

## Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: High Bickington LGB

Date of meeting: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 6pm

Attended by: Susie Kevern (chair), Jane Adams, Helen Carn, Rob Norton (Head of School), Verity Goss (clerk)



### Brief overview of discussion

#### Procedural items

##### Welcome and apologies

SK welcomed all to the meetings. Apologies were received and accepted from Claire Large and Rhian Nicholas. SK confirmed to local governors that Mike Clark had decided to step down from the role of local governor. Mike had spent many years on the governing body for High Bickington, and had made a great contribution which would be missed. SK had approached the interim vicar, who had indicated that she would be happy to continue to attend the ethos committee meetings, but would not be able to attend the LGB meetings.

##### Sign off previous minutes

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

##### Matters arising from previous minutes

None not already on agenda.

#### Monitoring and Accountability

##### Spring Curriculum Update KS1/KS2

RN updated governors on the term's activities. KS2 had completed tests. This term's topic was 'Whizz Bang Pop', relating to inventors and inventions. Classes 2 and 3 were focussing more on inventions, while Class 4 were focussing mostly on the invention of plastic and its history, which would also progress to environmental concerns to consider. As part of this children would receive a letter from the future asking them to solve the problem of excess plastic waste. Children were also looking at modern day inventors/engineers – they had already taken part in a Skype call with an engineer in Bristol. Class 4 were reading 'Clockwork' as their class text, while Class 3 were reading 'Cogheart'. Mrs Scowen had painted display boards in each classroom to tie in with these books. The whole school had been enthused by the topic. The term's big event was still being planned – a trip to the Woody Bay railway. This would also tie in with KS1 looking at the invention of the wheel.

**How had the tests gone?** A governor had had some concerns when visiting Class 3 that some children had had difficulty accessing the tests, and needed the format explaining. Governors discussed the difficulties faced by children who were not used to exam situations, and how practise tests allowed them to gain this experience.

**Had other schools in the MAT also had these difficulties?** RN stated that he had not yet had much feedback from the other schools on how the tests had

been.

Governors discussed the differences between the results children had achieved in these tests and the progress shown on target tracker. RN stated that staff would be going through children's answer papers to compare which answers children did not get right, to see whether there were areas that needed revising, or whether it was a case of just areas that had not been taught yet in class this academic year.

Governors discussed the time of year the mock tests were taken, and the effect this particularly had on maths, which was taught in chunks although the tests covered the whole curriculum. RN stated that he was still confident that children were on track for the end of the year.

Target tracker data – RN explained the steps of progress made by different groups of children. RN highlighted how those who had not made the expected steps progress were targeted. **Were the children who had not made the expected progress in the SEN group?** RN stated that a proportion of SEN children had not make the expected progress as yet. RN explained how children who made slower progress than their peers received specific support to enable them to progress and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.

#### **School Specific SIP Update**

Partially covered in previous item.

**Were there any surprises in the target tracker data where children didn't make the progress expected?** RN outlined the number of children who had not made the expected progress. Staff monitored these children, looking in to why the progress was not made and the additional support they needed. Data to be examined again by the LGB again at Easter – last year the data shown by target tracker had improved by Easter.

Governors agreed it would be interesting to see how other schools in TEAM had done in the tests, to see if similar issues were encountered across the schools.

RN had been to Y6 writing moderation meetings within TEAM as well as with The Two Moors Learning Partnership. RN stated that he felt reassured that Y6 were doing well, and that teacher judgements were correct.

**Were children who were higher attainers at Y6 generally those who had been higher attainers at Y2?** RN stated he had recently done a comparison of the results the current Y6 had achieved at KS1, and this had shown the higher attainers to be broadly as expected. Governors felt it would be interesting to compare with other schools who had a high percentage of higher attainers at KS1, and how they maintained their progress to greater depth at the end of KS2. Governors discussed the difficulties in comparing as children were being assessed on two different curriculums.

#### **Group specific learning support (vulnerable groups)**

Discussed in previous item

#### **TEAM School Improvement Plan Update**

Governors had received. RN talked through the plan and explained progress made. RN reported on the further training staff had received from Sal Edwards on Shanghai maths.

Marking and Feedback – RN confirmed that staff were still using 'greens and pinks'. Class 3 were especially good for responding to feedback. Governors discussed how children responded differently to writing in different topics – staff were mindful of finding a variety of topics to engage children to enable them to produce good work.

RN gave an overview of how 'middle leaders' were developed in the context of TEAM – staff members' responsibilities were constantly being developed. RN confirmed that HB now had representatives in the TEAM online safety group.

### **Safeguarding Report**

No report from Sue Davies for this meeting. Governors were informed that there was now a county council exit procedure for children being taken out of school for home-schooling – the LA process had been adopted by TEAM. This was expected to be beneficial for ensuring the continued safeguarding of children.

### **Notes from Ethos Group**

Minutes had been distributed. Governors felt that the ethos group was being effective, and that progress was being made. Mission statement – RN had attended the SIAMs update briefing, and following this had been working with the ethos committee on the mission statement.

## **Strategic**

### **Review Pupil Numbers, Projected Numbers, Staffing, Attendance**

Staffing – RN stated that Holly Laurence was settling well into Class 2.

Pupil numbers – currently 87 on roll, plus 13 pre-school children.

Attendance – 94.9% - target approximately 96%. A number of children had attendance below 90% – some had had a period of illness/holiday which greatly affected attendance figures at this stage. One family had long term health issues. Governors discussed how attendance figures could be improved. RN stated that in a recent meeting with the School Nurse she had offered to talk to specific parents to reassure them as to what minor complaints did not need the child to stay away from school.

### **Improvement Plans for School Resources**

RN stated that PE requirements were currently being assessed, also IT needs.

### **Update on Academy Trust**

RN reported that HB had got to the final at the SMCC football tournament against Witheridge. It had been good to see that the children across the TEAM schools had been getting to know each other.

**Outdoor Education Policy**

Changes to the policy explained. Governors agreed the policy.

Meeting ended at 8.00pm.

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

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