



SHIRLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at 4.00pm on Tuesday, 26 February at Shirley Community Primary School

Governors Present: Nicole Went (Chair) (NW)
Louisa Meynell (LM)
Jennifer Thomas (JT)
John Cattermole (JC)
Rev Ruth Adams (RA)
Phil Henderson (PH)
Sarah Joomun (SJ)

Also Present: Iain Smith (IS) (Chair of Governors and Visiting Governor)
Suzanne Wernham (SW) (Deputy Head)
Hannah Kidney (HK) (Deputy Head)
Andrew Pulham (CK) (Clerk)

The meeting was quorate throughout.

1. Statutory Responsibility

- **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Caoimhe Murton and Martin Campbell. Both absences were recorded as authorised.

- **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

- **Minutes of Meeting on 29 January 2019**

Governors agreed an amendment to the final full paragraph in agenda item 4 (Attendance). This paragraph to now read:

Governors agreed that in the light of the advice given by the EWO, the school should be issuing more penalty notices for unacceptable incidents of non-attendance.

With this modified form of words agreed, the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

- **Matters Arising**

In respect of the six actions summarised in the previous minutes:

- Action 1 (EHCP) remains outstanding.
- Action 2 (Cycle Helmets) Caoimhe had given a talk to Year 5 pupils and it was felt that this had been very effective.
- Action 3 (RSE Action Plan) CK has emailed Nici Roe to ask her to attend a future meeting of Standards (14 May or 2 July).
- Action 4 (Healthy Eating) JC continues to develop this initiative
- Action 5 (Pupil Premium) HK and LM will shortly meet to discuss.
- Action 6 (Pupil Premium) HK will arrange a meeting with PH to discuss the agreed modifications to his role as Data Governor.

2. Report/Update from Data Governor

PH advised that due to difficulties in accessing key systems he had been unable to pull together all the data required, for him to be able to give a comprehensive report.

PH drew Governors' attention that when benchmarked, Shirley's performance seemed to be lower than comparator schools, particularly in respect of disadvantaged pupils. The data suggested that performance in reading is broadly on trend, whilst performance in maths is lagging.

PH advised that current comparator schools used for benchmarking purposes are Cottenham, Kings Hedges, Milton Road, The Grove (plus the CCC average). Governors agreed that with immediate effect Arbury and Orchard Park schools would also be benchmarked.

3. Monitoring of Standards

SJ and JC gave updates on performance by Y2 and Y6 pupils respectively.

Year 6

SJ talked Governors through the series of tables given out at the meeting. SJ suggested that the sample SATS paper given to pupils in January was extremely challenging and that this will have accounted for the lower than expected percentage of pupils recorded as having achieved or exceeded Age Related Expectations (ARE). SJ suggested this is not in fact a true reflection of the current cohort and more recent tests have demonstrated a higher level of attainment. Accordingly, the statistics are certain to show improvement when reviewed at the next meeting of this Committee.

SJ also suggested that the agreed attainment targets are aspirational/challenging in nature and this needs to be taken into account when reviewing performance.

Governors asked a number of questions in respect of SJ's presentation:

Q. Did the pupils appear to relish the challenge posed by the difficult sample SATS paper?

A. *Yes, a number of the more able pupils most definitely relished the stretching nature of the test.*

Q. What does the use of the term 'aspirational' mean in this context?

A. *A number of criteria are taken into account when assessing performance and this includes the fact that all pupils are given an individual achievement target which it is expected they can attain.*

Year 2

JC summarised the performance of Y2 pupils against targets as follows:

Area	Target	Actual at end September 2019
Reading	76%	35%
Writing	72%	27%
Maths	76%	31%
Combined	78%	

JC confirmed the figures are broadly in line with where the school should be and advised also that a large number of pupils are close to achieving expectations. Once these pupils have reached this level of attainment the figures will improve significantly. JC confirmed that more up to date information would be made available at the next meeting of this committee.

There were no questions in respect of JC's Y2 report.

4. Inclusion

SW took governors through her printed report and highlighted a number of areas where the figures were significantly different to the previous term. SW and Governors noted in particular that the number of Shirley pupils on the SEND register is considerably higher than the national average.

- In respect of EHCP, the school is looking to increase its number of funding submissions with one expected to be granted in the near future and two or three in the pipeline.
- In respect of provision, the sensory room is proving an extremely valuable resource. SW advised also that the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team has offered to assist staff, initially by way of a 'drop in' service and that this service may be further developed in the future.

A number of questions were raised by Governors:

Q. What is meant by the term 'social and communication difficulties'?

A. In older parlance, this might refer to a child being on the autistic spectrum; however in the absence of a formal diagnosis, this term cannot be used.

Q. Why do we think there is a higher number of pre-school and reception pupils in particular with SEND needs in the Spring 2019 term?

A. This is mainly due to concerns in the areas of language/social communication/behaviours as discussed earlier. It is not unusual for the number to spike in the Spring term, as these needs will often have come to light during the autumn term. The number will drop as interventions achieve their desired outcome. The earlier the need is identified the earlier an intervention can be made and the more beneficial the outcome will be to the pupil. It is also important to remember that not all pupils who come into Yr 1 at Shirley will have attended pre-school at Shirley – or perhaps any pre-school at all.

Q. What accounts for the drop in the numbers in Yr 6 between the Autumn and Spring terms?

A. This is through a combination of pupils leaving the school and others being taken off the register.

5. Equality and Diversity

JC advised he and LM expect to meet with Jane Taylor (Yr 1 and Equalities lead) in the near future to work on this policy.

JC took Governors through a number of practical actions the school is already undertaking to meet the needs of its diverse school population. He suggested an important aspect of the equalities agenda is *equality of opportunity* and with this in mind he wants more pupils to have the chance to go on residential visits in particular, to venues such as Hill Top. To this end he is writing to all parents. He is also exploring opportunities for pupils whose parents/guardians might not wish them to attend residential courses to receive the benefit of day trips and has engaged with parents from one particular community whose resistance to residential trips is known.

The adoption of a space in the school as a Muslim prayer space was also cited and JC/SJ confirmed that this is already well used, mainly by Y6 pupils. This had been very much a pupil led initiative, with the request coming from pupils and the space chosen by pupils. A prayer space had also been provided at Hilltop during a recent residential visit, which had proved successful.

6. Governor Visit Reports

None tabled.

RA confirmed Martin Campbell will be undertaking three safeguarding-related visits during the Spring term, one looking at the SCR, one looking at the website and one to be agreed in consultation with JC, but ideally looking at case studies where the impact of an initiative such as 'Pupil Voice' can be assessed.

Actions:

CK to circulate standard template for write-up of Governor visits to all Governors.

CK to prepare and maintain year plan of Governor visits with effect from the 2019/20 academic year.

7. Statutory Responsibilities

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

NW noted that the 'Home School Agreement' policy is due for review in May 2019 and this will be placed on the agenda for the Summer term.

NW also encouraged as many Governors as possible to attend and make themselves known and available to parents during forthcoming parents' evenings.

JC advised Governors that he would be issuing a parent questionnaire during the Summer term, using an online tool such as 'Survey Monkey' to enable swift analysis of the results.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

14 May 2019 at 16.00hrs

The meeting closed at 1720hrs

Summary of Actions (not part of minute)

Agenda Item	Action	Lead
2	Arbury and Orchard Park schools to be included in benchmarking exercises with immediate effect.	PH
6	Issue standard template for recording of Governor visits to all Governors	CK
6	Prepare year plan for Governor visits w/e/f 2019/20	CK

I confirm that at a meeting of _____ held on _____

These minutes were approved and agreed as being a true and correct record.

Signed _____

Position _____

Date _____