

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY PERFORMANCE AND STANDARDS MEETING HELD TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2024; COMMENCING AT 5.30 P.M. AT WHITESTONE INFANT SCHOOL, MAGYAR CRESCENT, NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

Present : Mrs. N. Green, Mr. D. Robinson, Mr. C. Atkins, Mr. M. Hartopp, Mr. S. Shaw, Mr. P. Stokes, Mrs. K. Ford-Lings, Mrs. R. Warwick, Mrs. E. Johnson, Dr. S. Hill, Mrs. S. Farmer and Mrs. M. Burdett.

In Attendance : Miss. J. Ivers (Deputy Head) and Miss. G. Matt (Clerk).

In The Chair – The Clerk.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Election of Chair. Mr. Shaw. Proposed by Mr. Hartopp, seconded by Mr. Robinson and agreed by the governors. There being no further nominations, Mr. Shaw was elected to chair the performance and standards committee for the academic year 2023/2024.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr. P. Johnson.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023 were read, agreed and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

3. Declaration of Interest.

Mr. Atkins declared an interest in items relating to Chetwynd School and Etone College.

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

Mrs. Johnson declared an interest in items relating to the Central England Academy Trust.

Mrs. Farmer declared an interest in items relating to Croft Junior School.

4. Headteacher's Verbal Report.

Mrs. Green gave her verbal report.

Mrs. Lawson has been appointed 1:1 TA and MDS for two terms to support a SEN pupil.

There are no Child Protection cases. There is 1 Child In Need, 3 Early Help cases and 1 post Looked After case. The 2 pupils in care have had reviews. There have been no Encompass reports.

There are no exclusions, PREVENT, homophobic, racism, bullying incidents or physical restraints have taken place.

Attendance issues. There has been a good uptake and support from parents coming into school to discuss pupil's attendance issues with Mrs. Green. In cases where external issues are preventing attendance, support is given, often with professional external agencies. The school is rigorously monitoring attendance.

Miss. Ivers has attended a Safeguarding refresher course. On the last Inset day, twelve staff members received Team Teach training, to support the safe use of force and restraint techniques. The main focus of the training is regarding de-escalation strategies. The use force is a last resort at Whitestone. Team Teach is an accredited training programme.

Last term there was much pupil movement in school. Whitestone is full, apart from one space in Year 2.

SEND. There are 8 EHP cases with another 3 EHP in progress, an increase on previous years. Mrs. Knox is continually chasing EHP funding for these pupils who are receiving the higher level of funding. Until the LA reimburses Whitestone, the money would be taken directly from the school's budget. In many cases, the money received does not cover the costs of the pupil's needs and support. The shortfall is directly met by the school.

Governors discussed the situation and were concerned regarding the financial situation and the extra pressure placed on staff in such situations.

Mrs. Green reported that Whitestone is financially supporting 3 EHCP pupils at the lower rate level, but questioned how longer this could go on. There is an impact on staff, training and professional costs. Help and support has been received from Oakwood Special School, Nuneaton.

Governors thanked Mrs. Green for her verbal report.

5. Ofsted Inspection – Update.

Nothing to report, this is no longer to be a future agenda item.

6. Review SSER and LIP data.

LIP the main focus is priority three. Expectations are higher. In Reading, all Year groups pupils are ranked and specific pupil premium children are targeted for uplift. Pupils receive the extra support if needed. Staff need to know the interests of pupil's outside of school, in order to obtain a rounded profile of them. Pupil Premium pupils have robust trackers.

At Whitestone, we have a positive attitude to learning. Staff training includes MDS. In situations, when pupils make inappropriate behaviour choices, staff talk to them privately about the situation. The language of Zones of Regulation is used & strategies implemented to support emotional regulation, aiming for the 'green' zone (the optimum place for learning). Chetwynd use the same system. The approach is shared with parents via the website, newsletters and also explained to the parents at the regular held parents coffee mornings.

Staff observe subject times in the curriculum and the resources that are used in all lessons. At Whitestone, we have quality teaching and active learning. The academic year plan is on track.

7. Current Pupil Progress and Attainment.

Tracking Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Attainment dips during the autumn term, from the summer term are typical.

Year 2 in reading and maths, with a dip in writing. This will be explored in pupil progress meetings. Progress in writing is also strong with 78% of pupils making at least expected progress.

11% of Year 1 pupils are pupil premium. 21% of Year 2 pupils are pupil premium.

The pupil premium gap remains in all subjects, with only a very small 2% point gap in reading in Year 2.

The most significant gaps are in Year 1, compared to Year 2. However, the proportions of pupil premium pupils are smaller in Year 1.

Governors monitored the data and stated that the data format was very easy to follow.

Governors enquired if there were any procedures to follow to fill in any gaps. Mrs. Green replied, yes, this is all tied into pupil progress meeting discussions & identification of further targeted interventions.

Governors enquired did the data reveal any trends. Mrs. Green replied that from Foundation to Year 1 there was no correlation.

8. Review effectiveness of Pupil Premium.

Intended out comes 2024/2025 – actual position 2022/2023.

Breakfast clubs will be introduced Spring 2. Initially running for five weeks and will be free and open to all pupils during this time. Pupil Premium pupils will receive a telephone call inviting them to join. Twenty pupils are required to attend the breakfast club to make it financially viable.

Whitestone has paid into the National Tutoring Programme for support as we have no spare TAs to undertake this work:-

NTP teacher will be employed to tutor three groups to develop early writing skills.

NPT teacher will be employed to develop early reading fluency.

NPT teacher will be employed for phonics 1:1 tuition.

Wellbeing provision 2023/2024, this now includes behavioural support.

The pupil participation in enrichment activities, in Year 2, 95% of pupils participate in music tuition.

Attendance of Pupil Premium pupils 2023/2024 up to December 2023 is 94.28%.

9. Policies.

There were no Policies.

10. Correspondence.

The Clerk has emailed the Governors Information from the LA.

11. Any Other Business.

A governor had been approached by a parent asking if Whitestone had a policy on “How We Reply to Emails”. Miss. Ivers replied that all emails are received by the school office, from where the email is forwarded on to the teacher concerned to be followed up at a time of non-contact with children. At Whitestone, the priority is for teachers to be teaching and preparing for learning. Teachers are not respond directly, but to do so via the admin email address to ensure safeguarding and manage teacher workload & well-being.

Mrs. Green would include a reminder in the next Newsletter to parents that all received emails for teachers are to be sent directly to the school office and to raise parental awareness of the appropriate communication routes for certain issues.

ACTON After a discussion, it was agreed that the office staff, Miss. Ivers, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Warwick would meet to discuss the specific parent written communication.

12. Dates of the next meetings.

Governing Body – Tuesday 20th February 2024; from 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m.

FRSC – Tuesday 19th March 2024; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Governing Body – Tuesday 14th May 2024; from 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m.

Performance & Standards –Tuesday 2nd July 2024; from 5.30 pm. until 6.30 p.m.

Pay Committee – Thursday 4th July 2024; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

FRSC – Tuesday 9th July 2024; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

Date Signed

(Chair)