



WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 6.30pm
held at the school

MINUTES

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

Also Present:

Helen Andrews (HA, Clerk)
Helen Scrivener (HS – Inclusion Manager)

Agenda Item	
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies MB opened by welcoming all to the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was fully attended. AU sent her apologies.</p> <p>The meeting was quorate.</p>
2.	<p>Declaration of Interests in Items on the Agenda: No declaration of interests in items on the agenda were declared.</p>
3.	<p>Staff Presentation on Therapeutic Thinking HS shared a presentation on screen to attendees. A copy of the presentation has been uploaded to the meeting folder for this meeting on MS Teams.</p> <p>On the inset day in January 2024, HS led initial training with staff on the basics of Therapeutic Thinking. JG and HS have attended the formal training course which allows them to train up the rest of the staff body. The toolkit that sits alongside the course will help support the small cohort of children who present with challenging behaviour. The training received by staff has been very impactful and promoted a lot of discussion on how to support childhood trauma in school. Staff identify with the Window of Tolerance to help them support each other and the children in their care.</p>

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The school does a lot through PSHE to help develop their language and understand their feelings. HS described the practical ways this is done in school through the curriculum. Equity provides those who need additional support to access learning.

Adverse Childhood Experiences were explained to governors. As the school continues to grow, there are more examples of children starting school with such traumas. Governors learnt of the plans to integrate therapeutic thinking into the Behaviour Policy and individual RRP's, where necessary.

Therapeutic thinking concepts are already embedded across school. HS believes the practice will be fully embedded throughout school by the end of the academic year.

Challenge: A governor asked, do the children know the phrase "therapeutic thinking"?

Not yet, but the language around the Golden Rules and Growth Mindset are already in place. JG foresees children using therapeutic thinking language in the next academic year, once the policy is in place.

A governor recalled her experience of staff using different language in response to challenging behaviour.

Challenge: A governor asked, what will be important to sustain the progress made in therapeutic thinking?

Should be around staff supporting the concept, regular refresher training to keep the approach fresh. HS believes that regular annual refresher training for all staff keeps the concept fresh in minds. Parental support will come a lot later, once the approach becomes more embedded in children's minds.

Challenge: A governor asked, do you see children supporting one another? Yes, a lot. JG recently gave a golden award to a child for his support to a child in need. There is an obvious culture in school where children are supportive of one another.

Challenge: A governor noted HS's reference to the school counsellor in her presentation and asked for more information.

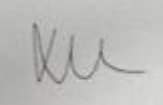
The school counsellor hasn't been part of the training but there are children identified for her specialist support for bespoke intervention. The school counsellor is currently involved with 20 individual children; there are some children with complex needs.

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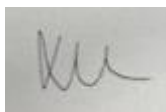
	<p>Therapeutic thinking derives from STEPS, which is LA endorsed. School staff have met with the creator, Angela Wadden, who is very passionate about the approach.</p> <p>The Chair of the committee thanked HS for her presentation and response to governor challenge. HS left the meeting at 7.10pm.</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of Previous Children’s Committee Meeting, 15th November 2023 The minutes of the Children’s Committee meeting, dated 15th November 2023, were submitted, and will be signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Matters arising and actions Members of the committee confirm there were no matters arising from the previous meeting. The actions from the last meeting were reviewed: 6.0 JG will complete the vulnerable cohorts data report and share with the Clerk for circulation after the meeting. Completed, closed. On agenda.</p>
6.	<p>Progress data for vulnerable cohorts Progress data was shared ahead of the meeting for governors to review.</p> <p>Each year group states the PPF, CIC/CPIC, and SEND information. Results are lower than the larger cohorts (which should be reviewed against previous progress data reviewed). It is fair to say that vulnerable cohorts are progressing slower than their peers. Overall, the Pupil Premium cohort accounts for 21% of all children.</p> <p>JG explained that the data derives from teacher assessment, not formal assessment. Staff are aware of who the vulnerable children are in their classrooms and are getting the support they need to make individual progress.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, how much of the PP cohort are also SEND? JG agreed that there would be some overlap, but the data wasn’t available at the time of the meeting. Action: JG will update the vulnerable cohorts report with the overlapping PP/SEND data and share after the meeting.</p> <p>Governors shared a discussion around how the data changes per team. As the school grows, the data gets skewed. Mobility in school is high. Governors discussed the funding allocation proposed for the next academic year, which is reflective of the growing numbers of vulnerable cohorts. There is a very apparent change in pupil demographic which needs to be considered in the future school strategy.</p>

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	<p>Challenge: A governor asked, do you have PP children who are also greater depth? There are a small number of children in vulnerable cohorts who are working at greater depth.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, is the funding allocated to the school able to support these children? It is never enough. In the latest benchmarking analysis conducted at the last Resources Committee meeting, the school is at the bottom of the selection due to the school's lower IDACI level.</p>
7.	<p>Discussion on SDP 2023-24 A copy of the SDP was circulated to governors ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>The SDP has been updated today; a staff training session has been arranged to support teachers with the teaching of history in school. Andrew Wrenn's visit will be in April and May 2024, governors are invited to attend these sessions. JG shared some of the new concepts around impactful teaching of history in lessons. The latest copy of the SDP will be circulated after the meeting, dated 16th January 2024.</p> <p>Clerk's note – Andrew Wrenn's paper on Teaching Primary History Through Concepts can be found here.</p>
8.	<p>Committee Priorities 2023-24 Governors agreed that the update in the previous item covered this aspect of the agenda.</p> <p>The training relating to the Maths Calculation Policy has been delayed in response to advice from the Maths Adviser. Sessions have been delivered during the January 2024 inset day. A practical example of how practice is not consistent across the school was shared with governors. A whole school directive will need to be agreed amongst staff.</p> <p>There has been a slight change in how the DfE teach phonics now means that individual children can now be targeted more closely. It was a very usual visit by the Lead Adviser by the local authority. A governor shared his observations from a recent phonics monitoring visit, children are very engaged with Little Wandle.</p>

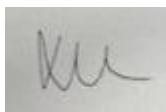
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	<p>Action: A book look to review marking and feedback will be incorporated into a future meeting on 27th March 2024. HA to add this information on the CC Calendar.</p>
9.	<p>PPF Update (SI) PPF Data was shared with governors to review ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>LWD highlighted some positives from the data. Some children have demonstrated consistency in their understanding by maintaining their progress since last term. Data does show progression, in contrast to the vulnerable cohort data shared earlier. JG explained the data shared, which has been extract from My Concern. In the main, the majority of concerns raised on My Concern relate to children in the PPF cohort. JG shared her analysis of the findings. Data concludes that there is a lot of children with concerns beyond the school's control. JG explained how this links with therapeutic thinking and how the school responds to these traumas. HS will take on PPF as part of her inclusion role from the new academic year.</p>
10.	<p>Policy Review (SI) There were no policies for review at this meeting.</p>
11.	<p>Safeguarding (SI) Governor visits will continue from next month.</p>
12.	<p>Any Other Business There were no strategic items of any other business raised at the meeting.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.</p>
13.	<p>Date and time of next meeting The next Children's Committee meeting will be 27th March 2024, 6.30pm at the school.</p>

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Actions from the meeting, 17th January 2024

	Action	Owner	Deadline
6.0	JG will update the vulnerable cohorts report with the overlapping PP/SEND data and share after the meeting.	JG	Next meeting
8.0	A book look to review marking and feedback will be incorporated into a future meeting on 27th March 2024. HA to add this information on the CC Calendar. Completed, closed.	GOVS HA	Next meeting ASAP

Governor Meeting Dates 2023-2024

Waterbeach Community Primary School
Approved 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	
7th Feb 2024	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

To view the Joint Annual Governance Training Program and book courses online is now booked via GovernorHub -

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Governors for Schools - [click here](#)

NGA Learning Link – [click here](#)

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