



The Grove School
Governors Report

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Headteacher's Report to Governors
Autumn Term 2017
4th Sept 2017 - 22nd Dec 2017

Curriculum Enrichment Activities for Children/Young People, Parents and Community Links

Finlay McDermid, Monday September 11th, ongoing for the term

Finlay came into school to get to know the pupils and plan with staff his music therapy sessions.

Pamela Wright, Thursday September 14th

Pamela came into school to read some different poems to the pupils and explain about the Literary Festival and the competition that would be taking place.

Sue Brewis, Monday 18th September

Equine therapy session for pupils in Willow and Maple, as well as pupils from Beech class.

Sixth Form visit to Dilston College, Wednesday 4th October

The sixth form visited Dilston College to see what the provision is like and discuss what they could access there.

Splinter Group, Youth workers, Tuesday 10th October

The Splinter group visited school to tell the sixth form and other young people what they do and what they offer, these discussions are to inform our young people what is available after school. Parents can then discuss this and it is up to each family as to whether or not they wish to be part of these groups.

Literacy Festival, poem competition pictures to be handed in, Wednesday 11th October

Pamela Wright came to read poems to the pupils, they then draw pictures that related to these poems for a competition, we had one winner and 2 runners up.

Rachel Usher, Person Centred Planner, Monday 30th October

Rachel and her team support our young people who are planning to leave to make decisions about what they would like for their future with support from the school and the parents.

Visit to Kirkley Hall, Friday 3rd of November

The sixth Form and some other young people visited Kirkley Hall college to see what provision there is and if there is anything that they would enjoy doing there.

Visit from Tracy Girdwood, Berwick Campus, Northumberland College, Thursday 9th November

Tracy came in to tell our young people about the courses that are available in Berwick for our leavers.

Gymnastics for Elm, Friday 10th November

Elm class attended gymnastics with Mrs Debbie Couch, at a purpose built facility for gymnastics in Berwick.

North Star adult learning centre, Thursday 16th November

The members of North Star adult training centre visited to perform a series of drumming songs.

Woodhorn Museum, Wednesday 22nd November

Oak class visited Woodhorn Museum.

Christmas Assembly, Tuesday 5th December

The Reverend Cooke, Wooler Parish Church, took our Christmas assembly when the pupils decorated our big Christmas tree in the school hall.

Working with Partner schools and settings

Active involvement and contributing support continues with: -

- The Ponteland Partnership Teaching Alliance/ Two school's direct places secured through this partnership
- The Dales Teaching Alliance
- The Berwick Partnership of Schools, including advice and guidance sought by these schools for individual children/students
- The Bridges Steering Group Committee at Berwick Middle School
- The Northumberland Association of Special Schools
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinators (SEND) both at a local and county level
- Early Years Schools and Settings
- Education Reference Group for Safeguarding, Penny Derries attending
- Special Educational Needs Hub meetings
- Outstanding Teachers programme, Miss Lee Waugh facilitating

Working with Partner Agencies

Active involvement and contributing support continues with: -

- The Integrated Team
- Local Authority Family and Children's Team (FACT) Board
- Health Visitors, Portage and Children's Centre
- Social Services Disabled Children's Team - Respite Care
- Social Services Case Conference Team - Safeguarding
- Social Services Transition Team
- Scottish Borders Educational and Social Services Teams

Partnership Working with Multi-Professionals who have supported specific children this term has included: -

- Dr Jonny Cardwell, Consultant Paediatrician, on-site clinics

- Mrs Linda Henderson, dietician, on-site clinics
- Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr Dorothy Marsden, on-site clinics
- Dr Joyce, Consultant Psychiatrist, supporting transfer to adult services
- Mick Flanders, community nurse on-site, and at child's home
- Sue Emery, speech and language therapist, weekly, on-site
- Lecky Equipment, regular checks of standing frames/tilt boards and special chairs, the rep is Lisa McCarley
- Tina Bewick for wheelchairs/pushchairs
- Brendan Dowling and Kate Jacobovics, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, termly visit
- Anna Bradley, Teacher of the Hearing Impaired
- Simon Donaghy, Orthotic Clinic, termly
- Lorraine Danielle, Occupational Therapist
- Liz Ann Davidson, Occupational Therapist
- Fiona Blacklock, Physiotherapist
- Katy Master, Specialist Massage Therapist, weekly
- Sue Brewis, Equine Therapist
- Finlay McDermid, Music Therapist

Assessments information

	Emotional Score 2014 independently using Emotional Literacy assessment and intervention 7- 11yrs	2015 results	2016 results	2017 results
Child A	87	91	No longer pupil premium	No longer pupil premium
Child B	72	84	No longer pupil premium	No longer pupil premium
Child C	62	68	91	
Child D	69	70	74	
Child E	57	66	51	46
Child F	75	80	70	
Child K			78	

For those learners that could not complete the above assessment independently staff completed their assessments on their behalf through interpreted understanding based upon their depth of knowledge of everyone the results are shown in the table below.

	Overall self-esteem score 2014	2015	2016	2017
Child G	40	55	20	71
Child H	44	72	50	63
Child I		34	50	55
Child J	47	78	25	81
Child L				65

Results of achievement in mathematics and English for group average for Pupil Premium learners and the school averages, these results will be updated when the data analysis report is written in January and reported to governors.

Increase average on B-Squared	English results 2015	English results 2016	Mathematics result 2015	Mathematics result 2016
Pupil premium average	10%	11%	15%	12%

These results show that the pupils in the Pupil Premium group are all making progress in the area of Emotional Well-being, this is one of the areas that we are targeting with the Pupil Premium funding, for example the payment of Mrs Katie Master, Massage Therapist and the introduction of Equine Therapy.

External Moderation

School continues to moderate with our mainstream colleagues and meetings are arranged to moderate Early Years data. We continue to moderate with Barndale House Special School to ensure that our P-Scale results are accurate and that teacher assessments as reflected in the B-squared results are fair and accurate. We are working with the Northumberland Special School headteachers group to find ways in which we can moderate our new MAPP assessment baselines to ensure that we are being accurate in the levels that we are assessing the pupils at.

Attendance - figures continue to be affected because of: -

- Complex, epilepsy and seizures that medicine cannot control/prevent which is now impacting upon the attendance of two pupils on an ongoing basis. One of these pupils has only recently started having seizures so will need to be carefully monitored to see if the medication prescribed is working to control this seizure pattern.
- Specialist medical consultant appointments: Neurological, surgical, paediatric, orthopaedic etc. at Edinburgh, Newcastle and Melrose
- Orthotic and specialist dental appointments.

There have been requests agreed for holidays during term time because of the children's extenuating medical, health and social needs, going on holiday at quieter times of the year makes doing so safer and easier on a practical basis for these children's families. We are also now working with the Education Welfare Officer each half term to analyse any absences and to ensure that should there be any concerns these are addressed. The current attendance figures are: - School year to date - 95.32%, this has improved further since the previous Headteachers report.

Behaviour/Discipline/Exclusion Information

We have no reported incidents of Racism and have sent in a Nil return recording this.

We have no formal reports of bullying since the last Governors report, however the headteacher has dealt with one request regarding concerns from a parent. The parent reported that their young person had concerns relating to the way other young people were behaving towards them. This was dealt with through Emotional Literacy work, staff meetings and ensuring that the young person in question was monitored closely, without drawing attention to them to ensure there could not be any repeat of any behaviours that maybe upsetting. The parents were informed of these plans and were happy with them, no formal complaint was made.

Care Plans - Medical Needs

Care plans continue to be updated with support from Kerry Thompson school nurse. We have now got 6 children with Epilepsy care plans and 1 child with a care plan for choking. All staff that work with these pupils have received training on how to follow the care plans. These plans are now in place; we are also updating all training in regard to these plans.

We have all received up to date First Aid training and some staff will be attending the Paediatric First Aid training in the near future.

Complaints Information

We have received no formal complaints through official or un-official pathways. We will invite parents to contribute to their child's annual review this enables the parents to bring up any concerns that they may have, we will then work with the parents to ensure that we address these issues.

School Development Plan

See attached document.

Staff Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - linked to Appraisal/School Development Plan

Please see attached Continuing Professional Record spread sheet. This spreadsheet has been developed to show the triangulation between, the School Development Plan and professional development and training.

I have completed observations of all class leads, the lesson observations were 100% 'outstanding'. The changes that we have put in place in September is ensuring that teaching and learning is at the highest level at all times, as observed through lesson observations. A copy of these are available from the headteacher.

Admissions

We had three new starts in September 2017, one in Elm, one in Beech and one in Sycamore. We are supporting another pupil with three sessions in school, this is with a view to the pupil transferring at some point this academic year. This would take our numbers to 46 on our register, although 2 of these pupils are nursery places and attend for 15hrs.

Post School Planning

This is an area of focus this year, we are working with all Post 16 providers in the area and out with the area to develop clearer pathways to be published on our website to try and explain the processes for Post 16 planning.

We have currently secured a college place for one pupil to complete their level one Child Care qualification from January to July, whilst still being a Grove School pupil, then moving onto their level 2 next September, we are all very proud of the young person and know that they will make a great success of the course.

Transition Plans

These are being completed with support from all the multi-professionals that are involved in supporting the pupil and with agreement from the parents and young people themselves. We are currently working with Rachel Usher, Transition Worker to develop a transition plan for each pupil.

Work experiences

We continue to work closely with Tesco to develop work experience opportunities for pupils. We have also organised work experience for another young person at Tweedmouth Middle School, as they are interested in working with young people. These generally take place in the summer term and we will ensure that those pupils for which it is appropriate are supported to experience a work placement. We also facilitate work experience in our school, some of our pupils may go and

work with younger pupils, and this means that they are in a familiar setting but are experiencing the demands of a work place.

Staff Absence Data/Staffing Information

We have experienced a difficult start to the year, we as a school and governing body have supported the staff through some very tragic situations, this has been to try and help our staff to return to work when they feel able to. We continue to follow procedures for the management of staff absences, as part of this process staff have return to work meetings and the relevant paperwork is completed.

We have appointed Mrs Kerry Scott and Miss Charlotte Hattle as additional teaching assistants, as well as two apprentices, one who is a classroom assistant apprentice, Miss Tazmin Patterson and one who is an administration apprentice, Miss Rachael Younger. These staff are already bringing a great deal to the team with new ideas and strategies that they have used in previous roles.

Governors audit results

We are completing the audit again to see where we may still have areas that need to be developed, the results of this will be reported at committee meetings in the new year.

Staff Appraisal and Salaries

Staff appraisals have taken place and the attached report highlights the areas that staff are looking at developing over the next academic year.

Discipline/Grievance Issues

There continues to be no such issues to report on.

Buildings

We are continuing to look for alternative options for the boiler, including the possibility of transferring the boiler to gas, this would prevent us needing oil deliveries and having an oil tank there are health and safety issues associated with this. This is ongoing and we will need to wait for the budget to be in a position to carry out this work.

The building work planned for the summer has been completed and we are very pleased with the new classroom and meeting spaces that have been developed.

Donations Received

School continues to benefit greatly from the support of our local community which provides the children with many treats and special activities that otherwise would not be possible.

Donations in Kind have included: -

- Mr and Mrs Cromarty
- Mrs E Hepple
- Mr and Mrs Roughead
- Mr Scott
- Malcolm Purvis

The support of so many individuals and organisations over this past year is overwhelming and greatly appreciated by everyone in our school community for all the additional special activities and resources this kindness provides for the children/young people. We are planning a large fund raiser for March 2018, this will be to raise the funds needed to buy a new interactive white board, that will be shared between Oak, Sycamore and Beech classes.

Academy Status

Academy status remains part of the political landscape, this means that we need to continue to think about what our long term options are. Berwick Academy are currently in discussions with The Three Rivers Academy, Morpeth and we will watch to see what happens with this development.

We continue to have discussions with Hexham Priory School about their Academy status bid with the Eden MAT from London.