

THE GOVERNING BODY OF DIAMOND WOOD COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body held at 5.00 pm at the school on Wednesday 28th November 2018.

PRESENT

Miss Alderson (Vice Chair), Mrs L Whittaker, Mrs A Farrar, Mr A Marban, Mr Jones, Mr Forrest.

In Attendance

Mrs K Brunier – Minute Clerk, Mrs Idle, Mrs Jaggar.

2367. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs Claxton, Miss Lyons, Mrs Marriott-Mills. There were no declarations of interest.

2368. **NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

- Safeguarding.

2369. **REPRESENTATION**

2370. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th November 2018**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2371. **MATTERS ARISING**

2372. **REPORT BY SUBJECT LEADER ON NEW ARRIVALS AND NEW TO ENGLISH PUPILS.**

The presentation was made by Mrs Idle – English and Mrs Jaggar – New to English.

English:

- Based on the data collected from Autumn 1 there is a big gender gap, but measures have been put in place:
- Pilot scheme – Big Read every Monday morning for the whole class. Children are partnered with children of different levels. As the pilot progresses it will be adapted – shorter sessions with more phonics.
- Little Read – introduced Reception class to the above model.
- Phonic tasks and simplified skills are used with lots of retrieving skills.
- Next stage to introduce Year 2 Reading Buddies with Reception children to allow greater depth and to foster a love for books. This will start In January with available staff at 2.45pm 4 times a week.
- Mrs Price will also support with more interventions.

Mr Jones asked if the gender gap is narrowing? – The gap is still wide. Looking for texts suitable for girls and boys.

Miss Alderson said that the gender gap is a priority for the whole country.

Mrs Whittaker said that the gender gap will be closely monitored. Attitudes towards learning need to change.

These pilots have only been in place for a year, so impact is difficult to assess. Are children wanting to learn and read? - yes.

A questionnaire is being prepared and a question will be added regarding reading.

Miss Alderson emphasised the need for tracking of results to see who the interventions are working for.

New to English:

These children have no previous English and come from mainly Eastern European countries. The table provided shows numbers of these children in each year group and the new arrivals. The school has 3 targets:

- Target 1 – Audit the current position.
- Target 2 – Introduce a structured programme of entry into school life. – Buddy system, children with a 2nd language to show good examples and support each other with the transition.
- Target 3 – Close tracking of progress and attainment.

Additionally:-

- A Hungarian translator has been hired providing support for both parents and children.
- 84 % of the parents who booked to attend parents evening attended.
- EALIP sessions in school.

Mr Jones asked if the numbers shown in left hand column include the new arrivals – Yes

Miss Alderson has found a really good resource online to help with phonics (small fee applicable) – Link to be passed on.

Mrs Wilkinson – more sound bites (relevant school information translated into a different language) have been recorded and can be found on the web site.

2373. REPORT ON PUPIL PREMIUM AND SPORTS PREMIUM

Reports were provided and discussed.

Pupil Premium:

- Similar spending to last year due to the outcomes working well.

- Impact statement from last meeting now on website.

Sports Funding:

- Get Fit Get Active will continue – extra 30 minutes per day activity.
- Go noodles in class – staff continued to be reminded.
- Sports profile to be raised in school.
- Fit phonics – free training.
- Bean bag book activities.
- Encourage parents to increase physical activity at home.

Healthy Futures came into school and ran time trials which produced data showing 40% of students are less fit than they are expected to be. These trials will be re-run in the summer term.

Buy into Project Sport – to teach alongside teacher – improve CPD

IRIS Technology – Teachers film their own lessons to watch back to aid improvements.

After school clubs – more opportunities – need to improve attendance.

Increase participation in competitive sports. Junior School will loan mini bus to help.

Mr Jones asked about the gender gap in sports? – Mrs Whittaker will provide data from the Healthy school assessment will show the gap and will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr Forrest asked if the consultants could provide similar information? – Mrs Whittaker said their strength is in teaching not data collection.

2374. REVIEW AND AGREE SEF

Following a meeting with Mrs Bradshaw we have included additional information with more positive outlook and cross referenced it with the School Development Plan i.e.: -

- Page 4 shows areas to improve with a reference to the development plan.

School governance is not linked into the development plan - Miss Alderson said governance doesn't need linking as the Governors have an overview of the school.

Mr Jones:

- Page 6 'Chair of the Trust' needs changing to 'CEO of Trust'.
- Page 13 Attainment and Progress – not highlighted on how we are doing against National Standard – the table needs amending.

Mrs Whittaker will make the changes and email out. The report will be agreed via email.

2375. HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

- The pictures show the teachers involvement in school.

- 22 children already registered as Pupil Premium – this will have a massive impact of funding.
- Page 5 shows gender split and highlights the high percentage of boys within school.
- SEN numbers have increase due to the completion of the assessment of reception students – recognise the demand from additional needs.
- Page 7 shows good attendance figures 95.8% – last year’s National Average was 96%.

Mr Forrest asked why is illness and non-attendance linked together? – All absence is still classed as non-attendance and the concerns are with the patterns of absence, i.e. is the absence every Monday.

Mr Jones asked if the data is available that links absence to birth terms, i.e. summer born students? This will be provided at next meeting.

Standards and Effectiveness – continually monitored and Leadership is looking at interventions to accelerate progress – at the next meeting the whole terms figures will be shared.

School events and visits are designed to maximise pupils experience - make learning exciting, whilst keeping the budget low.

Mr Forrest asked if school could partner with the Junior School to share the cost - due to the large combined numbers the number of children would make it unfeasible. When the opportunity arises, they do share opportunities.

2376. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

A report was shared showing the number of children on Plans. 13 cause for concern and 3 written referrals has been a large work load and we still have child protection plans to write.

The external Safeguarding Training Mrs Farrar lead was well attended and received good feedback.

Working with Parents – we have arranged lots of courses including a Speak English Course which 20 parents attended, helped by parents from a Romanian background.

Parents Forum was successful and attended by 27 parents.

Mrs Farrar has also won a grant for £500 to hold an International Woman’s day – Well done.

A bid has been submitted to hold an Internet Safety day for parents.

Domestic Abuse is increasing, this term has seen a significant increase. Encompass means the information reaches school quicker. Details were discussed - Home visits must be made by 2 members of staff.

Mr Marban asked if the Police would accompany visiting staff to the home – if concerned the Police would be called.

Mr Marban asked what would happen if a situation turned violent – had panic buttons been considered – Mrs Farrar to investigate.

Mr Jones suggests that during home visits, staff members should not stand together.

Mr Marban said that a local community event is been held tomorrow with the Police attending and may be worth attending.

Thank you for your attendance.

2377. AGENDA, MINUTES AND RELATED PAPERS – SCHOOL COPY

RESOLVED: That no part of these minutes, agenda or related papers be excluded from the copy to be made available at the school, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.