

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY PERFORMANCE AND STANDARDS MEETING HELD TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2021; COMMENCING AT 5.30 P.M. AT WHITESTONE INFANT SCHOOL, MAGYAR CRESCENT, NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

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Present : Mrs. N. Green, Mr. C. Atkins, Mr. M. Hartopp, Mr. P. Johnson, Mr. D. Robinson, Mr. S. Shaw, Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. P. Stokes, Mrs. F. Chadaway, Mrs. M. Burdett and Dr. S. Hill.

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

Guest Speaker : Mrs. Obrey.

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.

In The Chair – Mr. M. Hartopp.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair, Mr. Hartopp welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the three new governors.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs. R. Warwick.

2. Election of Chair.

In the Chair – The Clerk.

Mr. Hartopp. Proposed by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shaw and agreed by the governors. There being no further nominations Mr. Hartopp was elected to serve as chair of the Performance and Standards committee for the academic year 2021/2022.

In the Chair – Mr. Hartopp.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 and Monday 22nd June 2020, Tuesday 8th December 2020, Tuesday 22nd March 2021 and Tuesday 22nd June 2021 were read, agreed and are to signed at the next physical P&S meeting.

ACTION When all the information has been gathered, Miss. Ivers will undertake a trend for all pupils regarding Writing to enable them to move forward. Action completed.

ACTION The governors agreed the Locked After (LAC) Policy, which was then signed off and dated by the chair. Action completed.

ACTION The Clerk to inform the LA that Mr. Stokes will serve as a co-opted governor for a further four years from 22nd June 2021 until 21st June 2025. Action completed.

On Monday 28th March 2022, Mrs. Green would meet with Mr. Sutton (from Optimus Education) regarding a Pupil Premium review for Whitestone. Action outstanding.

4. 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 and Nursery Hill Primary School.

Mrs. Burdett declared an interested in items relating to Holy Spirit MAT.

5. Review SSER.

Mrs. Green talked governors through this document, which had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Whitestone is a “good” school with many outstanding features; we are working through the framework for “outstanding”. Good progress has made in all areas of the curriculum. For progression, the link with Chetwynd continues in this area.

Governors commented that the school knows its own way forward to reach its best potential.

Mrs. Green replied that under the present Ofsted Framework, it is hard to be “outstanding”, under the new high expectations. We have worked extremely hard at Whitestone considering Covid, curriculum changes and the new members of staff.

Governors agreed that “outstanding” now is harder to achieve. At Whitestone, we aim to undertake the best for all pupils in all areas of the curriculum. The SSER forms a basis of governor visits to school and areas for observation. There needs to be direct funding to areas that need to be improved. Link Governors would discuss when meeting with their subject leaders.

6. Agreed LIP priorities for this year.

Early years pupils need to learn through play. Mrs. Obrey stated that planning is a large area of development. The focus this year is Pupil Premium and Writing. Transition from Reception to Year 1 is shared with the governors and parents. Pupils take learning in their own way with staff support. We need secure skills in all curriculum areas.

Mrs. Green stated that pupils are required to get to “expected” by the end of this academic year. The exceeding judgement is no longer reflected in this data.

Mrs. Obrey reported that the statutory baseline overall is better than last year, 67% aim target or above. Writing, Reading and blending up on last year’s baseline. These pupils have under gone much interrupted education in their short time in school.

This year the focus is on Writing, led by Miss. Ivers. We have purchased “Talk for Writing” a teaching framework to help raise standards and support work in this area. This will be introduced in Spring term 2022. “Talk for Writing” will help with writing skills and have an impact on writing outcomes. A working party in Summer Term 2022 will review progress, followed in the Autumn term 2022 with a school training session.

Pupil Premium Writing would have a big focus this year; we need to examine what further support would be required to “narrow the gap” and targeted intervention.

Governors asked had Miss. Ivers observed “Talk for Writing” in action.

Miss. Ivers replied that she had previously attended a “Talk for Writing” seminar.

The package is good for pupil's vocabulary and they will still have learning flexibility. All teachers will receive "Talk for Writing" training over the next eighteen months.

Maths is strong, but one element, to recall mathematical facts needs improvement. "Mastering Number" is a programme we are developing through the Maths Hub. This involves daily sessions of ten minutes with all pupils with the aim of improving fluency. The results are good so far.

Governors enquired were there sufficient kits for pupils.

Mrs. Green replied that the programme comes with sixty rekenreks (mini abacus). We ordered more kits in June 2021 which to date have not arrived.

Mr. Johnson on a governor visit to school had observed a Maths lesson. The structure of the lesson was good, leading to pupils understanding the logic behind the Maths.

Mr. Shaw stated that who parents say pupils do not feel challenged must understand that pupils must have Maths logic.

Mr. Hartopp enquired when the data on progress would be available.

Mrs. Green replied at the end of this term.

7. Agree Curriculum Plans.

The governors agreed the Curriculum Plans that are on the school's website.

Mrs. Green reported that these were based on Year groups and consistent across the school long-term plan. There has been a new curriculum for Reception this academic year, linked into the National Curriculum, with progression skills through one subject. Mrs. Obrey explained that we have lots of evidence for Art.

Governors enquired do we undertake statutory requirements and progression enrichment.

Mrs. Green replied this would form part subject leadership role this year and be linked to teacher appraisal.

Governors stated that this would be a useful background for a governor visit to school.

8. Curriculum Focus – Art/DT.

Mrs. Jones had looked over the Art Policy. Mrs. Obrey had reviewed and updated this policy, stating that teaching is strong within a balanced curriculum. Computing has been taken out as a strand of Art. Teachers are to keep samples of the six strands of art for moderation.

DT Policy. Mrs. Obrey has looked at progression skills. Cookery needs to be included this year.

Governors enquired would there be any difficulties for staffing DT and how would pupils embrace this.

Mrs. Green replied that cookery was the only element not undertaken last year due to lockdown.

Governors agreed that this policy was good and easy to follow. Governors enquired did the cooking facilities in the outside huts need any financial support. Mr. Stokes (H&S governor) stated that the huts were now in good order, but we need more storage space.

The governors thanked Mrs. Obrey for her report who then left the meeting at 6.25 p.m.

Governors agreed the Art Policy and DT policy that are both to be signed and dated by the chair at the next physical meeting.

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9. Policies.

Online Safety Policy. Dr. Hill is the Online Safety Governor and that he would be attending an Online Safety Course in the near future.

Mrs. Green stated that this is a long policy that we use at Whitestone, aged appropriately for pupils. This is a massive increasing area for young pupils.

Mrs. St Denis is arranging staff training in this area and governors will be welcome to attend, date would be confirmed. We are working with Chetwynd in this area for continuity.

Governors agreed the Online Safety Policy, which is to be signed and dated by the chair at the next physical meeting.

9. Governor Vacancies.

The governors formally appointed Mr. Johnson as the LA Representative governor, to serve a four year term of office from 9th November 2021 until 8th November 2025. The LA has confirmed their approval. The Clerk to inform the LA.

There is still a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor. LA emailed Mrs. Green and Mr. Atkins stating that a person is interested in becoming a governor. The Clerk to ask the LA to forward the details on to Mrs. Green and Mr. Atkins.

The Clerk to inform the LA regarding the new LA governor and the co-opted governor vacancy.

ACTION The Clerk to inform the LA regarding the new LA governor appointment and the Co-opted governor vacancy.

11. Governor Training/Visits.

Mr. Johnson had viewed the Single Central Register in school. Before half term on a visit, he observed the New Maths programme, 'Mastering Number', in operation. On 1st November 2021 as Safeguarding governor, he attended the Safeguarding staff inset-training day.

The three new governors, Dr. Hill, Mrs. Chadaway and Mrs. Burdett all have undertaken induction and have visited Whitestone.

Mrs. Jones had attended an Art observation.

Mr. Stokes (H&S governor) had attended the annual H&S Inspection in the work place. The External Audit findings are in the process of being carried out. Whitestone needs more storage space.

A new carpet was been laid in the School's entrance in the Summer holiday.

During the Summer holiday, the Caretaker undertook a programme of painting throughout the school building. This has enhanced the internal decor and the learning environment.

12. Correspondence.

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

13. Any Other Business.

There was no any other business.

14. Dates of next meetings.

Pay Committee – Tuesday 30th November 2021; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

FRS – Tuesday 7th December 2021; from 5.15 p.m. until 6.45 p.m.

P&S - Tuesday 18th January 2022; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Governing Body - Tuesday 1st March 2022; from 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m.

FRS – Tuesday 29th March 2022; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Governing Body – Tuesday 17th May 2022; from 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m.

P&S – Tuesday 28th June 2022; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Pay Committee – Tuesday 5th July 2022; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

FRS – Tuesday 12th July 2022; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

Date Signed

(Chair)