

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: High Bickington LGB

Date of meeting: Monday 15th October 2018, 6pm

Attended by: Susie Kevern (chair), Rob Norton (head of school), Rhian Nicholas (CEO), Helen Carn, Jane Adams, Miriam Halpin, Claire Large (from 6.21pm), Verity Lunn (clerk).



Brief overview of discussion

Procedural items

Welcome and apologies

SK welcomed all to the website. Apologies received and accepted from Mike Clark.

Sign off previous minutes

Minutes of two previous meetings agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters brought forward

SK wished to talk of position of chair in LGB – continuing role based on being the trustee who is on the LGB. For long term succession planning SK reminded those present of the need to bear in mind that she would step down when her child left the school (2-3 years).

Correspondence

None received.

Monitoring and Accountability

Autumn Curriculum Update KS1/KS2

RN gave an update on how children were responding to the term's topic of the first world war. KS2 been on a successful trip to Bovington Tank Museum, and KS1/YR would be attending Cobbaton Combat Collection. YR were focussing on smaller topics – this had included some work on self, harvest and would be introducing WW1. There was a smaller cohort in YR this year, so work was very focussed. The KS1 class had a rotation system to ensure the teacher was working with all the groups.

KS2 had been doing whole class guided reading over the whole half term – Class Four were reading War Horse, and Class Three were reading Alone in the Trenches. Both were helping children improve their vocabulary.

Claire Large arrived 6.21pm.

RNo described the use of the Mantle of the expert approach within the school, immersing children in the topic. Class Four had approached this by being

asked to design a war memorial for High Bickington. They had looked at the memorial stone in the church, and had tracked down some of the names in the school log book. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission did not have the names on the HB memorial listed – Class Four children had sent a joint e-mail to inform them of this, and had been writing persuasive letters to the council to say that there should be a war memorial in High Bickington. WW1 had been a very large topic to cover, and staff had had to be specific about exactly what they were covering in the term. Governors discussed how well children were responding to the mantle of the expert approach.

Governors discussed transition between classes as children progressed through the school – **did the mantle of the expert approach help draw children out who were in the new class/getting used to different approach?** RNo reported that it was a process as it took time for some children to get used to having that level of responsibility, but overall it was felt to be having an impact. **Had the transition between Class One and Class Two gone as well as hoped?** Governors discussed the change of early morning routine – there had been a few parents who had had concerns about this. RNo reported that staff had listened to these concerns and the routine had been refined into a system that worked. Staff had learnt how to better implement this for next year's transition. RNo described how opportunities were made for children in YR to interact with those from the main school – other classes joined Class One for forest school in rotation, with Class Four joining YR for reading once a week. Whole school collective worship in the church on Friday, with a combined playtime afterwards was continuing this year.

School Improvement Plan (MAT issues) inc EYFS and School specific SIP (SEF)

Two items discussed together. Governors discussed the school on a page document within the SEF, and agreed it looked positive. RNi explained how the three recent Ofsted reports from TEAM schools had fed into the SIP.

Governors discussed the impact of Shanghai maths – RNo reported that a training session had been arranged to look at stretching the more able children. Governors discussed the leads for different areas within TEAM, and how this benefitted the schools.

RNo reported that Sue Lockwood (deputy director of education at the Diocese of Exeter) was booked to visit the school.

Group specific learning support

Was there enough resources (staff) for the learning support currently required? Read Write Inc currently took up a lot of TA time at the moment due to working in small groups, but this was very beneficial to children's progress. RNo reported that currently the main intervention in Y5 was for spelling – the expectation was that this would not be needed in a few years as children would have a better grounding in this from Read Write Inc. Governors discussed the current deployment of TAs, and confirmed that RNo was happy with the current TA spend.

Targets

RNi reported on the attainment targets set in the MAT SIP – 80% across the trust to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, 30% to get exceeding. RNi stated that this was an aspirational target, but is achievable.

How were staff monitoring the current level of higher attaining children, and how to ensure their progress? RNo explained extending the breadth of the curriculum for these learners.

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

Governors discussed how there was more spaces available for pre-school children this year due to the smaller reception year. Currently 85 children on roll, with several families making enquiries. Governors discussed the number of spaces available in each classroom.

Safeguarding Report/Update

Nothing to report at this meeting.

Health and Safety: inc summer improvements

Since the last meeting the wall in the playground had been taken down as it was unsafe – RNo stated this had opened up the area, which was much better for MTAs. Planning and listed building consent was being sought for a new door for the main school building. The premises manager had moved the water canal in the playground into the corner, which had reduced children bumping into it. Snagging list from the new classroom had now been sorted.

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

Pupil numbers discussed earlier in the meeting. RNo reported no changes to staffing. Confirmed new Class Two teacher was very successful in the class, and had fitted well into the team. Current whole school attendance 94.8%. Governors discussed this, and agreed that it would be worth reminding parents that with a completed permission form, the school could now administer non-prescription medicine such as Calpol, as this would help children with mild complaints (eg headache) to still attend school.

Update on TEAM Academy Trust

RNi reported that Corrine Smith was now head of school across both Umberleigh and Brayford, which was working very well. Parents at both schools had been impressed with the changes and settled into the new structure. RNi stated there had been some initial teething issues with the joining of the Pre-School at Witheridge, but this had now settled down and was working well. An Early Years advisor from the Dartmoor Teaching Schools Alliance was visiting the schools.

Various representatives from TEAM had had a good day at the North Devon Show – the marquee and activities/resources available had been very well received, and TEAM had been invited back by the show organisers next year.

Meeting ended 7.48pm.