	Support: - Discussing and agreeing school improvement priorities - Supporting senior leaders to support staff to raise issues and discuss workload to ensure that they have the time to focus on the activities that impact pupil achievement - Discussions around the role of middle leaders in the school and refining the structure - Supporting the headteacher and senior leaders through periods of high staff absence and being available to them to support decision making - Discussions to ensure that staff concerns are heard and responded to Challenge: - Securing updates from SLT about the system of ST observations and continual improvement of staff performance - Setting clear Headteacher appraisal targets and monitoring progress towards them - Questioning and meeting around the school's ongoing response to the provision of home learning - Questioning at meetings to ensure the school continued to follow Covid guidance, completing risk assessments and keeping up to date with ever changing advice and guidance from the Department of Education