



## **Governors' Impact Statement 2023-2024**

At Ottery St Mary Primary the governing body is made up of parents, teachers, local individuals who take a keen interest in all aspects of educational life at the school. We meet regularly in committee or as a Full Governing Board. We are there to provide support and challenge to school staff, through questions in meetings and through school visits.

In 2023-24 we provided that challenge and support throughout the school year. Below are the various ways we have supported the school over the last 12 months.

### **Policies**

One of our key roles is to make sure that we have a secure knowledge of policies in education and that the school has a full set of working policies to cover all our legal obligations, in turn ensuring that we are operating within best practice at all times. Both in committees – Learning and Development and Resources – a part of our meetings will focus on reading and adopting these essential policies.

### **Pupil Performance**

In committee we receive detailed reports on Attendance, Assessment and Behaviour data allowing us to question and challenge the Senior Leadership team. The reports are now very targeted, providing us with a clear idea of the issues facing staff, the progress of key pupil groups, the excellent work the school has put in on Attendance and the impact of extra provision. We are provided with a clear SWOT analysis which informs us of any threats and weaknesses, while also highlighting our considerable strengths and opportunities within the school.

### **Well-being**

We are very conscious of the needs of our pupil body and the imperative that all children receive the best education we can provide in an environment where they feel secure. In this last year we have also focused on the well-being of staff who have been under tremendous pressure since the lockdown under Covid. Through meetings and putting one governor to really look at staff well-being we hope to benefit all in our school community.

### **Budget**

In times of budget pressures where every penny counts, we have a well-qualified Resources committee which constantly reviews and challenges spending. From looking at the challenges of the school site, through staff pay and to the use of additional funding such as Pupil Premium, we look to ensure that we are obtaining the best value for the school.

### **Safeguarding**

We have a governor who has a specific role on Safeguarding who is constantly checking through visits and remote checks that the school is doing everything it should to ensure that all Safeguarding policies are adhered to.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Over the last few years, we have reviewed and supported changes in the way children with Special Needs are identified and supported throughout their time in the school. We have seen the challenges involved with working with the Local Authority teams and more often than not can see the school taking an exemplary approach to supporting pupils.

In addition to the areas listed above we have continued to question the SLT on issues such as IT, the pressures on Early Years provision, the journey our Year 6 pupils are about to take into Secondary education. We have talked through catering provision, looked at the conversion of spaces to support more children, and been fully aware of changes to the school estate.

As Governors we know that we need to constantly keep up with national and local education issues and are subscribed to key publications. We also undertake training in various areas relating to School Governance and try to ensure that we have a breadth of experience and knowledge.

We all feel strongly that we are there to support our whole school community and will continue this coming year to work with the School Leadership team to provide the challenge to continue to develop our wonderful school.