

Coombe Road Primary School

Minutes of the Education and Learning Committee

Meeting Date: 11 July 2017

Meeting Time: 3.30pm-4.55pm

Present: Gillian Burns (GB) (Chair), Kiran Eyre (KE), Rowan Milsted (RM), Vicky Phillips (VW) (Head Teacher), Ray Williams (RW)

Apologies: Matt Jones (MJ)

In attendance: Paul Gallagher (PG) (Deputy Head Teacher), Melanie Arnold (MA) (Clerk), Jen Austin (JA) (Science Lead)

Quorum: The meeting was quorate.

Item	Discussion and decisions	Action
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>a) Governors accepted apologies from MJ. b) Declarations of interest: there were none.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2017 and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Governors noted that actions had been completed with the exception of those for item 3 – PSHE presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Must dos’: VP reported that Governors will receive an update next year. Action: MA to add this to the next agenda. • PSHE links into the Partnership: VP had been unable to attend the last Partnership meeting. Action: VP to raise at next meeting. <p>Governors checked how the school deals with the issue of ‘British values’, which had also been discussed at item 3. VP explained that the school approaches ‘values’ in the wider context, and it is not necessary to use the term ‘British values’. She confirmed this approach is acceptable to Ofsted.</p>	<p>MA/Jane Allen</p> <p>VP</p>
3	<p>Raising Attainment Plan (RAP) - <i>(to review items for the Summer term and hear a presentation on Science education at the school)</i></p> <p>a) Science presentation by Jen Austin (Science Lead)</p> <p>JA became Science Lead in February. She has attended subject-related training at Plumpton College. Science activities at the school included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching a new approach to Science during National Science Week in March. Now a core subject, it involves several cross-curricula activities. • A mini Science fair. • A Science poster competition. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils dressing up as scientists.• The introduction of Coombe Road Scientists. <p>The approach at the school is to encourage children to investigate for themselves and use alternative strategies to find answers. JA provided examples of the children's Science work to demonstrate this to Governors. Next year she aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the Coldean Primary Schools Science Assessment Criteria (SAC).• Purchase and introduce the Plumpton College Science Scheme of Work Assessment.• 'Buddy up' classes. <p>Following the presentation, Governors asked several questions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there any children who appear not to like science? VP said that JA's enthusiasm for the topic is picked up by the children.• How do pupils cope with learning hard facts? JA had found them to be enthusiastic in this regard.• How would 'buddying up' work? JA explained that this would involve a few pupils from one class going to another class to explain and discuss an experiment. The idea had come from the children themselves.• How do children become Coombe Road Scientists? JA said that they are voted for in class.• Is the 2015 Science curriculum current? JA and PG confirmed that it is. They have carried out an audit to identify anything that might be missed.• Is there a Standard Assessment Test (SAT) in Science? PG explained that there is moderated testing every two years.• How could Ofsted's recommendation to deepen the learning and understanding of more able children be applied in Science? JA said she found it easier to stretch the more gifted children in science. Children are encouraged to investigate an aspect of Science and follow up with linked activities in other subjects.• Will the school need to make changes to the Coldean SAC for use at Coombe Road? Staff felt that no changes were needed yet. Targets were broad enough to be appropriate for the school. <p>JA said she was keen to get girls more interested in science. Although they are involved up to Year 2, it then tends to be boys who are more interested. Governors suggested it would be helpful to increase the emphasis on well-known female scientists, and to promote images of females in science.</p> <p>Governors thanked JA for her presentation. They welcomed the opportunity</p>	

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	<p>to hear about the subject in depth.</p> <p>b) RAP</p> <p>Governors reviewed items highlighted for Summer, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Effective use of the SAC. Governors agreed this had been covered in JA's presentation. • Attainment and progress data: This will be discussed at item 5 on the agenda. • Effective learning feedback (ELF) policy: This will be carried over to 2017-18. 	
4	<p>Ofsted Report – items under the Committee's remit</p> <p>Governors congratulated the school on its achievement of a good report. Discussion of the report focused on the three recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen pupils' learning and understanding fully, particularly for the most able pupils. <i>Governors asked how 'able' children were defined.</i> VP explained that they scored 18 points or more at the end of Key Stage 1. The school also uses teachers' awareness of children's academic ability. <i>Governors stressed that the data needed to show the children that had been selected out and what progress they had made.</i> PG said that pupil progress data makes this clear. The school expects the more able children to make more progress. <i>Governors asked whether Mastery in Maths and the Shanghai concepts encouraged children to reason and investigate.</i> PG confirmed this, and said a development plan for Maths will be presented to the Full Governing Body (FGB). • Make better use of the outdoor environment. <i>Governors asked what this could involve.</i> VP said the Inspector had suggested that a whole lesson could be conducted outdoors, and the outdoor activities should stretch the children. • Develop middle leaders' roles. VP reported that this is on the RAP, but is in its early stages. Subject leaders will be given development time next year. 	
5	<p>Attainment and progress data</p> <p>a) Current in-school</p>	

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	<p>Whole school progress: PG presented a table of progress in Reading, Writing and Maths. Four steps of progress are expected each year, and Governors were pleased that in Reading and Maths, most classes had achieved better than expected progress.</p> <p>Attainment: PG presented data comparing attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths in 2015-16 with that in 2016-17. Overall, most children were reaching age related expectations. Governors asked why Year 1 showed a dip in attainment. VP felt that the new curriculum had an impact. There had also been several new children. Governors noted that Sky class, in year 4, showed good progress, but that Year 5 showed less. Progress in Sapphire had also dipped. VP explained that behavioural factors and a change in staffing had an impact for this class. Governors stressed that this group of children will need priority next year and asked what the school will do. PG reported that interventions are now being used that are proving successful.</p> <p>Governors acknowledged the importance of keeping aware of pupil progress and of being involved in pupil progress meetings.</p> <p>b) SATS</p> <p>Governors congratulated the school on its SATs results. Combined results showed 73% of pupils achieved the expected standard. They had achieved above the national average in all subjects.</p> <p>c) Phonics screening</p> <p>The school achieved 70% in the Phonics Screening Check, compared to 67% last year. It is not clear yet whether this is above or below the national average. Governors were pleased to see an increase on last year.</p>	
6	<p>Poverty-proofing schools</p> <p>RW explained that this initiative is intended to ensure that relationships in schools do not draw attention to children who are in poverty. Governors stressed the importance of being mindful of this. Examples of this approach at Coombe Road included having 'mufti' days and aiming to keep the cost of trips down by providing packed lunches, walking, using the bus, fundraising, and allowing payment by increment.</p>	
7	<p>Governor vacancy</p> <p>Governors noted there was still one vacancy on this committee, and that</p>	

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	this should be considered when recruiting a new Governor to the FGB.	
8	Future meeting dates Governors reviewed the draft meeting dates. They agreed that it was more productive for Education and Learning Committee to meet on a separate day to FGB meetings. Action: MA to take forward.	MA
9	Any other business There was none. The meeting ended at 16.55	
	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14 November 2017 – 3.30pm	

Signed
(Chair)

Date