

## Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Witheridge Local Governing Body

Date of meeting: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Attended by: Sue Wells (chair), Phil Asson, Simon Clarke, Lucy Ratcliffe, Verity Goss (clerk)



### Brief overview of discussion

#### Procedural items

##### Welcome

SW led the meeting with an opening prayer.

##### Apologies and sanction absence

Apologies received and accepted from Adrian Wells.

##### Sign off previous minutes

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

##### Matters arising brought forward by Chair

None

##### Any correspondence

Letter received from the minister for school standards – Witheridge was in the top 1% of schools for reading based on last year's KS2 SATs results. LR confirmed this had been publicised in newspaper articles.

#### Monitoring and Accountability

##### Update from new Head of School

LR stated that things were going well. Staff had been very supportive of LR's new role. The new NQT had settled well into the class and become well thought of by the pupils.

The topic 'Farm to Fork' had been introduced in January, which was giving children a better understanding of farming in their local area, as well as globally – eg children had been looking at where different fruits came from round the world. LR explained the planned trips to fit in with this topic.

Class three would be going on a residential this year, as well as Class four. The Year six residential with the other smaller schools in team was happening again this year. School had received feedback from previous Y6 children stated that they were now friends at secondary school with children they had worked with on the residential.

#### Targets and expectations for Yr 6 and Yr 2 pupils

Y2 – 12 in year group, 4 with SEN. 2 significant hearing difficulties, 2 EHCP. 50% have now passed the phonics screening check. Predicted to be 58% achieving expected standard in reading with 25% at greater depth, 42% expected standard in writing with 8% greater depth, 66% expected standard in maths with 25% greater depth. LR explained the support in place for these children, and work the SENDCO was doing to identify any specific needs.

Y6 – 77% predicted to reach expected standard in reading, writing and maths. Greater depth expected as 33% in reading, 11% in writing and maths. There was some potential for more to reach greater depth in writing and maths.

#### Progress Data/Target Tracker

LR reported that TEAM was moving away from target tracker at the end of March, and would be using curriculum maestro, which combined planning and assessment. LR felt the amount of time saved for teachers would be significant. LR explained the features were all things that teachers were already doing, but contained in one place. Staff would receive training on this on the inset day after the Easter holidays.

Across school progress was looking good, although there were groups of children needing to make accelerated progress. Repeated reading scheme had been set up – over a week, children listened to a story and tried to read along, and by the end of the week were able to read the whole book. An adult worked with the child on this each day. The scheme had run as a pilot at Witheridge, and children had made very good progress. This was now being rolled out across the trust. Decision spelling had also been implemented – LR explained how this worked. Children in Y1-Y3 were also being screened for an early indications of speech and language issues, which would then enable early intervention. It was planned to continue using this next year.

Curriculum ladders – monitoring progress in the foundation subjects. LR explained the concept of the spiral curriculum - revisiting areas and building on children's previous knowledge.

A mentor was working with some children to support those who have barriers outside of the classroom.

Paired reading – children in Class Four had sessions sharing a story book with those in the pre-school/class one. Children really enjoyed this, and the older children appreciated the responsibility.

#### Safeguarding Report

No update for this meeting. Sue Davies was booked to complete her visit this term. CPOMS system was now in use to record incidents. All staff had access to this system.

#### Health and Safety Report

Most recent report been circulated. The school had had its three year health and safety audit on Monday and scored 100%, detailed report. All schools in the trust now had a 100% result from their health and safety audits.

#### Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Currently being worked on in line with the new requirements. To present at next meeting.

#### **Strategic**

##### Review pupil numbers and attendance

12% (9) children below 90% attendance. 7 persistent absentees – LR stated the school was working with the EWO regarding these children. There had been a big improvement in the attendance of the children the EWO had talked to after these visits. LR stated there had been a lot of illness in the previous term.

Pupil numbers – 95 on roll. 75 in main school, 20 pre-school. Would be two more joining the pre-school after Easter. LR had confirmed that prospectuses had been taken over to the new housing development.

TA was undergoing forest school training – the farm used for farm visits had agreed the school could use part of their land for this. Would be looking at starting this in the summer term. The TA was also already running an outdoor club.

##### Pre-School Update, numbers , projected numbers for 2020/2021

LR reported that there had been some staffing issues at the pre-school in the first half of term. Cover was in place at the moment, but a more permanent solution was being worked on.

11 children due to start Reception year in September. LR felt that the open evening in November had been successful. Projected pre-school numbers for September was 13 – this would increase through the year. It was not possible to run holiday club during the Easter holidays due to staffing this year – there would be a sports club running for several days in the holidays.

##### TEAM Academy update

Regional schools commissioner review had been positive.

Within TEAM there were groups of staff that supported the subject leaders – these met to discuss action plans and plan next steps. These had been useful. These had been established last half term, the next meeting would be in the next half term.

Wellbeing day had been introduced – this was a day of leave for staff who had been employed for over two years.

DAPH conference – heads of schools had attended this. There had been talks from an Ofsted inspector, and on the PHSE curriculum.

Ian Thomas had been appointed as CEO from September. Currently undergoing the recruitment process for the Head of School role at Pilton.

Meeting ended 7.13pm.

**Date of next meetings:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm.