

## Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: High Bickington LGB

Date of meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 6.00pm

Attended by: Susie Kevern, Helen Carn, Rob Norton, Rhian Nicholas, Helen Rowden, Verity Goss (clerk).



### Brief overview of discussion

#### Procedural items

##### Welcome and apologies

SK welcomed all to the meeting, and introduced HR as interested in becoming a local governor.

Apologies received and accepted from Jane Adams. Claire Large and Miriam Halpin were expected to be late (apologies later received from Claire Large).

##### Declaration of Business Interests

None declared. Business interest forms were updated.

##### Sign to agree Code of Conduct and Sign to confirm reading of KCSiE

Local governors signed to confirm the reading of these documents.

##### Approve minutes of previous meeting

Had been distributed – agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

##### Matters arising from minutes

None not on agenda.

##### Other matters brought forward

None.

##### Correspondence

None.

#### Monitoring and Accountability

##### Autumn Curriculum Update KS1/KS2

RNo updated local governors on the autumn term curriculum – staff had had a very good training day in September with Beaford Arts which included storytelling and using sketchbook practise in topic work (presenting of work etc). All staff (except NQT) have curriculum areas to focus on and produce subject specific action plans. Staff would have a half day each to look into how their subject is being delivered in other age groups of the school.

*How did curriculum leads at trust level work with school leads?* RNo explained how they worked together to share information, but that there were also areas where school specific knowledge was helpful to this.

RNo described the action plans created, and how progression was monitored through the school in each area. Being part of TEAM was also helpful for this – working with those in other schools and sharing experience.

This term's topic was Digging up the Past, and was being interpreted differently in the different age groups. Early Years/KS1 were looking at pre-history, with KS1 having a 'cave man day' on Friday in the community woodlands. Class 3 were also currently looking at the stone age, and had made their own stone age arrows. Class 4 were looking at mining, and would be visiting the Big Pit in Wales for their immersive experience. The whole school would also be visiting Kents Cavern. RNo reported that there had been a small number of children in Class 4 who had not initially taken particularly well to the topic, but having covered it in more depth had now found areas of particular interest to them – eg the social history side. After half term the younger classes would be moving a little away from pre-history, and would start to look at archaeology. All writing was being tied to topic work, as was some maths work. Children really responded well to this.

Sketchbook approach – were not replacing writing work, but was a way of supplementing the recording of their learning, linking together the different curriculum areas relating to that topic. The approach was also helping to drive an improvement in presentation and standards.

*What had been put in place this year to work on increasing children's progress?* RNo talked about the importance of ensuring that judgements of a child's current attainment is accurate, to ensure that progress is accurately monitored. RNo explained how individuals and groups were targeted for specific support, and how work in class was differentiated to meet different children's needs. Some one-to-one work happened in the class setting. RNo gave examples of how work might be differentiated.

Shanghai maths – RNo explained how staff had adapted the way that this was being used to better suit more able children.

### **School Improvement Plan**

Trust SIP circulated – individual school SIPs currently with Heads of Schools. RNo stated that the main areas for High Bickington would be maths and writing. Although data is consistently good, the plan would focus on the progress measure. Targets set were in line with the TEAM targets.

There would also be a SIAMS action point. RNo stated that the school was going to be visited by someone who worked with Veranda Schools in Nepal, for children learning at home/after work. This linked in to children's rights and with the history of children working in the UK.

RNo updated local governors on the most recent L3 safeguarding training he had attended. An action plan had been produced following this, and staff were being kept up to date with any changes, and reminded of their responsibilities.

RNi left 7.03pm.

**Book Scrutiny – Maths books (from summer term)**

Maths books from different years and abilities were distributed. RNo explained and showed how to see in the books where children were being supported in their work/given additional challenges, and showed examples of differentiated work. RNo explained children were encouraged to record in their books why particular methods were used, to be more useful to refer back to later on.

**Group specific learning support**

Discussed earlier.

**Review of 2019 SATS data**

Had been discussed at end of last term.

**Review targets set for 2019/20**

Included in SIP.

**Pre-School Update: inc hours, staffing, numbers.**

RNo reported on the success of the NQT maternity cover in Class One. Currently six children were registered with the pre-school.

**Safeguarding Report/Update**

RNo had attended L3 safeguarding training update. Sue Davies had presented a report at the last trustees meeting, and had been happy with safeguarding procedures at High Bickington.

**Health and Safety: inc summer improvements**

RNo reported that the BenQ board in Class 4 had greatly improved the demonstrating of presentation skills. New front door had now been painted.

**Strategic****Review pupil numbers, projected numbers, staffing, attendance,**

Current whole school attendance 96.24%. Eleven pupils currently classed as persistent absentees, some of which were for medical reasons. Currently 84 on roll.

RNo updated on staffing – one TA was leaving, recruitment was undergoing for the roles they had covered.

**Update on TEAM Academy Trust**

No updates for this meeting.

Meeting ended 20.02.