

**Isle of Ely Primary School
Local Governing Board
Minutes of the Meeting
held on Thursday 8th February 2018**

Present: Mrs B Surtees (Head)
Dr D Knox
Mrs M Lloyd (Chair)
Mr D Marriott
Mrs K Marriott
Mr A Sanderson
Mrs S Peachey

Apologies: Mr Dove
Ms C Amory

1.	<p><u>Absence</u> 1.1 Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Mr Stephen Dove and Ms Chloe Amory</p> <p>1.2 Consent/Non-consent to absence It was agreed to accept the apologies as given.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interest</u> 2.1 Declaration of any pecuniary or other interest with regards to items on the agenda No new interests were declared.</p> <p>2.2 To update the register of Pecuniary Interest No updates required at this time.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Chair's Action</u> There were no Chair's actions to report at this time.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Minutes</u> 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2017</p> <p>The minutes were Approved.</p> <p>It was noted that the minutes from the Health and Safety meeting are still to be distributed.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>CCTV policy – Approved</p> <p>4.2 Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>Confirmation of a continuation of the Place2Be service. Approved</p>	Headteacher
6.	<p><u>Academy Improvement</u></p> <p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>The Head introduced this report.</p>	

<p>Question (DK): What does embedding ‘More able’ look like in practice? Executive Head: Ensuring that there is a consistent approach by threading in the four stars. The Head confirmed that there will be further staff meetings to demonstrate that they are using a variety of sources to direct the children.</p> <p>The Head noted that in respect of Child development, it is important that the children are able to develop creative and critical thinking, forming opinions based upon their knowledge. It was noted that the schools’ stupendous programme is open ended.</p> <p>It was noted that Mrs Kirsten Marriott had completed a learning walk at Chesterton.</p> <p>Question (DK): Why was ‘stay and learn’ finished at the school? Executive Head: The feeling amongst staff was that the sessions had lost their momentum, purpose and impact. It was felt that the half termly share sessions present a much more valuable experience for parents and these will continue.</p> <p>Question (SP): Are you seeing a different group of parents from ‘Share sessions’ from those attended ‘Stay and learn’? Executive Head: The sessions are much better attended by parents.</p> <p>Question (AS): The school has felt open because of stay and learn. What additional work can be done to ensure that the invitation to attend the school continues? Head of School: The teachers are always available, the school has an ‘open door’ policy, half termly share sessions as well as other events such as parent lunches.</p> <p>The Executive Head informed the governors that the school is now allowing the teachers to use their professional judgements, trusting them to develop their own confidence and skills. Now is the time for the teachers to flourish and work independently.</p> <p>It was noted that further changes include:</p> <p>SIM meetings that feed into individual teacher performance management reviews.</p> <p>New key stage lead in Sept.</p> <p>The Executive Head informed governors that members of the SLT were visiting classrooms more informally.</p> <p>Question (DK): Do you think the teachers like the new monitoring systems? Executive Head: Yes, the teachers seem to be better placed, linked to the SIM meetings and are still being challenged.</p> <p>Question (SP): When did this new process start? Executive Head: SIM started last year and in December we looked at the practice and decided to refresh this.</p> <p>Question (SP): It would be nice for governors to hear about the review and how it is working for staff? Executive Head: Yes, we will include this within the next report. Action</p> <p>Question (DK): How does the persistent figure compare with national? Executive Head: The national figure is around 10% whilst the school is around 6%. The challenge is arising from parents taking children away from school for unauthorised absences. It was noted that the school is now only authorising leave for funerals and religious observance.</p> <p>Question (DK): What are the budgetary implications of the cleaners resigning? Executive Head: We have had to buy in the service from an external organisation, the resulting expected increase is in the region of £3,000.</p> <p>Comment (ML): As the school increases in size, we may need to review this situation because the size of the internal cleaning staff could cover any absences.</p>	<p>Headteacher</p>
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Question (DK): What is the nurture group? Executive Head: The purpose of this group is to deal with children's wellbeing that may require more intensive support and a different environment, in particular those children that can't cope in a mainstream environment. The children will talk about how they are feeling and working together.

Question (DK): How is the message communicated to other children. Executive Head: We have picked children that may need their confidence building or suffer from low self-esteem. We have encouraged the teachers to have open conversations with the children. Nurture group is open to all children. It consists of short interventions for a period of 12 weeks.

The nurture group is designed to focus on the individual child rather than a group.

The Executive Head will report back to the next meeting on the effectiveness of this group.

Action

Question (AS): Please can you provide more information on the behaviour review?

Executive Head: Our children are well behaved, and we would like to develop a system that is more of a restorative approach. The review is to see whether we are in the correct place to enable the school to move towards a different approach. The new system will remove any rewards and consequences. The review is scheduled for the 19th March.

Question (ML): A lot of children wont experience this approach at home; how would you bridge this gap? Executive Head: Most children really want to do the right thing and may need to be taught the right thing. Any process to move to a new system will be slow, taking account of the impact upon the children.

Question (SP): Are there any other schools that are operating this system it really well?

Executive Head: There are but we don't know any specific.

STANDARDS AND PROGRESS

Question (SP): There are quite a number of children in year 2 that are 'below average' in writing expectations? Executive Head: Much of the writing content is due to be taught. Year 2 now has a third teacher and there is much more writing in the environment with more role play.

The Executive Head informed governors that 'Big writing' has moved to once every three weeks which is aligned to English classes, enabling children to implement what they have learnt.

Question (ML): SEN children are struggling? Executive Head: The school uses a system developed by the fisher trust, there is an expectation that we would achieve a high outcome.

Question (ML): If this is their third year with us, at what point does EAL not matter?

Executive Head: We have some that are flourishing but we have some that we believe they may have a barrier to learning.

The Chair commented that, as a school, we need to encourage the parents to enter the school to help them to develop their English thus advancing the children. Could we get a translator into the school? Executive Head: This is something that we need to consider.

CURRICULUM REPORTS

It was noted that the reports were written at the end of the last term. The reports presented were following on from a request from the last meeting.

DK commented that 'once we look at the data next term, we might be able to consider these in more depth and review next steps'.

GOVERNOR VISITS

Headteacher

	<p>make a profit. The morning sessions are full.</p> <p>Question (ML): Are we expecting a late flourish of admissions as and when the development of homes opposite are finished? Executive Head: No, we are expecting to be full by then.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Educational Visits</u></p> <p>It was noted that no trips are planned.</p> <p>The Head of School has asked teachers to provide an overview of all the visits.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Head of School would provide a plan to the next meeting. Action</p>	Head of School
8.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Executive Head: We need to submit a bid to Tesco to become one of their locally supported charities</p>	
9.	<p><i>Dates of Next Meetings</i></p> <p>Future meeting was agreed as follows:</p> <p>15th March</p> <p>15th May</p> <p>5th July</p>	

Closing 19.52