

Chair of Governing Board's Annual Report 2022/2023

This academic year has been one of great achievement and progress at Penpol School.

The wider academic, financial, and social climate brought challenges to us all, but staff and the senior leadership team at Penpol have responded by delivering high quality education and a 360-degree curriculum that continues to put our pupils at the heart of all they do.

Our job as governors is to support and challenge the school. We aim to help the whole Penpol team to work at its best for our incredible community of pupils and parents. Full Governing Body meetings are held twice a term, where we support and challenge in equal measure. In the 2022/23 academic year we had a strong focus on supporting the school's financial position, exploring Penpol's consideration of a move to academy status (currently on hold), expanding provision to include a nursery setting and monitoring the delivery of the school's core priorities:

- SEND: excellent progress for every child
- Diversity: building a fairer future for all
- Partnerships: expanding our learning network
- Provision: challenge at every stage

Regular governor monitoring visits to the school, framed by these priorities, are an important part of understanding how the school's development plan is being actioned and checking progress against aims. This year governors saw lessons in action, talked to staff and pupils and questioned the senior leadership team. We were particularly impressed by the embedding of the restorative justice approach to behaviour, the continued work of the equality task force - opening important conversations around race and diversity, progress in phonics across the school and the school's continual drive to best support SEND pupils. Monitoring visits will continue into 2023/24 focusing on the new School development plan and the school priorities for 2023/24:

- Nursery: ensuring the strongest start
- SEND: emboldening all as SEND specialists
- Science: developing enquiring minds
- Curriculum: extending courage and confidence

We saw new faces on our governing board and thanked governors who have now stepped down, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the governors who volunteer their time and expertise to support Penpol school. Your role is important, and you do it well!

On behalf of the Penpol governors, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Headteacher Chris Chislett-Coyle, the Senior Leadership Team and all the staff for their expertise, professionalism, and outstanding commitment over the school year. A huge thanks too, to parents and carers for supporting the school as you do. Working as a school community Penpol School continues to thrive and deliver excellent all-round provision for every pupil.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead and would always welcome comments and suggestions from parents, carers, staff, and other members of the school community, who can contact me by email at the address below.

All the best

Rachael Woodhead (she/her)

Chair of Governors

Penpol School

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