

FAIRFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2016 at 7.30pm
at Fairfield Primary School, Basingstoke**

Members Present:

Paul Cruddace (Chair)
Sue Davies (Head Teacher)
Paul Deed
Corinne Guehenneux
Janine Jenkins
Kelly Smith
Richard Whitechurch

Apologies: None

In attendance: Liz Cronshey (observer)
Flavia Coleman - Clerk

Blue type denotes support and challenge from the governors

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01/16 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone.

There were no apologies for absence.

02/16 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Governors were invited to declare any conflict of interest relating to matters on the agenda. No declarations were made.

03/16 Items for consideration in AOB

None.

04/16 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

05/16 Matters Arising

34/15 (20/15) – Sports grant data: the Head Teacher confirmed that the report had been uploaded to the website.

42/15 – Training spreadsheet: the spreadsheet had been completed.

Any other matters arising would be covered by the agenda for the meeting.

06/16 Review of Targets for 2015/16

The Head Teacher advised that, as this was a short half term, end of phase data had only just been received and so it was not yet possible to judge whether the targets were realistic. In addition, as there is some ambiguity about what the target threshold for SATs will be and as the benchmark would not be known until

after SATs have been completed, it was difficult to forecast what the outcomes might be.

The Head Teacher confirmed that the floor target was 65%, lower than in previous years, and that children would need to meet expectations in each of the standards in reading, writing and maths combined. As writing will be teacher assessed, the target of 80% was likely to be achievable and progress towards the target for maths is being made.

A governor asked why the target for writing was 5% lower than those for reading and maths and it was explained that the target is based on the outcomes at the end of KS1.

It was agreed that as the targets are aspirational and above the floor target, they should remain as they are.

07/16 Curriculum Review – Cambridge Primary Review Trust Blog – Boycott of SATs

The article from the Cambridge Primary Review Trust had been circulated before the meeting and it was agreed that it was interesting to have an external perspective.

The Head Teacher confirmed that the school would not be boycotting the tests.

08/16 Managing the Impact on Pupils of Current Staff Changes

The Head Teacher advised that five members of staff would be leaving at the end of term but that it would not be possible to fill the substantive posts until September. An experienced teacher had been appointed for Y5 and an NQT for Y2 for September. They specialise in PE, History and English, which bodes well.

Governors were assured that, in the meantime, everything possible was being done to cover the gaps. The current supply teacher in Y2 would be staying until the end of next term and a supply teacher had been booked for Y5 and would be meeting with Nick Pagram on 22 March for a handover.

Interviews for a class teacher with leadership responsibilities, to replace Nick Pagram, would be taking place on 11 March. The Head Teacher has met one of the applicants, who appeared to be a strong candidate, and it is hoped that a successful appointment for Y6 for September can be made.

A governor thanked the Head Teacher for the update and for the senior leadership team's efforts to ensure good quality provision remained in place during this time of significant staff changes.

09/16 SEND Data

The Inclusion Manger's report had been circulated before the meeting. It was noted that the national average for pupils with SEND was 14.4%, rather than 8% as shown in the report.

There are currently 40 children on the SEN register, equating to approximately 10% of the school population. This is higher than average but below the national average. 34 (85%) have an SEN need and 6 (15%) have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or a statement.

A governor noted that approximately 20 hours was needed to complete ECHPs and asked if this was because of the amount of evidence required. The Head Teacher advised that this is part of the reason but that time is also needed for meetings with all the agencies involved and the preparation of the final version.

In reply to a question as to whether the decision is based on the evidence submitted, the Head Teacher advised this is generally the case but that, in some instances, more information is requested.

Asked if additional funding is provided for children with EHCPs, the Head Teacher advised that this depends on the number of hours of support needed but that top up funding is provided for children whose level of support is over 16 hours.

It was noted that the Inclusion Manager is reducing her hours from next term but that this is primarily for her 1:1 work and that ways of covering the hours internally are being explored.

10/16 Attitudes Survey

The outcomes of the attitudes survey were passed to the Chair and other governors were invited to review them if they wished to do so.

The responses from parents and KS1 children were generally positive.

Janine Jenkins advised that the School Council had discussed the areas where the outcomes were less positive and taken feedback to their classes. The majority of the negative responses were as a result of misunderstandings or misconceptions.

A governor asked if anything of concern had been raised or if any of the responses had led to consideration of different ways of working. The Head Teacher advised that there were no surprises and nothing that could not be explained.

Asked if a question about the governors had been included, the Head Teacher confirmed that two questions "Are you aware of the governors at Fairfield's?" and "Would you like to know more?" had been added. 55% of respondents had strongly agreed with the first question and 45% had disagreed and 44% would like to know more. On this basis, it was suggested that an item on parental engagement should be included on an agenda for a future Full Governing Body meeting.

11/16 Complaints

The Head Teacher advised that no formal complaints had been raised so far this term and that informal complaints and concerns had been dealt with to the satisfaction of all parties.

12/16 Governor Visit Reports

12.1 – SEND

Corinne Guehenneux's report on her meeting with the Inclusion Manager in November had been circulated before the meeting.

She advised that the rationale behind the development of an SEN guide was to provide a summary of the provision for third parties and that changes would be reviewed at each visit and the guide updated accordingly.

A governor asked whether the comment on communication with parents on a

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fortnightly basis linked to a review of the effectiveness of the interventions. The Head Teacher advised that the intention was to provide information, recognising that there was a need to explain terminology. The new Code of Conduct includes more details about involvement with parents.

12.2 – Pupil Premium

The report on Paul Deed's and Lucy Price's meeting with Nick Pagram has been circulated before the meeting and it was noted that a follow up visit was planned for the following day.

Paul Deed explained that the visit was for familiarisation purposes, to look at how the gap between Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium children was closing and to judge the effectiveness of the interventions. Part of the rationale behind the new curriculum is that the gap should narrow.

A governor noted that the gap in maths is greater than in reading and writing and asked if more Pupil Premium funding was being spent on addressing this. The Head Teacher advised that the funds are being used for resources; a large number of interventions had been put in place this year, in addition to more monitoring and scrutiny.

Asked whether there is more focus on Pupil Premium children, the Head Teacher advised that this depends on each child's needs; some are also SEN and/or EAL and the funding is not the only factor. In response to a request from a governor, a Venn diagram or chart showing the category for each child and any overlaps will be provided. **SD**

13/16 Any Other Business

No matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6 July at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Approved by:

Date: