

BEVENDEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heath Hill Avenue, Brighton

Curriculum Standards and Welfare Sub-Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 25th June 2015

Present: Kathy Strulo-Brooks (Chair), Katie Blood, Rachal Daniels, Trudy Roberts, Wendy King

In attendance: Glenys Harries-Rees (minutes)

1. Quoracy of meeting

The meeting was quorate

2. Apologies

Emma Warwick

3. Notification of AOB: None

4. Minutes of previous meetings

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair

b) Matters arising

(i) [ref item 4b)(i)] Visit to Laughton Primary School re growth mindset

Claire King has been on long-term sick leave so this is on hold until the Autumn Term

(ii) Growth Mindset Film

On hold until the next academic year

(iii) Maths teaching styles (referred from FGB)

On agenda for first Autumn meeting

(iv) Certificates re Child Protection for Karate Club

These have now been confirmed together with confirmation that the staff are trained in CP on a 3-yearly basis

5. Report on Mini-Mentor Project

James Kuszewski attended the meeting to report on the Mini-Mentor project. He outlined it as follows:

- The project ran for two terms
- In the first term, 4 children from Year 6 were selected to act as mentors and talked about restorative justice and consequence pathways in preparation for their mentoring role

Q: How were they selected? Were they chosen from children who had volunteered?

A: No, they were specifically chosen a) to avoid rejection and b) with the aim of having children who would gain the most from the project. 2 children had had experience of the system as perpetrators, have learned the process and can demonstrate it to others. 2 children had never been involved in any incidents

- The children were given advice on who they could speak to, what was appropriate to say within sessions and when to say things
- They were then allocated partners from Year 5 who needed support over their behaviour
- Weekly meetings were held to discuss progress
- The mentors were encouraged to design the sessions themselves and to measure their mentees' progress
- The project worked well in the first term with the Year 6 children's confidence increasing as time went by. The Year 5 pupils responded well and referred their difficulties to the Year 6 mentor
- In the second term, it was clear that the Year 6 pupils were tiring and Year 5 pupils were less responsive, possibly as the novelty wore off, and at least one relationship broke down
- If the project were to be repeated, it would probably be more effective if done more intensively over a shorter period of time
- Overall, the project has had some success and been beneficial to some of the pupils concerned. Behaviour related incidents have reduced and Year 5 have had no incidents of pupils being taken out of class

Q: Will the project be undertaken again?

A: This will have to be discussed

JK was thanked for his report and congratulated on the work he has done.

6. Child Protection Policy update

WK reported that there had been no new legislation and that nothing had occurred to indicate the policy was not working effectively. Therefore the policy remained the same.

7. Growth Mindset

KSB reported that children had been interviewed about their perceptions and understanding of the Growth Mindset concept. She made the following points:

- The questions asked had been difficult, particularly for the younger children who contradicted themselves in their answers
- Some children did demonstrate understanding, pointing out and identifying other children whom they perceived to be in the challenge zone

A governor said that she had found that children are increasingly able to recognise that a child who might not achieve well but tries hard is in the challenge zone.

Another governor felt there has been a shift in the understanding of the challenge and thinking zones, with a deepening awareness of what these mean. Children are no longer "spouting" the words but using them with understanding and accuracy.

8. LA new attendance guide

WK reported that the LA has brought out new guidance on whether and when to fine parents for unauthorised holidays. There is pressure for all schools to have the same

system and that system should be to fine parents for any unauthorised absence, even if only 1 day, without exception.

WK reminded the governors that a decision had been taken in Bevendean Primary a year ago not to fine parents. This should now be reviewed.

Discussion followed when the following points were raised / questions asked:

- How many holidays have been taken so far?
WK did not have accurate figures, but stated that, with a month to go, numbers were slightly less than last year
- It is important to know how many families the numbers cover; are they all one-off holidays or are some families frequently absent?
- How are parents fined?
The school would instigate a penalty notice which would then be issued and followed up by the Local Authority. Current fine charges are £60 per parent per child per holiday
- Is there scope for a compromise arrangement, e.g. fining repeat offenders or above a certain number of days?
Yes, this would be possible, but there would still be pressure from the Local Authority
- Parents would need to be warned if there is to be a change
Yes, this should be done in a newsletter
- If there is a change, parents should be given a grace period to reconsider arrangements
- Attendance was an issue with the last Ofsted. Since then attendance has risen consistently
Yes, but it is still likely that Ofsted will pick up the issue again
- The guidance is very harsh for the demography of this area

It was agreed that the matter should be discussed and decided at the next meeting and that Teresa Goble, Link Governor for attendance, should be asked to attend.

9. Revised Pupil Premium Report

The figures in the Pupil Premium report made to the last meeting had not been fully complete and the revised report was circulated at the meeting.

10. Monitoring of School Development Plan

a) Report on Bullying

Governors had asked to see the system for following up and monitoring incidents of bullying. WK circulated the table for the full year (Summer 14 – Spring 15) of reported incidents of bullying, pointed out that, as from the spring term, these do not include prejudiced based incidents when they do not involve bullying. Such incidents are recorded but no longer reported to the LA.

Q: What is meant by bullying? Is it just meanness?

A: No, it is behaviour over a period where there will be a perceived intention or a lack of concern over the recipients' feelings.

One governor suggested that it might be helpful if the report included an explanation of the type of bullying in each incident. WK agreed to suggest this to Elaine Soudain.

The governors felt that the table showed clear evidence of follow up and monitoring and were encouraged to hear that the number of incidents is less than last year and that only one child had been involved in repeat bullying. WK also reported that the number of prejudiced based incidents is decreasing.

11. AOB

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.30 pm

Date of next meeting – Thursday 8th October at 3.30 pm

Action	When	By Whom
Consideration to be given to producing a film for parents about growth mindset	Ongoing	CK /KSB
Visit to Laughton Primary School to be arranged to look at Growth Mindset strategies	Autumn term	KB / CK
Report on maths teaching styles	Next meeting	GHR / JB
Mini Mentor project to be undertaken again?	Ongoing	MG / SLT
Discussion and decision re holiday policy	Next meeting	GHR
Bullying report to include an explanation of the type of bullying in each incident – to be suggested to ES	ASAP	WK
Report on behaviour on agenda for same meeting next year.	1st meeting 2015/16	GHR
Safeguarding report format (Feb 2015) to be repeated	Ongoing	MG