



Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Pilton Bluecoat Ethos Group and Local Governing Body

Date of meeting: 6th November 2020

Attended by: Dan Polak, Louisa Burbidge, Caroline Preston, Caroline Tucker, Ian Thomas (until 1.20pm), Verity Goss (clerk),

Brief overview of discussion

ETHOS

Apologies

Apologies received from Michelle Potter and Zoe Charlton.

IT explained the purpose of the ethos meeting, and what had been put into place leading up to the previous SIAMs visit. Maintaining the vision and values of the school was important.

Nigel Dilkes (rector) and Gill Tewkesbury (RE lead) had left, who had played a large part in the ethos group. DP informed the group that Michelle Rigler had taken on the role of RE lead within the school. Governors should be aware on visits whether they could see the embedding of vision and values in the school.

Group members acknowledged that it was a difficult time to maintain the connection between the church and the school – DP explained how the church was currently working with the school to provide virtual worship opportunities.

Governor changes – DP to approach Marion Sanders regarding link between the church and LGB group until appointment made for ND's replacement.

Purpose of LGB – IT explained the purpose of the LGB linked to school improvements, and maintaining the ethos of the school while moving the school forward. VG to circulate the LGB Terms of Reference. Before school closures in March local governors had been carrying out school visits, which had been useful, with each local governors focussing on different areas.

IT left the meeting 1.20pm

Collective Worship/Christmas Celebrations/Special Festivals

DP explained how collective worship was currently managed in the school now that congregational worship was not possible – this was a mixture of filmed sessions played in class, in class collective worship, and for the celebration collective worship on Fridays each class joined by video link, so were able to share their work with the rest of the school.

Christmas celebrations – the school planned to film performances from each class, which would be joined together to form a complete story. Some theatre companies were making broadcasts of Pantomimes available to schools, which could be broadcast to all the classrooms.

Remembrance day – there was going to be a special collective worship with each class having a video link, so all could take part in the act of remembrance together.

MAIN BUSINESS MEETING

Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Michelle Potter and Zoe Charlton.

Register of Business Interests

None declared

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

MP and CT had completed their visits, but the rest of the planned visits had not been able to happen due to Covid restrictions in school.

CP stated that Beaford Arts had received the funding, and had now started the project 'A voice to tell our story'. Artists were working across schools for two years – the project would last three years and was part of a research project with the university of South Wales. There should be an exhibition and story sharing event by summer time – the team were working on digitised outcomes in case this couldn't be a physical exhibition.

Correspondence

CT stated Rhian Nicholas had asked for her thanks to be passed on to the LGB for her leaving gift.

Governor Changes

Noted earlier.

Covid-19 Related Issues

Head of School Report on Arrangements

DP explained that there had been little change to the guidance for primary schools for the second lockdown. Tables had to be set up in rows, and regular handwashing was built into the timetable. Teachers were inventive in managing handwashing without losing more curriculum time that needed.

Drop off/pick up times – DP explained the congestion concerns, and the one way system implemented. The school was working with the Infants school to reduce time parents had to wait if picking up children from both schools. DP explained that as the road was a public highway requests couldn't be enforced by staff, but that parents had been asked to wear a mask if they could not socially distance. Children came into school ready dressed in PE kit on their PE day – this had also saved time and eliminated safeguarding concerns around children changing – DP noted that not all children felt comfortable changing in the classroom, and that it would be considered whether to continue this post Covid.

DP reported that behaviour at breaktime/playtime was good.

Guidance did not state that staff must wear a face covering – some staff had requested that they would be able to, which was allowed. One extremely vulnerable staff

member was not in school. Staff overall were very positive, and very dedicated. A large majority of staff had been able to come in over the summer term to cover the children in school, with others working from home.

DP to circulate most recent risk assessment. LGB members acknowledged it was a difficult time to take on the role of Head of School at a new school.

Catch-Up Funding

DP explained the purpose of the funding, with each school being able to use the funding as appropriate for the needs of their setting. At Pilton Y3 had found the return to school particularly difficult – they had not been able to return to school in the summer, and had also had to start a new school without the normal transition process. A fixed term Teaching Assistant had been appointed to support this year group.

DP also explained the curriculum support that had been invested in. A maths curriculum support package was being used, and additional maths resources had be bought to help children visualise what they were learning. Literacy – some children had had a very immersive experience over lockdown, with a lot of focus from an adult, but others would not have had as much support. DP explained the reading scheme in school – all children were read to every day, and were being exposed to many different texts. Some funding was being used to make sure that these texts were available in the school library, so if a section of text inspired a child they would be able to read the rest of it. DP stated that the texts chosen represented a range of different people, for example different races, backgrounds and disability.

Home Learning

DP explained that there was a legal requirement for schools to provide home learning for children who were self-isolating – currently there were four children self-isolating at Pilton. Staff had made use of Oak Academy to assist with this – sessions included a recorded teaching element. It was difficult to replicate what was happening in class, and each family was different in what support they could give their children. If a bubble was required to isolate the school would use Google classroom for the home learning during this time. Parent governor reported that deadlines not met on Google Classroom showed in red, which some children found concerning. DP to look into whether this could be altered.

Online safety – DP explained what had been done to highlight this importance of this to parents. It was felt that there had been more issues over lockdown as for many reasons a lot of children had spent more time on devices. The approach taken was to educate parents – not all were aware of the dangers of some things that children were accessing. A proportion of the catch up funding was being used to fund an e-safety education programme.

Attendance

DP reported that a small number of children were currently self-isolating. Most children had returned in the first week of term, but there had been a large number of absences in the second week due to colds. There had been a lot of worry about what counted as a ‘continuous cough’. Whole school attendance was above current national average. One child had not returned to school – school was working with the Educational Welfare Officer, mediation was upcoming as part of a parental complaint.

Monitoring and Accountability

Teaching and Learning Policy

DP explained this was to be a set of principles of what good teaching looks like and how it could be measured. DP explained that each school was supported by a group of staff from other TEAM schools, who visited the school. Policy currently in discussion – collaboration across the schools.

Feedback Policy

All had received. DP explained how feedback was currently given to children – vast majority of feedback was given within the lesson. DP explained that there was no evidence that written feedback improved outcomes more than verbal feedback. Feedback should aim to change the child's abilities, not the work already completed. The method had been trialled in Pilton, before being rolled out in all the TEAM schools. DP stated that feedback could be entirely positive and still be of benefit to the child, praising their work helped cement it for the future.

LGB member asked how this feedback method fitted in with Ofsted's expectations. DP explained that the New Ofsted Framework did not specify that written feedback was required – the inspector would ask a child what the teacher did to improve their work. This feedback method was better for teacher workload.

School Improvement Plan

DP explained aspects of the plan – much of Pilton's SIP was similar to TEAM's development plan. DP to share document.

Safeguarding

DP stated one child where school currently had involvement with the EWO.

Governor Training

DP stated that IT was planning whole governing group training.

Parent Group

LGB members agreed it was difficult for the group at the moment.

Meeting ended 2.47pm

Date of next meeting – Friday 5th March 2021, 1.00/1.30pm.