

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Witheridge LGB

Date of meeting: Thursday 7th February 2019, 6pm.

Attended by: Sue Wells (chair), Chris Holding (head of school), Adrian Wells, Phil Asson, Simon Clarke (observer), Verity Goss (clerk).



Brief overview of discussion

Procedural items

Welcome and apologies

SW welcomed all to the meeting, and introduced SC as a potential parent governor, who was attending the meeting as an observer. AW led the opening prayer.

Sign off previous minutes

Minutes agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting. CH noted that he had had an issue with accessing the ASP data to present as noted in the previous meeting.

Matters brought forward

Credit Union - AW updated LGB members on the meeting with West Country Savings and Loans – would be signposting as an encouragement to savings. AW explained that it was mostly done online/via an app, and they were currently waiting on a letter from the credit union to put into the newsletter.

Correspondence

None received.

Monitoring and Accountability

Spring Curriculum Update KS1/KS2

Topic for the term was Whizz Bang Pop – inventors and inventions. CH explained how this was being interpreted differently in each class. Currently trying to organise the big event trip for the term – thinking of a whole school science day/workshops. Looking ahead to the next term's topic 'On Safari', it was hoped that the big event across TEAM would be a visit to Longleat, which was the reason for a smaller trip this term. At the end of the term there would be a focus on the Easter story, and there would be a celebration Easter service. Class 3 were going on a trip to Lee Abbey to do their Easter experience walk. CH updated governors on the fundraising this year – had now twinned four toilets.

School Improvement Plan Update – School Specific and MAT

CH talked through the three main areas of the SIP, and explained how each were being focussed on. CH explained the use of the Dartmoor Teaching School Alliance in supporting the pre-school, and of the improvements to the pre-school environments.

Improving outcomes for all pupils in writing – CH explained the use of support staff in working with children who were at risk of not achieving age related expectations. Staff had received training on strategies that could be used with children with a variety of needs, and on adjusting these strategies to each child's individual needs.

Accelerate progress of pupils who have not met age related expectations – CH explained that this was not always about getting the child to meet the age related expectations, but was about narrowing the gap between the child and their peers. CH explained the use of the data tracking system to monitor children's progress. All children identified as being 'at risk' had made at least the two steps progress expected in the autumn term. CH explained how individual intervention was adjusted to each child's particular needs. Currently 25% of children in the school were on the SEN register. CH explained the process of obtaining an EHCP, and how these were useful for protecting the continuity of a child's educational support when transferring between schools. CH explained the use of the SENDCO across the school, and how well the SENDCO knew the children they worked with.

RN explained that individual school improvement plans fed into the MAT improvement plan.

CH updated governors on the school's mental health awareness day. Across the school children were encouraged to observe the 'ten a day' for mental health. Children were also doing work on 'helping others' – eg a litter pick, playing board games with the local 'rest a while' group. E-safety – children had been doing some work on this, and staff were working on the logistics of getting children to be representatives at the TEAM E-safety group meetings. Y6 teachers across MAT had recently been moderated for writing, which had been very useful in securing judgements of teachers.

ASP/IDSR Data

Summary of data – IDSR currently not working. CH explained what data was being presented.

Phonics Y1 – 5 of 8 had passed phonics which was as expected – those that had passed had all got more than 35/40.

KS1 SATs – the number of children achieving the expected standard and greater depth in reading was higher than national average. CH explained how this had to be maintained at the end of KS2 for children to have been judged to make the required progress.

When progress was judged, was changing cohorts taken in to consideration? CH confirmed that Ofsted did compare the children in each cohort to see which children had changed between the two assessments.

Writing – children achieving the expected standard was broadly in line with the national average, the number achieving greater depth was better than the national average.

Maths – children achieving the expected standard was broadly in line with the national average, the number achieving greater depth was much better than the national average.

Combined score – children achieving the expected standard was broadly in line with the national average, the number achieving greater depth was better than the national average. 23% of children achieved greater depth in all areas.

How was progress tracked for these children now? CH explained how progress was monitored, the use of target tracker, and how attainment was monitored in between Y2 and Y6 – to be presented at the next meeting.

KS2 – progress made (based on children's attainment at the end of KS1) was average in all areas. Attainment was broadly in line with the national average for children achieving the expected standard, with the percentage of children achieving greater depth higher than the national average.

Disadvantaged children – governors discussed progress made by these children to the end of KS2. CH explained that the aim was for there to be no difference when comparing statistics for disadvantaged children to their non-disadvantaged peers.

Three year average – percentage of children reaching the expected standard had greatly improved over the three years, and was now almost at national average. The percentage of children achieving greater depth had also improved and was now above the national average.

Group specific learning support (vulnerable groups)

Partially covered in earlier items. CH informed governors of the new gardening group being set up – the school would also approach members of the local community to see if they were interested in joining in with this group. Some PP money was also being used to supplement the end of year residential, allowing all children in the year to attend. CH confirmed that Miss Milton was continuing pastoral support work with the children. The work on Building Learning Power was also supporting this.

Pre-School Update: inc hours, staffing, numbers,

Pre-school currently at capacity for most sessions – 26 registered in total. One more was due to join as a result of the recent open evening. Governors discussed the new building work happening in the village, and how this may affect the number of places needed in the pre-school. CH informed that the capacity could be increased with additional staffing, but there was also a limit placed linked to the size of the building. Currently there was a staff vacancy for one day a week in the pre-school.

After school club – had appointed a leader to run the club each day. This staff member would also help at the holiday club, which would run for two weeks at Easter and four during the summer holidays.

Safeguarding Report

Nothing to report at this meeting.

Report from governor training

SW had attended Babcock governor induction training. Although she had previously been a governor she felt it was very useful, particularly as there were differences in governance in maintained school and academies.

Outdoor Education Visits Policy

Discussed and agreed.

Strategic

Update on new SIAMs framework

CH explained the new framework for SIAMs inspections, showing the seven strands assessed and explaining each area. SIAMs inspection for Witheridge due before August – pre-visit happening in March. As part of the inspection, inspectors would meet with parents and governors. Governors discussed how the school's values were important for all people, not just Christians. Children focussed on one for a term or half term, but were also reminded of the others throughout the year. The values were there to help children make better decisions in their life. CH also explained how collective worship was made to be accessible to those of all faiths.

Review pupil numbers, projected numbers, staffing, attendance,

Attendance – whole school currently 96.5%, target normally about 97%. PP attendance 96.9%. Attendance figures included one pupil who only attended half time until Christmas (non-statutory school age) and one with low attendance due to a medical condition.

Current pupil numbers 72, projected 73. No changes to staffing other than those discussed earlier.

Update on TEAM Academy Trust

RN stated that there had been two prospective trustees who had shown an interest in joining the trust board.

Meeting ended 7.45pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th March, 6pm.