

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Witheridge LGB

Date of meeting: Wednesday 26th April 2018

Attended by: Sue Wells (chair), Chris Holding (head of school), Rhian Nicholas (executive head), Adrian Wells, Penny Wignall (trustee), Verity Lunn (clerk).



Brief overview of discussion	Bullet action points
<p>Procedural items</p> <p>Welcome and apologies SD welcomed all to the meeting. AW led the opening prayer. Apologies were received and accepted from Phil Asson and Paul Williamson.</p> <p>Sign off previous minutes Minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters brought forward by Chair None.</p> <p>Correspondence None had been received.</p>	
<p>Monitoring and Accountability</p> <p>Spring Curriculum Update KS1/KS2 (CH) CH reported on topic of 'explorers', with each class looking at a different explorer. After half term classes would be moving on more to looking at what skills were needed to be an explorer, and learning some of these skills (for example map reading). The big event (after half term) will be navigating a course on Exmoor (working with the Exmoor Rangers), which would include various tests and puzzles suited to the different age groups along the route. This will also contribute to 'building learning power' – by encouraging resilience etc. There is also a focus in class two and class four of getting children ready for their SATs tests. CH described the preparations for this to enable each child to do their best.</p>	

SATs (predicted outcomes)

Y2 – likely a combined outcome of 62% or 69%, with a possibility of 74%. National average last year 68%.

Y6 – likely 62% or 69% combined outcome. Writing expected 77% to reach expected standard, reading and maths both expected to be 62% or 69%. As last year's results were above floor targets, Witheridge is no longer classed as a coasting school. Governors discussed the progress made by the children in this year group, including the disrupted year of seven teachers in one year a few years ago, and potential inaccuracy of their KS1 assessment. Progress made by these children was looking better than the past few years – most Y6 children had made accelerated progress. CH explained the targeted interventions put into place for children who needed it.

Early years (YR) – last year 75% of children had achieved a good level of development by the end of the year, this year currently less than half were working at a good level, with the prediction that 54% would be at a good level by the end of reception (18% exceeding in some areas). Only half the children had been working at typical for age on entry (40-60 months), with the others working at 30-50 months. Holly Lawrence, trust Early Years lead had been to the school many times to observe and support, and stressed that these results were not a result of the teaching, which was good. Governors discussed what intervention was possible with this age group, and the benefits of also having the pre-school in the multi-academy trust. RN asked if there was one particular issue across all children, or if it was different for each – CH explained various aspects found difficult by the children.

Governors discussed parental engagement for events such as parents evenings/phonics talks, and possible ways to increase attendance at these, and of parental engagement with the school process.

Update on SIP (CH):

- **Preparations for SATs and expected outcomes** – discussed earlier in the meeting.
- **Group specific learning support (vulnerable groups)** – CH described how staff targeted intervention, doing small group work as well as individual support to maximise number of children benefiting from this additional support.

Safeguarding report + report on training

SD had forwarded her report – no new MASH referrals. An EHCP had been received in draft for one of the children in the school – all concerned were hopeful that this would be a positive step in finding a specialist school place for the child. The school continued to support this child as well as possible in a mainstream school setting. There had been two temporary exclusions for aggressive behaviour – parents of both these children had been supportive of this. The school had above national average levels for Free School Meals and SEND. The systems for monitoring, recording and reporting incidents and concerns were robust. The Single Central Record is up to date.

SW, PW and VL had attended level two safeguarding training. VL distributed MASH contact details to those present.

Report on Governors Learning Walk

Report had been received by all. Governors discussed the format of reporting – SW stated that during a governor training session it had been recommended to have three questions at the end of report, and to decide on a focus in advance. RN was currently working on a trustee/governor visit protocol. RN encouraged governors to stay and have lunch with a group of children, which often enabled good conversation. PW stated she had felt very positively about the visit. SW and AW agreed they could see a real difference in the school, and felt that decisions made leading up to joining TEAM had been proven to be correct.

Report on Trips, visits and residentials, outcome and future plans (CH)

Y2 – Y6 were currently attending swimming lessons. Next residential was the Y6 Ultimate Adventure residential – all 13 Y6s were attending. Big Event trip to Exmoor had already been discussed. The planned theatre trip had been snowed off – had rearranged to see a different performance next year.

Strategic**Review current and projected pupil numbers.**

Currently 75 children on roll (up from 67 at the start of the year). Next year projected to be 71, with an enquiry for two more. It was hoped the pre-school would help to maintain numbers with a more natural progression from pre-school to the main school.

Staffing for 2018/19

No discussion at this point – budget setting to happen soon.

Holiday club

First holiday club had been run in the Easter holidays – at moment looking viable to run in the future. Work was needed on getting parents to book in advance, rather than turning up on the day. Safeguarding responsibility had been sorted at trustee level.

Attendance inc PP data

Whole school attendance currently 95.8% - target 96.4%. Attendance for pupil premium children 94.13%. Large numbers of children had very good attendance, but there were some with high levels of absence that affected the overall percentage. CH was aware of which children had low attendance and the reasons.

Pre-school update

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Marketing and publicity.

Prospectus needs updating. The school will be having a stall at St Johns Fair again this year. (23rd June).

Governing body recruitment – text placed in newsletter each week, as well as approaching likely people directly – had one possible new governor from September.

Uniform

Governors discussed encouraging pride in school uniform and ensuring it is looked after. To discuss further next meeting.

Update on TEAM Academy Trust

RN reported on meeting she and the chair of trustees had had with three representatives from the Regional Schools Commissioner. RN stated that this was a very positive meeting, with the agreement that time should be spent ensuring consolidation of the current five schools, rather than seeking growth at the current time.

Senior staff were currently working on the budgets for the next year.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12th July 6pm