

**Local Advisory Group Meeting
The Howard Primary School**

Monday 4 March 2019

MINUTES

PL	Paul Lovern – Executive Head	RC	Richard Crosse
SC	Sue Cockayne – Director for LAG and Chair of LAG	SM	St Mary's
HB	Heather Bowman – Chair of Directors	TH	The Howard
AA	Antony Allen – Parent Member Richard Crosse		
MHE	Marcella Henley – PTA Member Richard Crosse	TA	Teaching Assistant
PB	Phil Bate – Parent Member Howard	EYFS	Early Years and Foundation Studies
CM	Claire Malcolm – PTA Member Howard	GPS	Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
CB	Chris Billingham – Community Member Howard	GD	Achieving Greater Depth
AR	Anna Redpath - Parent Member St Mary's	ARE	Age-related expectations
CC	Claire Clarke – PTA Member St. Mary's	SEN	Special Educational Needs
MH	Marie Havelock – Community Member St. Mary's	GDPR	General data protection regulation
NC	Neil Crawley - Community Member Richard Crosse	SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
NJ	Nicola Jarrett – Headteacher Richard Crosse	CIF	Condition Improvement Funding
RM	Rachel Mills – Headteacher Howard	MUGA	Multi-Use Games Area
JW	Jon Wynn – Headteacher St. Mary's		
AH	Alison Howard - Clerk		

Attendance : PL, SC, HB, AA, PB, CM, CB, CC, NC, NJ, RM, JW, AH

1. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Neil Crawley was introduced as a new LAG member and other LAG members introduced themselves to him. The meeting opened with a prayer.
2. **Apologies :** MHE, MH, AR sent apologies.
3. **Pecuniary Interest**
NC completed a pecuniary interest form; there were no other changes.
4. **Minutes of last meeting**
These were accepted as a true record and signed by SC.
5. **Head of School Reports**

Richard Crosse School: NJ talked about the autumn term, saying that the three new members of staff, including one who is covering a member of staff on maternity leave, have settled in well. NJ thanked the volunteers, including Dr Allen. The extra-curricular activities mostly take place at lunchtime, as some children find the length of the lunchtime break too long and also the school

does not wish the numbers at Care Club after school to fall. There have been many events and competitions and the aim is to include as many pupils as possible; new football strips have been purchased. There were a number of whole-school days, when children from the different classes mix together; these have included the Roald Dahl day, Children in Need and the Christmas jumper day. As there is no vicar in place at present, the Associate Minister is giving assistance during the interregnum.

NJ went on to present data for the end of the autumn term at RC, showing that in EYFS 82% are on track in Reading and Writing, 78% in Maths. In Y1, the children are making good progress; they are in a class with Y2 but are taught separately for Maths. In Y2, Reading is a strength and Writing will improve through the year. Children in Y3 moved up with high results, which are being maintained. In Y4, Reading is a strength but intervention and monitoring are in place to identify children falling behind in other subjects. Y5 children are making good progress, with again Reading being a strength. Good results are expected from Y6 children, with Writing above the expected level. NJ also presented the building blocks showing progress, explaining that 2 points progress was expected.

Howard Primary School: RM presented her report for the autumn term, saying that staffing is now settled in the school and she is working with Y4 in the mornings. The new Care Club leader is working well. Volunteers were thanked for their work and support. Extra-curricular activities included a NSPCC workshop, Bikeability, poetry and trips including a residential at Kingswood, visits to Burton Brewery and the National Memorial Arboretum; there has been an international day of languages and a 'Howards got talent' event when children impressed the audience with their confidence. As part of the drive towards Writing for a purpose, children wrote persuasive pieces and Ford motor company were so impressed that they came to visit; also, as a result of a winning piece of writing for the National Literacy Trust, an author came into school.

Regarding data, RM showed that in EYFS 68% are on track, in Y1 the children are good at the basic skills in Reading, Writing and Maths and target is now on GD. Reading is a strength in Y2, but the school is aiming to close some gaps and PL said this showed the importance of getting the foundation right. In Y3 there are only 5 children, but a number of SEN children, so the results can fluctuate. Y4 children are strong in Maths, but there are gaps to be addressed. Reading is a strength in Y5, Maths is a focus with this group and there is some catching-up to do in GPS. The presence of a student teacher allows the Y4, Y5 and Y6 children in this class to be taught in separate groups. Y6 children are good at Maths, but need extra support with GPS and to read more challenging texts. Presenting the building blocks showing progress, RM said that children were showing good progress in Reading, but Y3 need to work on Maths and Writing.

St Mary's School: JW introduced his report by saying that staffing remained consistent. Regarding enrichment activities, there is a dance and drama club together with music and sports activities as part of the Rugeley schools cluster. Whole-school days have had a focus on PSHE including love, perseverance and it being OK to make mistakes; SM has a whole-child focus, using the Forest School, nurture groups and relaxation activities with valuable support from the TA. There have been Maths workshops, Christmas activities, a visit to the Arboretum and activities involving the NSPCC and Stoke City Football Club. The vicar is very involved with the school.

JW presented the data for the end of the autumn term by showing that in EYFS, 64% were on track in Reading, 50% in Writing and 57% in Maths. Y1 has a small cohort with some children working below ARE and in Y2 and Y3 there are a number of children with social and emotional needs or who have SEN. Y4 is the biggest cohort and is strong in Maths. Y5 children are working at ARE level and are moving up to GD; some issues in GPS and Writing need to be addressed. There is intervention in place in Y6 for children with SEN and behavioural issues. Progress measures show that certain year groups need to improve their progress in Reading, Writing and Maths.

SC and PL thanked the three Headteachers for their presentations and for all their hard work.

6. Trust Updates

With Headteachers in place concentrating on Teaching and Learning, the Trust is providing the back-office strength to cover Finance, Health and Safety, GDPR, policies etc. The focus of the MAT is on Maths, with CPD and peer-to-peer support, especially focussed on GD. The MAT also provides outreach support to other schools, given by RM, PL and the SENCO with the Trust receiving payment for this. PL stressed how important it is to be careful and creative with money at the moment. Anson School will join TSSMAT on 1 April 2019 and will bring additional skills and support to the Trust. CIF (government funding) has been received to fund a new heating system and refurbishment at SM, also the new classroom, MUGA and car parking at RC (work due to finish 9/4/19). A bid has been made for improvements at TH to heating and security, but unfortunately the school does not qualify for CIF funding for a new classroom. Following discussions at LAG meetings, the MAT is aiming to improve communications and the website; the new Parent Handbook is being put on to the website. There is also a catering review with the aim of improving healthy eating. It has been agreed that MHE should stand as a Parent Representative on the LAG, with a new PTA representative to join the LAG in her place.

Questions were invited from LAG members. CM asked about the term of office of LAG members and PL/AH will check this. CC enquired about the addition of Anson School to the MAT and PL confirmed that it will have its own local governing body with limited powers; however the original 3 schools will retain the same model of governance as previously. AA saw this as an anomaly with schools being treated differently within the MAT and was concerned about the LAG voice, whether there was equal say at parent level; however PL explained that the present Board could not continually expand with the addition of each new school and the formation of the LAG was historically linked to the Federated nature of the original schools. PL confirmed to PB that the headteacher at Anson had given up some responsibilities to become part of the MAT and, in answer to CB's question, he said that the number of pupils at Anson was 105, up to capacity, with a private nursery facility. HB stated that there will probably be other schools joining TSSMAT in future, but, due to Brexit, there was no pressure from government on schools at present to expand academies. PL explained that some schools were put off joining TSSMAT by the name, as they were not necessarily small schools; he asked LAG members to think of alternative names for the MAT and to let him know if they thought of a suitable name. He agreed with CB that the small schools ethos is important, but joining with other schools gives economies of scale, more expertise and support; there is a sharing of ideas and together the schools are stronger. However, HB and PL stressed that any growth will be measured, joining with like-minded schools and with due diligence always considered. CM felt that it was good to have this conversation and to be able to give reassurance and information to other parents.

7. Community Updates

Richard Crosse/Kings Bromley: MHE had sent in a PTA report stating that the AGM had been held in January and new officials appointed. The treasurer's report had been sent to AH and can be forwarded to LAG members on request. Future events include the Big Breakfast, School Disco and Chocolate Bingo; the 59 Club is continuing and the PTA is trialling having meetings straight after school with complimentary childcare to encourage more attendance. AA reported that the new staff had settled in well, they had joined in school sponsored events and parents had confidence in their children's teachers. There had been some disruption due to the building work, but parking issues had improved. However, parents were concerned that the school had lost the field and nature area, replaced with the MUGA and new classroom, so children had less access to green areas and links to nature. PL confirmed that there was still access to the Showfield, the playing field

had only been in use by the school since its acquisition in 2008 (before then there were only the small playgrounds) and it is not suitable for use in winter, planters are being obtained so the children can be involved in gardening and it is planned to develop use by RC of the Forest Schools at SM and TH.

The Howard/Elford: CM said there was a good atmosphere in school with good, consistent staffing. She felt that 'Howards got Talent' showed that small schools give children many opportunities to shine. The new committee for the PTA has a good skill-set, with lots of new ideas. There have been fundraising activities, including collecting unwanted clothes; events included a popcorn party. A parental survey showed that parents wanted money spent on outdoor equipment and experiences. A parent is using her paediatric expertise to offer First Aid workshops for children and parents. The classroom fundraising project is now being run by a separate group.

CB showed appreciation for the evidence of continuity in the school and the school's inclusion in village activities. She feels that the message is getting out to the community that the school is very much part of the village.

St Mary's/Colton: CC reported that she is now Chair of the PTA and it now has a more formal structure with an executive committee. There are exciting plans for an outdoor learning area, with a seating area and polytunnel, and an application is going to Tesco's for funding; LAG members are encouraged to put in their blue tokens to support this at the supermarket. JW praised CC and two more parents who have worked hard on completing this application. A number of fundraising activities have taken place, including Big Breakfast, Christmas cards, calendars and DVDs and the Christmas Fayre which raised £1000. Money has been spent on laptops. Unfortunately the chickens and rabbits have been taken by a fox, but new ones will be brought in.

8. Any other business

NJ said the fundraising for Oliver's Fund had gone very well and another swimming event is planned towards the end of April. NJ thanked the three schools for their involvement. AH said an event had been held the previous weekend at the Village Hall in Kings Bromley to celebrate new playground equipment which had been funded by the charity Motherhood, Loss and the First World War; as part of the event, poems written by Y6 children at Richard Crosse were read out and AH thanked the school for their involvement. AA invited LAG members to read information he had about the Greenpower project.

9. Date and location of next meeting:

1 July 4pm at SM

Signed.....
Sue Cockayne, Chair of Local Advisory Group

Date.....