

## Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: High Bickington LGB

Date of meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 6.00pm

Attended by (all virtually): Rob Norton, Susie Kevern, Jane Adams, Helen Carn, Helen Rowden (until 7.26pm), Emma Comber, Tracey Doyle, Claire Large (from 6.29pm), Verity Goss (clerk)



### Brief overview of discussion

#### **Procedural Items**

##### Welcome and apologies

SK welcomed all to the meeting. CL was expected to arrive late. TD introduced as representative of the church on the LGB. EC confirmed as LGB member.

##### Declaration of business interests.

None declared.

##### Sign off previous minutes

Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

##### Matters brought forward

Drop off and pick up arrangements (Covid restrictions). RN explained what parents had been asked to do. This was currently working well, but there were only limited numbers in the school. This would need to be revisited when schools reopened. Staff worked with children on road awareness, and the dangers of cars. Distancing from other families outside of school had also been emphasised. Discussion on possibility of the minibus being asked to park further away, with school staff walking the children to and from the bus at each end of the school day.

Community Property Trust – SK reminded governors of vacancies on the board – governors to consider. Possibility of alternating between governors discussed, or a representative attending when an item related to the school was being discussed.

##### Correspondence

None received.

## **Monitoring and Accountability**

### Data Review: Autumn term progress

RN explained the assessments that had taken place during the autumn term. The majority of children had not been where they would have been expected to be, which was not a surprise due to the length of time they had had out of normal education. There had been normal teaching and catch up work during the autumn term – assessments at the end of the autumn term showed that in a lot of cases children had made really good progress. Not all had caught up to the expected level, although some had, especially in Y3/Y4.

RN shared data on the assessments, reminding local governors that as cohorts were small, one child could account for 10% of the data in a particular cohort. RN explained where progress had been made over the autumn term.

CL arrived 6.29pm.

RN explained how Y1 had not been given formal tests, as they had missed so much of their Reception year and formal tests were not something they were used to. The teacher was monitoring progress.

Reading – progress made in all year groups.

Maths – progress made in all year groups. RN stated that Y6 had lower KS1 results than previous years. Data for this year groups was coming into line with what was expected for this year group. No SATs this year – RN emphasised that teacher assessments would be made as accurate as possible, which was also important to report to the children's secondary schools.

SPAG – No Y5/Y6 data for December. RN explained it had not felt useful for children to sit the assessment in December once staff were aware there would be not SPAG SATS. Time was used to improve children's knowledge. Good progress was noted in this area.

Local governors felt that the data showed children had been making progress towards where they should be. RN explained what the catch up funding was being used for. RN explained the need of a foundation (for example in maths) before being able to start the next area of learning, and the use of resources to help with this.

RN explained how children were being introduced to a wider range of texts, and gave examples of texts used. Short extracts were looked at in class, which could spark an interest in children who would want to go and read more of the text. Book stock was being worked on to ensure these texts were available in the school library.

Did data look similar across the other TEAM schools? RN stated that overall the schools had been quite similar, with similar areas of difficulties and progress made. Children had been affected in different ways – some continued to do well learning from home, some found it very difficult, and some would not return to school for some time due to family circumstances.

#### Teaching plans during lockdown

RN explained the approach to home learning currently. Staff had to work on planning although it was not known how long this period of school closure would continue for. Staff had had more time to prepare for how to deliver online learning, as they were aware another school closure had been a possibility. Children had been ready to use the new systems – Google Classroom in KS1 and KS2. Tapestry had been embedded in EYFS, and parents were using this successfully. A survey had been sent out to parents on Friday to get feedback, so that it could be tailored further if needed. RN explained the work that was currently being set – staff were making use of resources available from White Rose for maths, teacher videos were being used in the lower school, Reception children had daily phonics sessions, and staff were also making use of Oak Academy resources when appropriate. Had been occasional glitches with Google Classroom which were being looked into, but overall it had been successful. Staff were being careful about the feedback given to children – they were aware that it was a lot of effort for some children to complete the work and send back in. Staff were ensuring they gave positive feedback for work completed, as well as noting the next steps needed. Zoom sessions at the end of the week were successful – not as good as being in person, as it was harder to differentiate what the children were doing. RN reported that children seemed to be doing well at alerting staff to areas they were finding difficult – staff were available throughout the day to help and give feedback. Staff had been impressed with the amount of work that children were getting done.

Had staff observed any anxiety in parents about home learning this time? RN reported that there were some cases where parents were anxious, and explained how staff worked to support these parents, including encouraging time spent outside, and focussing on areas that the child was particularly interested in.

How well had the Zoom sessions been attended? RN stated that all children had attended at least once, with about 95% attending every set session. There were also drop in sessions available, which were arranged when specific support was needed. Zoom sessions were beneficial

from a safeguarding perspective – not all vulnerable children were in school so it was useful to see them in Zoom sessions. If they were not attending Zoom sessions, a staff member would telephone to check in with the family.

Numbers on site – currently 6-12 children attended the main site, and 2-5 at the FSU depending on the day. Parents had been asked initially to let the school know if they needed to borrow devices, and some laptops had been lent out. There was a further question on the parent survey about technology at home. More laptops were available to lend out if needed.

Was a resource pack available for parents to help them understand the work that was being set? RN felt that overall parents were doing very well at supporting their children. No set resource had been sent to all, but parents were encouraged to contact the teacher if they had something they wanted clarified.

#### **MAT Issues**

##### Report on TEAM SIP team, autumn term

SK outlined the teams visiting schools, who had the purpose of reviewing how schools were progressing. RN stated that the last visits had been in December, with a focus on English. RN had been part of the team visiting Pilton, and HB had been visited by Ian Thomas, Kate Taylor and Corrine Smith. RN explained what had been looked at, and what had been put in place to help the school to improve.

HR left 7.26pm.

RN reported that benchmarking across TEAM was useful, as was sharing practises and expertise across the trust.

SIAMS – RN had a meeting with the Diocese on Tuesday. A key area was to ensure the church school ethos was embedded, as well as courageous advocacy. It was important to evidence the Christian Distinctiveness of the school.

Pupil numbers – 10 would be leaving Y6 at the end of the year, and there were 13 applications for Reception. The number on roll next year was expected to be 80.

TD stated that a day of prayer for schools had been organised for 2<sup>nd</sup> February, and asked if any local governors or staff had items to be included to let her know.

Local governors agreed they were happy to share contact details amongst themselves, so they could contact each other if needed.

Meeting ended 7.41pm.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 6.00pm.**