



WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 6.30pm
held at the school

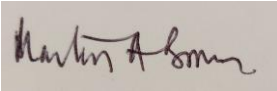
MINUTES

Governors present: Martin Brown (MB, Chair); John Hall (JH); Neil Lloyd (NL, Headteacher); Anne Morten (AM); Natalie Rogers (NR); Mark Smith (MSm)

Also Present:

Helen Andrews (HA, Clerk)

Agenda Item	
1.	Welcome & Apologies The Chair of the committee formally opened the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from JL and LWD. NR has advised that she may be late in joining the meeting due to a prior personal commitment. 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.	Minutes of Previous Children's Committee Meeting, 18th September 2024 The minutes of the Children's Committee meeting, dated 18 th September 2024, were submitted, and will be signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
4.	Matters arising and actions Members of the committee confirm there were no matters arising from the previous meeting. Actions from the last meeting were reviewed: 7.0 Governors to reconsider the Children's Committee priorities once the SDP 2024-25 has been drafted. On agenda

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	<p>11.0 NL to confirm that the previously scheduled curriculum visit is appropriate for Nov 2024. This visit has been deferred until the SDP has been agreed. Completed, closed.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update on SDP Priorities and Actions Plans for 2024-25 Governors received an initial draft of the proposed School Development Plan 2024-25 for consideration.</p> <p>The SDP has been reformatted in consideration of a growing school. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) phases of implemented are still referenced within the new version and all staff have input on the evolution of the document. The SLT will meet and feedback on the current version within the next 10 days. Actions are structure chronologically, as the document is regularly evaluated, the stages of implementation will evolve as each objective is actioned.</p> <p>In comparison to the last SDP, reviewed in July 2023, there are areas that were already identified and which correlates with key foci for this academic year.</p> <p>A governor shared their appreciation of a simplified format, which makes it easier to triangulate evidence and ascertain a true status on progress of each priority.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, will you run into issues where there are multiple sections as they are in a number of stages of progress? The EEF guidance is very clear on what it should look like at each phase; there would not be any priorities that would overstretch across stages.</p> <p>Clerk's Note – EEF guidance, May 2024 Evidence and resources EEF</p> <p>Discussion took place concerning how the Children's Committee will prioritise areas of the SDP whilst providing sufficient oversight at FGB meetings.</p> <p>Three key priorities have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective and consistent maths teaching and learning 2. Effective teaching and learning combined with effective strategy leads to raising of the outcomes for pupil premium children 3. Restructuring of the school leadership to improve agency and accountability of staff resulting in consistency of approach, clarity of role and more opportunity for improving pupil outcomes. <p>Key financial implications are around funding access to CPD. Headteacher and SBM to work together to manage current financial resources to maximise impact of and value for money of required personal development to empower staff in their roles to drive school improvement.</p>

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Each priority is allocated around the Ofsted framework.

A discussion took place regarding the contingency for cover concerning the teaching of phonics. Trips will be arranged on specific days to avoid conflict with the teaching of phonics. Staff are aware that absence has impacted on the teaching of phonics across school, it will be monitored moving forward, and mitigating strategies have been implemented.

Challenge: A governor shared his concern around the cognitive load of staff whilst they learn new schemes for the teaching of other subjects. The Headteacher explained that the practice of phonics is well understood and established, in terms of cognitive load, staff are not learning anything new. New learning will be in maths and will be broken down as part of a successful implementation. Governors were shared an oversight of NL's observations of the teaching of maths across school and how the local authority Maths Adviser supports the school to identify areas for improvement. In terms of Ofsted, consistency is key.

NR joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

Challenge: A governor asked, what does personal development look like for maths?

There has been a high staff turnover since the last inspection. Opportunities for training have not been frequent. Staff will be included in determining what level of training is required for the teaching of consistent maths across the school. Personal development will be tailor for each individual staff member to give them agency in developing their own knowledge.

Governors agreed that a measurable and timelined success criteria should be implemented into the SDP moving forward.

There is currently a lot of staff time taken up with assessment. Governors were advised of some strategies around effective feedback; it is the plan to reduce some of the time spent on marking if it not considered to be making an impact on learning. The use of stamps in marking is not considered best practice and makes no impact on moving the children forward. Effective verbal feedback during class is more impactful.

Governors considered stakeholder engagement concerning the current method of feedback and marking. It was agreed that providing any review of the Feedback and Marking Policy was communicated, there should be no objection. Staff are time pressured enough without an onerous marking strategic that has no impact on children's learning. In terms of assessment, Arbor will be implemented this term. It will be embedded across school

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	<p>gradually in consideration of staff workload and cognitive load. Governors learnt how Arbor will be utilised to make the best use of the platform.</p> <p>Governors were provided with an oversight of NL's observations of behaviour across the school. Day to day behavioural incidents are currently not being analysed to inform a behavioural curriculum. Consistency of the implementation of the school's Behaviour Policy needs to be monitored to ensure it is consistent and age appropriate.</p> <p>Attendance and personal development opportunities are a strength of the school. The priority relates specifically to vulnerable cohorts and auditing data from the take up of wider curriculum opportunities will allow school leaders to target these children.</p> <p>House Captains have been appointed and have met to agree fundraising days. NL has strong aims for the school to become a link with the community. It is also hoped that the School Council will support the development of the SDP.</p> <p>NL's aim is for all staff to feel invested in. He believes that there is a lot of potential in a team of 70 members of staff. CPD will provide all staff with accountability and investment in the school. Appraisals will be a good opportunity for valuable discussion with individual members of staff.</p>
6.	<p>Discuss Committee Priorities 2024-25 (if appropriate) Governors agreed that it would be more practical to review committee priorities until the next term. In terms of Ofsted, there is a valid reason for governors pausing their monitoring efforts whilst the SDP is being developed.</p>
7.	<p>Discuss effective oversight of Committee Priorities Deferred to next meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Confirm Link Governor Areas of Oversight Deferred to next meeting.</p>
9.	<p>Policy Review (SI) 9.1 <u>Attendance Policy</u> Circulated as a late addition for this meeting, a copy of the redrafted Attendance Policy was circulated to governors for consideration. The revised policy is in line with new guidance published in August 2024.</p> <p>Action: The Attendance Policy was deferred to the next FGB meeting in December 2024.</p>

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10.	Safeguarding (SI) Deferred to next meeting.
11.	Pupil Premium Fund Update (SI) Deferred to next meeting.
12.	Any Other Business There were no other strategic items of any other business raised at the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.
13.	Date and time of next meeting The next Children's Committee meeting will be 15 th January 2025, 6.30pm at the school.

Actions from the meeting, 13th November 2024

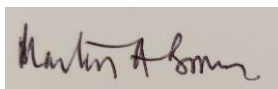
	Action	Owner	Deadline
9.1	Attendance Policy deferred to next FGB meeting in December 2024.	Clerk	5/12/24

Governor Meeting Dates 2024-2025

Date	Meeting		Topic
<i>Autumn</i>			
18th Sept 24	Children's	Autumn 1	
2nd Oct 24	Resources	Autumn 1	
16th Oct 24	FGB	Autumn 1	Data Review (incl SEF)
6th Nov 24	Resources	Autumn 2	
13th Nov 24	Children's	Autumn 2	
11th Dec 24	FGB	Autumn 2	
<i>Spring</i>			
8th Jan 25	Resources	Spring 1	Review SFVS
15th Jan 25	Children's	Spring 1	
5th Feb 2025	FGB	Spring 1	SDP Focus and SFVS approval
12th Mar 25	Resources	Spring 2	
26th Mar 25	Children's	Spring 2	
<i>Summer</i>			
23rd Apr 25	Resources	Summer 1	Budget Scrutiny
7th May 25	FGB	Budget	Budget Approval
21st May 25	Children's	Summer 1	
4th June 25	FGB	Summer 1	
25th June 25	Resources	Summer 2	
16th Jul 25	Children's	Summer 2	Review of SATs data
9th Jul 25	FGB	Summer 2	Business Meeting

All meetings fall on a Wednesday evening.

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Governor Training & Development

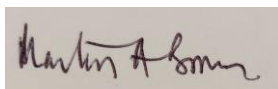
To view the Joint Annual Governance Training Program and book courses online is now booked via GovernorHub - [GovernorHub](#)

Governors for Schools - [click here](#)

NGA Learning Link – [click here](#)

Online training via Knowledge (formerly The Key) – [click here](#)

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