



WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 6.30pm
held at the school

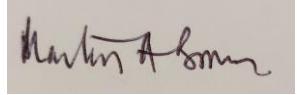
MINUTES

Governors present: Martin Brown (MB); Jane Green (JG, Head); John Hall (JH); Mark Smith (MSm); Lisa Wakley-Davis (LWD)

Also Present:

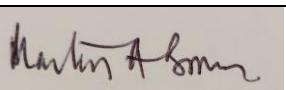
Helen Andrews (HA, Clerk)
Annie Sparkes (AS – Co-Maths Lead and Class Teacher)

| Agenda Item | |
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| 1. | Welcome & Apologies MB opened by welcoming all to the meeting. Apologies were received during the meeting by JL and AM. The meeting was quorate. |
| 2. | Declaration of Interests in Items on the Agenda: No declaration of interests in items on the agenda were declared. |
| 3. | Staff Presentation on Maths Calculation Policy Handouts of the drafted Maths Calculation Policy were tabled at the meeting. The Maths Calculation Policy helps to ensure consistency, starting in EYFS through the older year groups, in maths vocabulary. The format of the Maths Calculation Policy is based on researching other school policies for comparison. Staff have contributed to the initial draft by providing examples of the stem sentences they use in their classrooms. A governor noted, from his recent visit, the care and consideration taken by the Maths Lead to ensure consistency in terms of the wording used across the school. The report will be shared with governors in due course. |

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| | <p>The latest report from the Maths Adviser was noted. The Maths Lead Adviser from the local authority is due to visit both Maths Leads to review the Maths Calculation Policy before it is released to the wider school community.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, how does the policy make it easier for teachers?</p> <p>It makes it easier for teachers to move between year groups; the document tells them what is being taught, and how, for each cohort. TAs are also able to work with the document as a reference when they are deployed in various places throughout the school.</p> <p>Teaching Assistants have been included in meetings around the development of the Maths Calculation Policy. It has also been identified that it would be a useful tool for parents to support home learning. This is work in progress, JG intends to publish the policy on the school website once finalised.</p> <p>A discussion took place around celebrating maths as a subject; governors agreed that a parental workshop would help support children's engagement in the subject. Recent visits gathering pupil voice evidenced that children throughout the school enjoy maths. Governors supported the school's ideas to celebrate maths, which are currently in the planning stage.</p> <p>A brief discussion took place around the evolution of teaching maths over the decades. Parental perception of maths may be unnecessarily negative. The school works hard to change those perceptions to promote enthusiasm for the subject by children.</p> <p>Maths resources on learning shelves in all classes are equipped and age appropriate. Annie explained Numicon to governors, which is used for a variety of mathematic methods. Numicon was originally developed for those with Dyscalculia but have proved beneficial for all primary learners. Maths resources were evaluated.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, how does the mastery set up work?</p> <p>Started before Covid-19 and was supported by the Maths Hub. AS explained the mastery strategy, starting with the developing stage, onwards. The Maths Leads work closely with the Maths Hub to support the school through the process. Both subject leads are on the programme, currently on the Year 4/5 group, sustaining.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, how does the school cover classes when the Maths Leads are receiving this training?</p> <p>The programme is funded by the Maths Hub, who also supports the whole programme. Now that Covid-19 restrictions have passed, the face-to-face</p> |
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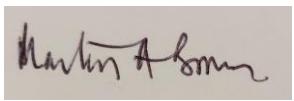


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| | <p>interaction is very useful. AS explained that catchup sessions, held every half term, support them through the process.</p> <p>The Maths Link Governor intends to attend the Maths Calculation Policy staff training session from the start of the new term.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, how challenging is it to get new members of staff up to speed? It depends on the member of staff. Individuals new to the profession are keen and willing to learn new concepts.</p> <p>AS left the meeting at 7pm.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Minutes of Previous Children's Committee Meeting, 20th September 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the Children's Committee meeting, dated 20th September 2023, were submitted, and will be signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Matters arising and actions</p> <p>Members of the committee confirm there were no matters arising from the previous meeting. The actions from the last meeting were reviewed:</p> <p>6.0 JG to show progress data for vulnerable cohorts at next meeting. On agenda</p> <p>8.0 MB will redraft the Committee Priorities 2023-24 document, which will be shared for feedback by the rest of the committee ahead of approval at the next meeting. Completed, closed.</p> <p>JG to provide her input on how governor monitoring can be effective for each theme. This will be drafted for feedback by governors ahead of the next meeting. Completed, closed.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Progress data for vulnerable cohorts</p> <p>The data was tabled at the meeting and initial analysis of the data shared by JG.</p> <p>Data compared progress from the summer term to Autumn term and is based on teacher assessment. The sizes of these cohorts are small. Governors noted a slight regression from the summer term to the autumn term. Due to the complexity of the data, it is very hard to summarise. JG will work hard to complete the data drop for governors to review at a later meeting, Year 6 was missing from the report. Governors were happy with the format of the data shared. The report will show the percentage in change from one term to the next.</p> |

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| | <p>Challenge: A governor asked, is there anything that concerns you about these figures? Reading overall is stable, the slight slip in Year 2 and 5 are not unexpected. Numbers are low in writing as there isn't the evidence for teachers to assess this early in the academic year.</p> <p>Action: JG will complete the vulnerable cohorts report and share with the Clerk for circulation after the meeting.</p> |
| 7. | <p>SDP 2023-24</p> <p>A copy of the SDP, ratified by governors at the last FGB meeting, was circulated to governors ahead of the meeting. The document includes information around governor monitoring but excludes the financial element. This will be included within the SDP going forward.</p> <p>Therapeutic thinking – a plan has been drafted. JG explained the associated training which will take place in the new year.</p> <p>RE – met with Church leaders who have offered to help the RE Lead to develop the curriculum.</p> <p>Science enquiry – staff training has been arranged for the January 2024 inset day.</p> <p>Phonics – remains a considerable development for staff to undertake. Two visits from the English Hub have been undertaken since the start of term, who are very happy with the work undertaken so far.</p> <p>Vulnerable learners – stats will be reported to governors by the end of term.</p> <p>The Waterbeach Way is one of the most developed themes under sustain. Other areas, such as Growth Mindset, are very established.</p> <p>The SDP will be updated at the end of the Autumn term. Governor monitoring will be added to the Spring term and reviewed at a future governor meeting. A book look around the implementation of the Maths Calculation Policy is proposed for the summer term. A visit around phonics was proposed for Spring term.</p> <p>A learning walk around vocabulary was proposed by JG for governors to attend and diarised for 2pm Wednesday 6th December. Committee members will attend.</p> |

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| | <p>Challenge: A governor noted that long-term outcomes on the SDP are only planned up to the end of the academic year. JG explained that the SDP is always reviewed at the end of the academic year. Anything outstanding would be included in the handover by the Headteacher to the new incumbent. Governors were advised that the new Headteacher may not prefer this format of the SDP long term after their appointment.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Committee Priorities 2023-24 Governors agreed that the update in the previous item covered this aspect of the agenda.</p> |
| 9. | <p>PPF Update (SI) A visit is planned, and a report will be shared before the next FGB meeting.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Policy Review (SI) 10.1 <u>RSE Policy</u> A copy of the drafted policy was circulated ahead of the meeting for review by governors. Challenge: A governor challenged the requirement to involve stakeholders with the review of this policy. Governors explained that, when the new RSE curriculum was introduced, collaboration with the parent body was undertaken. It is not a requirement to include parents at every single review as no significant changes have been made. Ratification: Members of the committee unanimously approved the RSE Policy.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Safeguarding (SI) Governors were advised of the suspension of a child this week. Governors were provided with a confidential anonymised update of safeguarding issues involving children across the school. Weekly child protection meetings continue to take place. The school continues to prioritise the safeguarding of children under its care. Governors learnt of JG's experience concerning serious shortfalls in the capacity of social care.</p> |
| 12. | <p>Any Other Business There were no strategic items of any other business raised at the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.</p> |

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| 13. | Date and time of next meeting The next Children's Committee meeting will be 17 th January 2024, 6.30pm at the school. |

Actions from this meeting on the next page /...

Actions from the meeting, 15th November 2023

| | Action | Owner | Deadline |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 6.0 | JG will complete the vulnerable cohorts data report and share with the Clerk for circulation after the meeting. | JG | ASAP |
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Governor Meeting Dates 2023-2024

| Date | Meeting | Topic | |
|---------------|------------|----------|------------------------|
| <i>Autumn</i> | | | |
| 20th Sept 23 | Children's | Autumn 1 | |
| 4th Oct 23 | Resources | Autumn 1 | |
| 18th Oct 23 | FGB | Autumn 1 | Data Review (incl SEF) |
| 8th Nov 23 | Resources | Autumn 2 | |
| 15th Nov 23 | Children's | Autumn 2 | |
| 13th Dec 23 | FGB | Autumn 2 | |
| <i>Spring</i> | | | |
| 10th Jan 24 | Resources | Spring 1 | |
| 17th Jan 24 | Children's | Spring 1 | |
| 31st Jan 24 | FGB | Spring 1 | SDP Focus |
| 13th Mar 24 | Resources | Spring 2 | |
| 27th Mar 24 | Children's | Spring 2 | |
| <i>Summer</i> | | | |
| 24th Apr 24 | Resources | Summer 1 | Budget Scrutiny |
| 8th May 24 | FGB | Budget | Budget Approval |
| 22nd May 24 | Children's | Summer 1 | |
| 5th June 24 | FGB | Summer 1 | |
| 26th June 24 | Resources | Summer 2 | |
| 17th Jul 24 | Children's | Summer 2 | |
| 10th Jul 24 | FGB | Summer 2 | Business Meeting |

Governor Training & Development

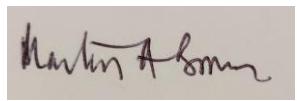
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Governors for Schools - [click here](#)

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NGA Learning Link – [click here](#)

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