

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: High Bickington LGB

Date of meeting: Monday 29th April 2019, 6.00pm

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



Brief overview of discussion

Procedural items

Welcome and apologies

SK welcomed all to the meeting.

Sign off previous minutes

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

Matters brought forward by Chair

Minutes of the previous LGB meeting had been circulated prior to the last trustees meetings and discussed. SK reported that there had been no concern raised by local governors at the other schools about the tests referred to in the minutes, and it was generally felt that these were a useful tool at this stage. Governors queried whether staff only used the test results when tracking progress made, as these did not necessarily show all of a child's abilities. RN stated that the data reported to the Standards and Scrutiny Portfolio Group included teacher assessments of a child's current attainment, as well as the test data. RN explained how different aspects of the curriculum were spread through the year, which affected test results when these were taken earlier in the year. This was a particular issue with maths using the Shanghai method of teaching. RN emphasised that the current cohorts of children did not find it distressing that they did not know all areas of the curriculum when taking the tests, but that staff would be mindful of this with future cohorts.

Had the Heads of School discussed these test results at Senior Leadership Team meetings? RN reported that each school's results had not been specifically discussed. The SLT had agreed it had been useful to have a standard test in place for monitoring, but that it was important to ensure the tests selected were suitable for each child.

Correspondence

None.

Monitoring and Accountability

Summer Curriculum Update KS1/KS2

All had started the topic of 'On Safari'. KS2 children would be visiting Longleat Safari Park as their 'big event' trip, KS1 and Early Years would be visiting Paignton Zoo. A display board in each classroom had been painted as a mural relevant to the topic – children's work would gradually be added to this.

Moderation had taken place in writing both across the TEAM schools, and schools in The Two Moors Learning Partnership. RN stated that staff felt secure in their assessments, and it was predicted that there would be four Y6 children at greater depth in writing. RN stated that in Class Four the majority of work would be SATs revision until after SATs week, and children in Class 2 were also revising areas of maths. Class One and Class Three were able to focus more on topic work at this time. Children were already responding well to the topic.

There were various sporting activities planned for the term, with every class getting the chance to take part in some sport at South Molton Community College. A team had recently won the tag rugby festival there. A number of year six children were going on the residential to the Ultimate Adventure Centre, joining other year sixes from the smaller TEAM schools. During that week there would be some transition work with the Year Four children who would be moving up to Year Five.

Outcomes from Andrea Rice Visit (Item Moved Forward)

RN explained Andrea Rice was the CEO of a Multi Academy Trust in Somerset/Dorset/East Devon, and was also a national leader of education. Following the previous Ofsted inspection the school was receiving three days of support. The first visit had recently taken place, where Andrea Rice had talked to RN and Rhian Nicholas, looked around the school and examined books.

RN explained the feedback sheet received, and how this had been passed on to staff. The feedback included improving work recorded in books, and ensuring accuracy of assessment at KS1. RN explained the additional guidance received in how to make this judgement, considering the maturity of the children. Children's writing was discussed – had been recommended to have more completed pieces in books, with only occasional pieces written specifically for display. This would aid in showing progression of work through the books. Quality of environment for display needed to continue, with working walls showing updated work through the term. Current staffing and teaching assistants were discussed, as was the need to make sure that teaching assistants were having an impact in the classroom. Local governors discussed these recommendations and the positive impact they would have on the children.

Was there still a noticeable dip when children transitioned between Y2 and Y3? RN confirmed that it was still a big transition between KS1 and KS2, and explained the transition arrangements that were put in place to help children with this transition.

Governors discussed ways of working in the classroom, and making sure that children were able to go back and see how they had solved problems. The example was given of using language in maths to ensure children's comprehension.

SK described her meeting with Andrea Rice, where the role of the LGB in monitoring had been discussed, and the approach that should be taken on a governor visit.

Developing the LGB's role in monitoring standards – discussed above.

School specific SIP update

Review data from Spring term

RN distributed data sheets for Y1 – Y6. RN explained that staff needed to be able to show evidence to back up what was shown in the data, and discussed how this data would be evidenced.

Book scrutiny: Maths

RN distributed books from children in Y2, Y4 and Y6 showing greater depth and expected standard work for governor comparison. Governors could see where a child working at greater depth was given additional challenges to work on. Governors discussed whether the difference in abilities between children was evidenced sufficiently in the books, and how children knew if they had met their objectives.

RN informed governors that he had visited Axminster Primary School as recommended by Andrea Rice to observe how they managed work in books and recording data. RN was to have half termly meetings with each member of staff discussing the progress made and the evidence of this. RN talked about ensuring there was reflection time for children to respond to marking.

TEAM School Improvement Plan Update

No update for this meeting.

Safeguarding Report

Sue Davies had visited the school for her termly safeguarding visit. Two referrals had been made to MASH in the spring term. SK stated that Sue Davies had reported these had all been dealt with in an exemplary manner.

Notes from Ethos group

Meeting to be held the next week.

Strategic

Review pupil numbers, projected numbers, staffing, attendance

Pupil Numbers – 14 children in Y6 would be leaving, 10 children joining Reception year in September.

Staffing – Class One teacher to go on maternity leave in autumn term. New TA had been appointed in Class Two, and so far was working very positively.

Attendance – Whole school 94.7%, Pupil Premium 96.2%.

RN to approach school council about meeting with the LGB.

Date of next meeting: Monday 15th July, 6.00pm, Main School Site.

Items to carry forward: Feedback from first pupil progress meeting, Governor Visits, SATs.