

## Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Witheridge Local Governing Body

Date of meeting: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Attended by: Sue Wells (chair), Chris Holding (head of school), Adrian Wells, Kathryn Stewart (observing), Simon Clarke (observing), Verity Goss (clerk).

Brief overview of discussion	
<b>Procedural items</b>	
<u>Welcome</u> CH introduced KS who had expressed interest in joining the governing body. AW opened the meeting with a prayer.	
<u>Apologies and sanction absence</u> Apologies received and accepted from Phil Asson.	
<u>Sign off previous minutes</u> Minutes agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.	
<u>Matters arising brought forward by Chair</u> None not covered elsewhere.	
<u>Any correspondence</u> None received.	
<b>Monitoring and Accountability</b>	
<u>Targets and expectations for Yr 6 and Yr 2 pupils / Progress Data/Target Tracker</u>  Data had been distributed prior to the meeting on attainment and progress. CH explained what the data was measuring, and talked local governors through the data. Agreed that the current Reception cohort was a particularly strong year.  <b>What was being done to support the current Year One children, who had not been such a strong cohort?</b> CH explained that class sizes had been kept small, and four children who had not been judged to be ready for the KS1 class had stayed in Class One, which was a more appropriate learning environment for them. Targeted teaching/support for these children was in place.  <b>Is there any scope to work with parents of the children that are struggling?</b> CH reported that staff did try to engage the parents. Some children also had additional needs that made making progress very difficult for them. An EHCP was being applied for for one child, with another being screened for various learning difficulties. The TA in	

Class Two had been trained in the Solihull Approach (parental support programme), and was currently working with one parent on this, another parent had started on the programme but had withdrawn. CH described the different strategies used to try to support parents.

**Why is the number of children at age related expectation in Y1 so much lower than other years?** CH reported on the discussion on this that he had discussed with the class teacher. There were currently a couple of children with issues around place value, the teacher was confident that these particular children would reach age related expectation by the end of the year.

Year Two attainment – CH stated that although no children were currently above age related expectation, there were some who may be able to achieve this level by the end of Year Six.

Year Three – broadly in line with what had been achieved in their KS1 SATs. Staff were aware of issues in writing, and were working on supporting this, with interventions in place. Children had progressed as expected in reading. CH reminded governors that Year Three was a challenging year for children as it was the first year in KS2, and a significant step up from Year Two.

Year Four – Overall positive picture.

Year Five – CH reported it was the same two children who were below the expected standard in all three areas, with one additional child below expected standard in maths.

Year Six – CH reported that this year group particularly enjoyed maths, and were very strong in this area. Some children in the cohort had significant SEN in writing.

Predicted levels at SATs:

KS1 – 71% achieving expected standard in reading, 57% in writing, 71% in maths.

KS2 – 81% achieving expected standard in reading, 64% in writing, 73% in maths. Predicted combined score of 64%.

CH explained how progress was measured. It was noted that children in Year One had made very good progress, so the gap was narrowing for the children who were not currently at age related expectation. CH explained what interventions were being put in place for children who were not currently making the expected progress.

**What was the advantage for children who made above the expected progress? How did they know they were making this progress?** CH explained that parents were aware of progress made from report cards and parent meetings. At the upper end of the school children who made significant progress were aware that they were finding work easier.

Local governors discussed the benefits of mixed year classes for those working above age related expectations, and how they learnt to greater depth once they had achieved what they were expected to in their year.

SW stated that on a recent training course she had been informed that schools could disaggregate SEN results to get a clearer picture of how the school is performing –

would it be useful for governors to see some of the data results with SEN and non-SEN listed separately? Discussed whether this would be beneficial. CH reminded governors that 26% of children in the school had SEN, with 31% receiving Pupil Premium funding. Both were significantly above the national average.

CH explained the progress of EHCP applications and of the work that the SENDCO was doing with the children in the school, and outlined what the additional funding for these children would be used for.

**How is the pupil premium progress?** CH stated that the data from last year had been affected by the fact that a number of SEN children were also Pupil Premium children. One child without SEN had made accelerated progress.

Across the school Pupil Premium children were making less progress than their peers, which was in line with national figures. Local governors discussed the severe challenges faced by children who were both Pupil Premium children and had SEN requirements.

**How was Pupil Premium money being used to help these children make more progress?** CH explained the use of TAs for intervention time, gardening club and pastoral care.

#### Update on CIF Bid

CH explained bids had been made to replace the windows/fascias and roof. Awards were granted on a priority basis. The result of the bid was expected before the summer term, with a view to work being completed over the summer holidays.

#### Feedback from Pre-SIAMS visit

CH reported on the pre-SIAMS visit and feedback received which was felt to have been positive. CH explained the importance of values and vision to the school community.

#### Safeguarding Report

No issues to report to this meeting. CH explained the current thinking of not naming viral e-safety issues directly, as this often led people to go searching for them. There had been one issue where police had been in contact to inform the school that there had been an e-safety issue where child at Witheridge had been involved. CH was looking to put on an e-safety evening for parents at Witheridge. The TEAM children's e-safety group would be visiting the school and performing an e-safety play for children in KS2. Staff continued to do work on e-safety within classes.

#### Health and Safety Report

Had been distributed. CH talked through the report and explained what was being done to resolve the issues raised.

LGB action on gate not in use – local governors agreed to leave in place in use as a fence.

Biomass boiler still not working – waiting for people to come out to repair the part. Hoped to be fixed shortly.

#### Feedback from Governor Training

SW had been on training on understanding primary data. It had been stressed that to be able to function as governors they needed to have access to data. Local governors discussed what data was available.

### **Strategic**

#### Review pupil numbers and attendance

From last update there had been some decreases – would now be 10 children coming in to reception next year, with a total of 68 children on roll.

CH reported on the annual review with the EWO, who had been very impressed with attendance at Witheridge. The number of persistently absent pupils was 5.3%, a significant improvement and less than the target level. Whole school attendance 96.59%, target was 96%.

#### Pre-School Update, numbers, projected numbers for 2019/20

Currently 26 children attending the pre-school across the week, which was a good level for the setting.

#### TEAM Academy update

No update for this meeting.

#### Other Items

CH reported that the school was currently struggling with MTA cover. CH outlined the efforts being made to rectify this, and how the school was coping in the meantime.

Local governors agreed to accept SC as a member of the Local Governing Board.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June.