

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Witheridge LGB

Date of meeting: Thursday 15th November 2018, 6pm.

Attended by: Sue Wells (chair), Penny Wignall, Chris Holding, Adrian Wells, Verity Goss (clerk).



Brief overview of discussion

Procedural items

Welcome and apologies

AW led the opening prayer. Apologies received and accepted from Phil Asson.

Sign off previous minutes

Minutes agreed and signed as accurate record with changes as noted.

Matters brought forward

- After School Club – investigations into external companies had proved that it would not be viable. CH reported that instead a better rota of staffing had been arranged, so staff did not have such long days. After school club provision continued to be available from 3.30 – 6.00pm.
- Credit Union – AW updated local governors on the progress of this. AW had been in contact with the City of Plymouth credit union, but unfortunately due to management issues they had not had anyone available to send to a meeting. AW had then contacted the West Country Savings and Loans credit union, which was a bigger organisation and would be able to send a representative – this credit union was also more app/online based. A question had been asked on whether this fitted in with the curriculum – CH stated it was more from a life skills (saving) aspect, and also a welfare aspect if homelife was made easier. It was not known at this stage how popular it would be – planned to have physical base in school as had the footfall of parents going through. AW to arrange meeting with CH, business staff and representative from the credit union.

Correspondence

None

Monitoring and Accountability

Autumn Curriculum Update KS1/KS2

Detailed update at the last meeting. CH reported that Lest We Forget had been a really good topic, and the impact on the wider community had been very good.

School Improvement Plan (MAT issues) inc EYFS/School Specific SIP

Ongoing as at last meeting.

Early Years – Claire Jones was coming back for a second visit next Friday. A lot of the items from the action plan after her last visit had been completed. Jo Pearce had created a lot of display boards for the pre-school units. Staff had been working on improving the environment of the pre-school unit, and also on the structure of the day. The pre-school was working more positively now, and was now working on the pre-school and school working more closely together as one entity. [Did the pre-school staff accept comments made by advisors and take these on board?](#) CH confirmed that they did.

Group specific learning support

CH explained how TAs worked with groups of children as part of targeted interventions, with some children receiving pastoral support. One TA was retiring at Christmas – had been some strong candidates for their replacement, and interviews were happening on Monday. The applicants had a variety of extra-curriculum interests which would benefit the school.

Targets

Covered at last meeting.

Pre-School Update: inc hours, staffing, numbers

Currently undergoing a staffing review – there were some children who wanted more hours, and depending on which sessions were asked for there may be a need to employ an extra staff member for some sessions. CH outlined the changes of staff that had occurred. Number of pre-school children was looking positive for the number of children starting reception next year.

Safeguarding Report

CH reported that there was a number of children currently on a watch list – one family had been subject to a MASH referral (not referred by school) – social services were now assessing.

Health and Safety Inspection Report

Report from the walkaround had been circulated. CH talked through the report – main issues still ongoing as part of the CIF bid. Smaller items had been actioned. [Was anything impacting on safety?](#) No. Leak in class one canopy not included on report but had been repaired. CH reported on the CIF big progress – companies had been coming in to provide quotes prior to the submission of the bid.

Report from DAG conference

SW and AW had attended the DAG conference. SW reported on the day, which had included four excellent speakers and the opportunity to network. They had been told that overall in Devon KS1 results were up, with girls outperforming boys. The number of EHCPs had also increased drastically.

Ian Hernalik: talking about Virtual School – to promote the educational achievement of looked after children. Questions raised for governors to think about including knowing who the designated teacher was for looked after children and how they stayed up to date, who provided attachment based mentoring, questioning whether children in care had Personal Education Plans, how funding was being used specifically to make a difference to these children and having a designated governor/trustee for looked after children.

Sam Lusardi: Regional Schools Commissioner. Recommended that trustees/governors visit another school's board meeting to see what they can learn. Also to think of having a few minutes in each board meeting without the executive head to discuss how to challenge appropriately in that meeting.

Richard Light: Ofsted. Had reported on the new framework for September 2019 – still under consultation, but was focussed on knowledge, skills and understanding rather than data and statistics.

John Lunn: Providing Effective Challenge. Had given an example of one school who had stopped allowing teachers to take books home, which had not had any impact on children's outcomes, but had improved the work-life balance of the teachers, who were more energised. Had also emphasised that data needed to be looked at over a period longer than one year, with no conclusions being possible if only 12 months. The role of governors in response to data had been discussed, emphasising how being able to access data before a meeting gave time for governors to prepare challenging questions.

Next meeting to cover ASP/IDSR data. CH to send out in advance.

Report on visit from Paul Ginnings

CH went through the report – PG had visited the school and stayed for lunch. PG reported that he spoke to a number of children and did not get any complaints from them, but received positive comments about their experiences. Classes were well structured and resourced with good behaviour shown. PG had felt teachers had not been able to communicate their own targets from the SIP – CH confirmed that teachers did have these, but he would work on making sure the teachers were fully aware of these.

Strategic

Review pupil numbers, projected numbers, staffing, attendance

One child had left since the last meeting – currently 71 on roll. Projected numbers remain the same. Upcoming open evening at the school – pre-school parents would also be invited to this.

Whole school attendance currently 96.4%, pupil premium attendance 96.2%, target for school 96.2%. There were a couple of persistent absentees, which included one not yet of legal school age and one who had left before the summer but did not gain a new school place until October. Staffing structure may have to be revisited next year if pupil numbers do not increase.

Update on TEAM Academy Trust

No update since last meeting. Next meeting would be feedback from the Scrutiny and Standards meeting.

New local governors – one potential who may have issue with Thursday meetings. CH to talk directly to a couple of parents who might be interested. PW felt it would be beneficial for her to step down at this point to encourage newer members – PW was thanked for her support in getting the LGB for Witheridge established.

CH reported that the Two Moors Learning Partnership had had a meeting, and had put together a program of sports and music events for the five schools.

Music funding had gone to the learning community rather than the individual schools – TMLP was writing to the Music Hub to request this be paid to the schools directly, as all five schools had felt they did not get full value from the current arrangements.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th January, 6pm.

DRAFT