

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY PERFORMANCE AND STANDARDS MEETING HELD TUESDAY 2ND MARCH 2021; COMMENCING AT 5.30 P.M. AT WHITESTONE INFANT SCHOOL, MAGYAR CRESCENT, NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

Present : Mrs. N. Green, Mr. C. Atkins, Mr. M. Hartopp, Mr. P. Johnson, Mr. G. Friswell, Mr. S. Shaw, Mr. P. Stokes, Mrs. H. Lewis, Mrs. P. Jones and Mrs. R. Warwick.

In Attendance : Miss. J. Ivers (Deputy Head), Mrs. L. Knox (School Business Manager) and Miss. G. Matt (Clerk).

In The Chair – Mr. M. Hartopp.

Whitestone is now closed outside normal school hours. The performance and standards committee meeting was held over “Microsoft Teams”. All members declared that they were in a confidential environment for the duration of the meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair, Mr. Hartopp welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr. D. Robinson.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020, Monday 22nd June 2020 and Tuesday 8th December 2020 were read, agreed and are to be signed at the next physical P&S meeting.

ACTION Governors agreed to form a SMT self-evaluation group with Mrs. Green to understand how to incorporate SSER into their role of governorship. To develop the Early Years link SMT. Action completed.

ACTION The governors discussed and agreed the curriculum plans that have been put on the school’s website. Action completed.

3. Declaration of Interest.

Mr. Atkins declared an interest in items relating to Chetwynd Junior School, Etone College and the NGA.

Mr. Johnson declared an interest in items relating to Stockingford Academy.

Mr. Friswell declared an interest in items relating to “Stepping Stones”.

4. Headteacher’s Verbal Report.

Mrs. Green gave her verbal report.

Parent School Advisor (PSA). Mrs. Allen will be leaving Whitestone when Miss. Johnson returns from her maternity leave. The last week in March will be the hand over week. Miss. Johnson has requested to return working three days a week. Due to Covid, the PSA workload has significantly increased this academic year.

Mrs. Knox is undertaking the costings of making this full-time post into a job share. Mrs. Green has contacted the other schools who use the PSA services regarding the situation.

Mrs. Bason retired from full time teaching in December 2020. In January 2021, Mrs. Bason commenced as a supply teacher working every Friday in Reception.

Mrs. Hewitt, admin assistant is on long term sick and will return after Easter 2021. To cover her post, Mrs. Knox is working full-time, with Mrs. Jones working between the school office and the classroom.

Presently, no staff members are crossing class bubbles. After Easter, when Covid restrictions are eased staff will be crossing class bubbles.

All staff are undertaking Covid testing twice a week and two cases were picked up. This testing will continue.

Presently there are no supply teachers at Whitestone. The TA supply cover is not crossing class bubbles.

Safeguarding. Two cases have been reported with one case passed on to the MASH team. The Early Help case has moved to Child in Need case and the parents are involved.

Mrs. Mathieson is delivering daily 'home' well-being sessions to a pupil on a school laptop. This is a complicated case and the pupil might not return to Whitestone.

Total number on role 271. In Reception, there is a class of 31 pupils. In Year 1 and Year 2 there is one pupil vacancy in both year groups.

The Covid Risk Assessment has been updated for pupils returning to school on Monday 8th March 2021. Parents have received a copy, with a copy placed on the school's website. Pupils would be told to maintain the Covid class bubbles system.

A complaint has been received from a neighbour whose property backs on to the school grounds regarding a school tree that they want cutting back. Mrs. Green reported this to the LA and a tree surgeon has been out to make a survey. The school's tree is not overhanging into the neighbours grounds. If the neighbour makes any further contact with the school, they will receive a copy of the school's Complaint Policy.

At this point Mr. Stokes entered the meeting at 5.48 p.m.

The playground sunshade needs replacing.

The H&S on a recent inspection condemned the pirate ship (that has been repaired several times) and offered to dismantle/remove from the premises for a cost of £4,700. Mrs. Green stated volunteers would undertake this work. The pupils will be involved in a new project on how this area would be used in the future.

Mrs. Green was thanked for her verbal report.

5. Review SSER and LIP.

Mrs. Green reported that due to Covid, there was very little data available for 2020 and 2020/2021. All areas of the SSER are working and all areas updated where possible.

The SEF will have a Covid Appendix added on for the next three academic years.

Curriculum Structure and Planning. Pupils at home received three hours education daily.

Long-term plans are progress driven; the planning given to parents contains no educational jargon. Remote learning assignments are timed for undertaking on a daily basis throughout the week and are planned to challenge pupils including SEN pupils. They are pre-recorded videos which are used in conjunction with independent activity & thorough planning, equating to three hours per day. There are live video assemblies, 1:1 tuition and interventions.

Staff have worked hard to prepare home learning and classroom teaching; time has been the main factor.

Cohesion between remote and live teaching. To make and get language development in a video as though it was live in the classroom. Staff have been redeployed in different ways. With remote learning, we monitor pupils as an overview. Regarding development in “quizzes”, the answers have reflected much parental support; it should only reflect pupil ability.

Presently, 40% to 44% of pupils are attending school. Wellbeing telephone calls have been made to pupils at home.

Class based Read, Write, Inc (RWI) assessments have been carried out. There are small bubble interventions and 1:1 tuition. Staff will cross year groups when safe to do.

Impact of provision on site and at home. Regular reading assessments, lot of progress made. The small class sizes of fifteen pupils have had a positive effect. The outcome has been excellent behaviour, including the vulnerable pupils. We continue to support both parents and pupils with wellbeing and mental health issues.

Singing will be introduced back into the curriculum in the near future.

Catch up Covid plans included block support in a class and 1:1 from January. February RWI assessments, parents can observe this from home learning pupils and then move pupils on.

Pupils are really looking forward to coming back into school and seeing their friends. For the gaps in home working, baseline assessments would be undertaken throughout the whole curriculum. Quality teaching delivers the best educational standards.

Year 2 had the most negative impact on learning; the baseline assessment of this cohort is lower than in previous years.

Governors stated that the present smaller class sizes had benefited pupils, some had even come out of their shells and that usual class size of thirty pupils will make a difference to development in the future.

Mrs. Green replied that the less confident pupils in a smaller sized class had learnt how to mix with other pupils and had developed better social skills. We must now focus on the pupils returning to school on Monday 8th March 2021.

A governor enquired would any pupils continue to shield.
Mrs. Green replied that there would be no shielding pupils.

A governor enquired regarding pupils returning into classroom with behavioural issues.

Mrs. Green replied that this time we are prepared to get returning pupils back and settled into the classroom by monitoring the situation.

6. Current Pupil Progress and Attainment.

The data had been circulated. RWI data assessments.

Autumn term, Reception was making great progress. Those pupils not making rapid progress would receive extra support.

A governor observed that RWI class results had different percentage progress over the classes.

Mrs. Green replied to look at the data and at the SEN support. Autumn and Spring data not everyone was assessed at this stage. We have tried to support parents to get pupils up to speed and decode language for reading. Year 1 good movement, key issues addressed. Reading is the key for other subject areas.

7. Review effectiveness of Pupil Premium.

Pupil Premium Grant 2020/2021 document is on the school's website.

Barriers for future PP pupils' attainments are emotional intelligence under developed and low attendance. In the Autumn term, a RAG system was introduced, giving details of need, support offered and impact.

Mrs. Green gave several anonymous case details for the governors to observe. Mrs. Green and Miss. Ivers had both looked at pupil's progress back from Reception and undertaken a progress graph for each individual pupil. When no progress was shown, teachers are asked what rectification procedure they will put in place. With all PP pupils, we plan to "narrow the gap".

A governor enquired what had been learnt this year for future PP pupils and how to spend the PPG grant in this area, including attending issues.

Mrs. Green replied that if there was another "lockdown", we needed to get more PP pupils back into school. Mrs. Green stated that with PP pupils with low attendance, there was always the usual excuse for being late; we must break down the barriers with the parents to make progress.

Governors stated that we must break the habit of poor attendance at this age level, before it escalates until the age of sixteen.

A governor stated that the area of PP is challenging, especially with Covid and at Whitestone, hard work assigned into this section of the school. Can we not look at other schools and their strategies of how they use PPG finance for our future reference?

Mrs. Green replied that we already looked at other schools' strategies, many of which are already in operation at Whitestone. Next year we will undertake a PP audit.

Governors responded that they needed to get more involved with PPG due to a pending Ofsted Inspection. The PP Governor should link into this regarding evidence and progress.

Mrs. Green asked Miss. Ivers what type of PP system her previous school in Coventry operated.

Miss. Ivers replied that there was an external PP audit. To target Early Years, enrichment area and to buy in external language support.

A governor stated that at “Stepping Stones”, EYPP changes on a weekly basis from the LA and that the finance to support staffing was not forthcoming.

8. Policies.

Maths Policy.

Expected Behaviour of Visitor’s Policy. Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Robinson had been involved with this policy.

After a discussion, the governors agreed both the Maths Policy and the Expected Behaviour of Visitor’s Policy that are to be signed and dated by the chair at the next physical meeting.

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9. Covid – Remote Education Provision.

Governors were attending assemblies and engaging in meetings via “Microsoft teams”.

A governor stated that it was useful for the governors to know how teachers were supporting parents and pupils. Mrs. Mathieson was thanked for presenting a recent Wellbeing meeting.

The chair thanked all the staff for the way Whitestone was operating under Covid.

Mrs. Green showed the governors several photographs of the daily life in school whilst working under Covid conditions.

At this point Mrs. Knox left the meeting at 6.58 p.m.

Governors enquired were there any issues with the pupils regarding seeing adults in facemasks or face shields.

Mrs. Green replied that there were no problems and that parents wear facemasks at the school gates.

10. Correspondence.

The Clerk has emailed the Governors Information from the L.A.

11. Any Other Business.

There was no any other business.

12. Date of Next Meetings.

FRSC – Tuesday 30th March 2021; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Governing Body – Tuesday 18th May 2021; from 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m.

Performance and Standards – Tuesday 22nd June 2021; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Pay Committee – Tuesday 6th July 2021; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

FRSC – Tuesday 13th July 2021; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

Governors stayed to observe photographs of pupils' works books in Maths and English for progress made from the Autumn term 2020 until the present date. Mrs. Green answered governors' questions.

Governors were extremely impressed with progress pupils' had made over the short time factor under the Covid learning conditions.

Date Signed

(Chair)