



Education Committee – Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday 20 May 2021
Meeting Venue: Via Zoom
Meeting Time: 5:15pm

Governors: Louise Baxter, *(LB)*, Committee Chair
Gabrielle Mace, *(GM)*, Committee Vice Chair
Alison Allart, *(AA)*
Marilyn Benzing, *(MB)*
Sara McKenna, *(SM)*
Joyce Swann, *(JS)*
Michael Gietzen, *(MG)*
Bill Roddick, *(BR)*

Ex officio: Stuart Reeves, *(SRv)*, Head Teacher

Also in attendance: Julian Mace, *(JM)* (CoG), Chair of Governors
Catherine Geldard, *(DOP)*, Director of Primary
Jemma Graffham, *(DSF)*, Director of Sixth Form
Janice Logan, *(DFA)*, Director of Finance & Administration
Danny Simmonds, *(AHT-B&A)*, Assistant HT - Behaviour & Attendance
James Towner, *(AHT-A&C)*, Assistant HT - Assessment & Curriculum
Dominic O’Driscoll, *(AHT-SEN)*, Assistant HT – Director of Inclusion

Clerk to Governors: Karen Askew, stand in Clerk

Apologies: None received

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Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies for absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair welcomed Committee Governors to this ‘virtual’ Education Committee via zoom Chair welcomed Bill Roddick and thanked him for his input as a community governor Chair welcomed Karen Askew and thanked her for clerking meeting 	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors declared various interests in respect of their children who attend the school. 	
3.	<p>Committee Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews for maternity cover provision <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DSL cover: Interviewed for post today, offer of employment has been made. Temp H. of Sixth form, Careers and PHSE: Interviewed for post today, offer of employment has been made. Interviews for new Clerk to governors: Successfully recruited new Clerk, candidate can start immediately. Update on HT recruitment: Applications have been shortlisted, interviews are to take place on the 26th & 27th May 2021 	
4.	<p>Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary: DOP expressed concerns over the Covid situation and the effect particularly on those children with significant needs in Reception & Year 1. Across the board students had made less progress due to the impact of Covid, some children had even regressed. External specialist agencies are being used to support staff and children. AHT-SEN Commented that this is a national problem due to lack of funding across the board from central government. It’s a very difficult situation as processes do take time. He noted that the Primary Team are doing a good job in a challenging time. Chair asked If staff are able to implement specialist interventions to help with the EYFS dip in the data? DOP replied that there are good programmes available and staff are trained to undertake specialist interventions but are unable to facilitate these as they are having to conduct de-escalation measures to resolve challenging situations. Chair asked If DOP had a wish list of what could help staff to support children and to address the drop in data? DOP stated that she has consulted with the Primary SENCO and there is a need for additional highly qualified experienced Teaching Assistants who can support. DOP is consulting with other local primary Schools to propose to the Eastbourne Schools Improvement Partnership to access additional funding to be able to run specialist speech and language interventions. Governors and SLT discussed strategically how best to manage the situation both in the short and long term. It was agreed that this would be discussed further and in greater depth with the Enterprise and Education Committees at a later date. Secondary: AHT-A&C noted that overall Covid has had an impact on pupil progress and attainment although not as significant as the previous national lockdown. This is mainly due to teaching staff developing a good programme of virtual learning, with some students making more progress than if they were in the classroom. KS3- most affected by lack of progress has been boys, in particular PP and SEN compared 	

	<p>to girls, this is due to students having distractions at home and less motivation when learning virtually.</p> <p>KS4- progress is the same but attainment is currently lower in the current Year 10 group, there is a remarkable difference in attainment levels between current Year 10 & 11 cohorts. Gaps have reduced in open subjects, progress is improving year on year but still room for improvement overall.</p> <p>KS5- outlook is positive due to students being more independent, virtual learning has been a huge success and not made a difference in learning due to the pandemic, small class sizes are of 8 – 10 have also benefitted student outcomes.</p> <p>COG asked if gaps in Year 7 progress data are due to transition of Gildredge House students compared to non Gildredge House students. AHT-A&C commented that Year 7 have struggled across the board in all local secondary schools due to lack of transition. There is a local 3-day transition programme planned for the current Year 6 cohort to assist their transition for September.</p>	
5.	<p>Pupil Premium and catch-up spending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHT-SEN gave an overview of the report detailing the provision for disadvantaged pupils. The impact of spending was discussed, exact costings are not published to the public. The report is available on the school website. The strategy for this academic year is to overcome the barriers to learning that restrict Pupil Premium students' progress, the intended outcomes remain the same and are fixed for a number of years. Planned expenditure can change dependent on the cohort and intake of students. <p>Much of the Pupil Premium expenditure projection is whole school based. Governor asked if future reports could be split dependent on Primary/Secondary expenditure and outcomes. AHT-SEN replied that is something he can make clearer and implement along with a whole school Pupil Premium provision map. HT agreed that as a school we need to be more transparent with the reporting of PP and SEN funding. Governor added that other schools publish this information. DFA added that Pupil Premium funding uptake information is readily available from the finance department to assist in the reporting.</p> <p>COG asked if teachers can easily identify SEN & PP children in school and can they easily access information in order to further support these students learning? AHT-SEN replied that there are weekly inclusion briefings, inclusion registers are readily available. There is new software being implemented to monitor and support these groups further and more CPD is planned for staff for the next academic year. Good progress has already been made this year.</p>	
6.	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p>Covid update:</p> <p>HT updated the governing board on the current Covid restrictions that had recently been lifted in school, namely the removal of wearing of masks inside the school building. He said that it was too early to comment on whether this had made an impact to transmission levels but is something that SLT are continuing to monitor closely.</p> <p>School Development Plan:</p> <p>HT commented that the School Development Plan had various areas still under development and would continue to be implemented over the coming weeks.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Review:</p> <p>Teaching and Learning standards are continuing to be sampled and measured across the whole school. The review spans 12 weeks and is currently on week 5. This will lead into</p>	

	<p>the creation of the CPD plan for next year.</p> <p><u>Attendance:</u> Currently at 97.9% which is outstanding given the current circumstances. HT congratulated AHT-B&A and DOP for outstanding attendance figures.</p> <p><u>Sixth Form update:</u> Lessons have moved to a 5-block lesson system with 1 independent lesson which will continue to be monitored, initial feedback has been positive and allows students to be more independent. Projected admission numbers are still unknown until the first day of term in September, initial applications are positive with prospective healthy class sizes. Applications appear to be coming from a wider group of schools. Recruitment is already starting with current Year 10 cohort. COG provided feedback on a meeting that was had with a marketing specialist to assist with sixth form recruitment and will provide minutes from that meeting at a later date.</p> <p><u>Pastoral Support:</u> Across the whole school there has been an increased number of pastoral issues since the last national lockdown and with the impact of Covid. This has been noticed school wide and HT recommended it would be a good strategic move to increase the pastoral support even if temporarily, across the whole school.</p> <p><u>Summer school:</u> A week-long programme that staff are running over the summer to aid with transition to secondary school for Year 6 children. This is in addition to the 3-day local transition being offered across all local schools. Funding has already been approved and staffing is currently being reviewed.</p>	
7.	<p>Monitoring Chair is in the process of planning monitoring visits for next academic year in consultation with COG focusing on areas of the School Development Plan. Upcoming learning walks and monitoring visits for this academic year were clarified with governors.</p>	
8.	<p>Safeguarding DSF gave a verbal update on paper presented to FGB in April 2021. Chair enquired if all local schools are dealing with similar issues post Covid. Is best practice being shared? DSF attends DSL strategy group meeting with other local DSL's and smaller support groups with local cluster schools half sharing good practice and half supervision providing a good support network for DSL's. Chair commented that Governor Safeguarding training recently undertaken was very useful and well presented by Carley Hawkins, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.</p>	
9.	<p>Training - Ofsted HT provided training to governors and a review of the new OFSTED framework. BR left the meeting at 6.50pm</p>	
10.	<p>AOB <i>None received</i></p>	

<p>11.</p>	<p>Confirmation of future meeting dates:</p> <p>EGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 27th May 2021 (to ratify selection of new HT by appointments panel 5pm) <p>Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 17th June 2021 <p>FGB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 8th July 2021 <p>Governors Away-Day TBC</p>	
	<p>Meeting Close</p> <p>Chair closed the meeting at 7.15pm</p>	