

Standard & Curriculum Committee

Minutes: 01 May 2019

Present: Miss Tracey Cleverly
Mr Jason Hayward-Jones
Mr Simon Niles

In attendance: Mrs Nicola Dunford – Chief Executive Officer
Newton & Teign Representative – Lynda Cooper
Totnes LB Representative – Anna Neville
Academy Head Tedburn School – Andy Keay
Clerk – Becky Ames
HR Officer – Sue Howard

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received Alexis Saffin and Jo Carter, these were sanctioned by the Committee.

Declaration of Business Interests

TC wished to declare that she is employed by the Learning Academy Partnership.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 13 March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair, Tracey Cleverly.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 and 2.3 ND reported that the Working Party have not met since the last S&C Committee meeting, so these matters will be carried forward to the next meeting. These items will be looked at over the Summer term and reported back at the first meeting in the Autumn.

2.2 – see agenda item 5

2.4 – see agenda item 3

3. Local Boards

The representatives from each Local Board had provided an update report prior to the meeting.

AN from Totnes Hub reported that they have recently completed focussed visits on Pupil Premium and these reports had been uploaded to the Google Drive for Governors to view. She summarised her visit to Landscope at the meeting.

It was noted that there are some discrepancies in the PP Strategy documents available on the school websites and this will be discussed further by the Working Party group.

It was noted that there is always good support and cooperation from the Academy Heads (AHs) for all Governors to assist with their requests for Data etc during their visits. Future reporting on Data will be more consistent as all Trust schools are moving away from School Pupil Tracker to SIMS.

LC from Newton & Teign Hub advised that there is concern over Governors being able to attend during SATS week to assist with the administration, due to a lack of Governors on their Local Board. ND reported that three AHs have recently attended an event on SATS Maladministration. AH's are meeting the following day from this Committee meeting to discuss and a plan will be devised from this which will then be cascaded to all schools and Governors. It was noted that there are now much tighter regulations within the SATS procedures.

Action – Working Party to refine the focussed visit cycle in relation to monitoring the PP Strategy.

Action – Follow up discrepancies identified in PP review - ND

4. **Effectiveness of Pupil Premium Strategies**

The Chair started a discussion around PP and the effectiveness of the strategies. AK provided the Committee with some example Progress & Attainment Reports in relation to Pupil Premium children.

The challenge from Governors during their focussed visits is key to monitoring the impact for our PP children. SN commented that was made that it is sometimes difficult to identify trends in very small cohorts or schools with few PP children. One approach is to gather all the PP children together from all the schools within the Trust and this forms a 'Virtual School'. This enables more effective monitoring and can more easily identify trends.

Schools are to ensure that parents are fully aware of Pupil Premium and should assist parents when filling out relevant paperwork. This will ensure that the school have got all available funding to assist pupils.

Further discussions took place looking at whether as a Trust, are we confident that our PP children are having maximum impact and are results showing. Do we have GAPS? SN challenged that we should be ensuring that there are no gaps in achievement for our Pupil Premium Pupils.

ND stated that the schools are still on a journey, but are good at identifying our PP children and addressing their needs. ND stated that there is still variance in terms of impact of strategies and it was noted that the Inclusion Hub has been very effective in identifying and monitoring PP within the Trust. Children on Child Protection Plans, Children in Care and Looked After Children are increasingly a focus for Ofsted and this should be an important priority in our schools. As governors we need to be monitoring the attendance and achievement of the CP/CIN children.

Directors are provided with reports at their Board meetings summarising Safeguarding concerns and MASH referrals. ND advised that the Academy Trust School Improvement Plan (ATSIP) has identified for the following academic year, a focus in relation to pupils achieving Greater Depth.

Ak explained, to the committee, that a new data tracking system is being implemented and described the functions to the committee. ND explained that she will be implementing tracking of Pupil Premium children from on entry to the point of leaving to provide robust information about the impact of the strategies.

JH highlighted that in the current reporting format does not allow for regular, formatted reporting and there is variance in what each local board reports. In order to ensure that the Local Boards and the Committees are able to monitor impact he would like to see us working towards a more coherent approach with the ability to regularly monitor at local board and committee level, the key milestones. ND explained that this can be the focus of the working party and she wants to develop core reporting formats for the Trust.

Action- Working party – develop a process and cycle for governors to be able to monitor the impact of strategies on vulnerable pupils: achievement of CIN, CP and PP pupils.

Action – Develop core reporting formats and template will be shared at the next meeting. – ND

5. **OFSTED Feedback from LB'S**

LC was asked to share her experiences with other Governors following the recent Ofsted visits that she supported within her role. This was decided to be carried forward to the Working Party group meeting scheduled for the following week. A summary report will be provided at the next S&C Committee meeting.

6. **Date of future meeting**

It was decided that this Committee will meet on Wednesdays at 5pm, and at least five times per academic year. ND and TC will suggest dates for 2019/20 meetings and pass to the Board of Directors.

Meeting finished at 6.15pm