

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE OF ST MATTHEW'S GOVERNING BODY, HELD AT SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY, 18th JUNE, 2014 AT 5.30 P.M.

Present: Carole Mills (Chair), Jill Tuffnell, Emily Barratt, Sam Wilkes-Read, Neil Perry, Ashley Walsh, Tony Davies (Headteacher), Sarah Barratt (SENCO), Lucy Walker (Link Governor for SEN), Anne Maskell (Clerk to Governors)

1. Apologies for absence

ACTION

None received

2. Declaration of pecuniary interests

Governors had no additional interests to declare.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Tony reported that the fund-raising concert on 9th May had been extremely successful and had raised c. £1K.

4. SEN Update

Sarah gave a whiteboard presentation to lead governors through her SEN update, supporting papers for which had been distributed with the agenda.

Monitoring of intervention programmes in this form is a new process for this year. Children's progress is assessed and colour-coded according to their achievement – this gives a clear indication as to which programmes are working well and which are not so effective. Sarah said that she will undertake a cost benefit analysis in due course. Data from the example given is from the autumn and spring terms – summer figures will be added in due course. New resources have been purchased, including 3 I-pads and new intervention software to assist with phonics and speaking and listening skills, and these have made a significant difference to progress of children in Nursery, Reception and Year One.

A group of our children are going to the Music Therapy Unit at ARU, and the Nest children are going on a residential trip to the Jarman Centre next week. We have been running our first Raising Children course with the assistance of Romsey Mill, and they have also been organizing speech and language sessions for us.

Sarah explained the colour coding of the levels of progress on the chart and outlined the factors which can impact on them in different year groups. She said that it will be necessary to have overall figures at the end of the year for effective comparisons. Next year most schools will still be using National Curriculum levels – the position after that is unclear.

She then looked at the predicted SATS results for SEN children in KS1 and 2 – outlining the

number of steps within a level we would like children to achieve in a year. The year 2 data has been taken from children just before they took SATs so should be reasonably accurate. The results have flagged up the need to look at writing intervention in KS2. Sarah said that early intervention is the key and it will be good to see the impact on children who have received this at the end of their KS2 years. When looking at comparative data it is also important to factor in children who are so improved that they have been taken off the SEN register.

Sarah then talked about the new draft SEN Code of Practice, which covers ages 0-25 and is designed to be more family centred. She said that a final form should have been published by now but it is still in draft, with some ambiguity in certain areas. STT say that the new code will not be that different for schools who already have robust systems in place for SEN. Sarah had prepared a summary which looks in detail at the changes and additions to the Code of Practice 2001 and also detailed what the local offer must include and the implications for schools. An action plan on what needs to be done in school to implement the code is included.

Governors thanked Sarah for her comprehensive presentation and for achieving such a high level of monitoring of the SEN area. It was recognized that teachers and teaching assistants have also put a huge amount of effort into ensuring that a real difference has been possible for each child.

5. National Curriculum planning update

Initial mapping of the old and new curriculum has been undertaken with some new units of work allocated and some moved around. For the most part teachers feel that the process has been useful and given an opportunity to address certain areas. The new Charanga programme for Music has been purchased and we are confident that this will generate improvements. There is still a good deal of work to be undertaken in terms of weekly planning, particularly for numeracy and literacy. We will need to decide how we allocate training days and map out what needs to be done in staff meetings. We have just purchased the new Abacus system which should be a good supportive framework for numeracy teaching. It is not clear yet what assessment procedures will ultimately replace national curriculum levels.

6. Volunteering database

Sam reported that this is now up and running and will be advertised at tonight's New Parents' Evening for Reception and to the rest of the parent body in the autumn term. There is an online form which populates the database and this can then be downloaded as an Excel spreadsheet. He will circulate the link to all governors.

Sam

There is an option for members of the local community who are not parents to also sign up, and we could advertise this locally.

7. Any other business

Carole's record of her link governor numeracy visit with Caroline Bailey on 27th March was circulated. They had looked at raising the proportion of outstanding teaching, increasing parental confidence in maths, implementing the new curriculum, Big Maths, intervention work and resourcing. Some former pupils, now Year 8 at Parkside, had been into school to help younger children with Maths and this has been extremely

beneficial and it is hoped this idea can be developed further.

8. Date of next meeting and agenda items

The date for the next meeting will be set at the full governing body meeting on 2nd October.

Agenda items to include:

Statutory assessment data analysis

Numeracy update