**Local Advisory Group Meeting**

**The Howard School, Elford**

**Monday 9 March 2020**

**MINUTES**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | AS | Anson School |
| MHE | Marcella Henley – PTA Member Richard Crosse | AH | Alison Howard - Clerk |
| PBu | Phil Burrow- Parent member Richard Crosse | EB | Emma Bowring - Acting Head, Richard Crosse |
| NC | Neil Crawley - Community Member Richard Crosse | HJ | Harriet Jennings - Curriculum Leader for RE and Worship |
| AR | Anna Redpath - Parent Member St Mary's |  |  |
| CC | Claire Clarke – PTA Member St. Mary’s |  | Abbreviations |
| MH | Marie Havelock – Community Member St. Mary’s | PSHE: | Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education |
| PB | Phil Bate – Parent Member Howard  | SIAMS | Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools |
| CM | Claire Malcolm – The Friends Member Howard |  |  |
| CB | Chris Billingham – Community Member Howard |  |  |
| NJ | Nicola Jarrett – Headteacher Richard Crosse |  |  |
| JW | Jon Wynn – Headteacher St. Mary’s |  |  |
| RM | Rachel Mills – Headteacher Howard |  |  |

**Attendance :** PL, SC, AA, PBu, CC, CM, EB, RM, JW, AH

1. JW welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new member Phil Burrow. The meeting opened with a prayer. Introductions were made.
2. **Apologies :** There were apologies from MHE, NC, AR, MH and CB. PL had sent apologies as he would be arriving late at the meeting. NC had sent a message asking whether the time of the meeting could be changed to a later time and JW said this would be discussed at the Senior Leadership meeting.
3. **Pecuniary Interest**

There were no changes to Pecuniary Interest declarations.

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

These were accepted as a true record and signed by HB.

1. **Headteacher Reports**

(Many of the activities take place over all the schools, but may be mentioned only for one school)

**The Howard School:** RM gave a report on enrichment activities at TH. Staffing has remained consistent and behaviour in school has improved. Activities have included a visit to the Snowdome, the National Memorial Arboretum and the Staffordshire Regiment Museum, mini-beast hunts, Divali dancing, Bikeability, making volcanoes and orienteering on Cannock Chase. Stoke City footballers have visited to encourage reading and there have been healthy eating and anti-bullying initiatives. The links with a French school in Awoingt, twinned with Elford, have continued. There was a special performance of the panto Aladdin in Elford Village Hall, kindly put on by the cast who were appearing in Tamworth. Links with The Rawlett School in Tamworth are good. Sporting activities have included football, netball and athletics. RM said that the school website was proving to be very useful in reaching people outside the village. Themes in Worship have been Friendship and Responsibility. A TA at TH is training for Forest School. Chromebooks, provided by The Friends of TH, have proved to be very successful with pupils.

**Richard Crosse School:**  EB started by thanking staff for being so supportive while she has been Acting Head at RC; all being well, NJ, who is away on sick leave, should be able to return to work after Easter. A new initiative at RC is 'Tiny Tots', held on a Wednesday morning, which has attracted parents with younger children. 'Growing Spaces', a horticultural initiative funded by HS2, is visiting the school and the plan is to establish two raised beds with herbs and sensory plants. Gifted and talented Y5 and Y6 pupils are attending John Taylor High School on a regular basis for Maths lessons and the Maths teacher has also visited RC; the John Taylor Science teacher has come to RC to lead a lesson using a real heart - EB welcomed the renewed links with the High School. Stoke City footballers work with the children on PE and PSHE. Dr Allen was thanked for all the work being done in the MAT schools on building cars. A very successful sleepover for Y1 and Y2 was held. Children enjoyed World Book Day, which involved many reading activities; HB said parents welcomed the fact that there were no prizes given for dressing up. HB congratulated EB for 'stepping up' at short notice to take on the Headship and enabling the school to continue so seamlessly , while continuing with her SENCO work; LAG members wished NJ all the best for her recovery.

**St Mary's School*:*** JW advised LAG members that a SIAMS inspection is due to take place shortly at SM (see below); staff and pupils have benefited from an emphasis on the Bible stories and timeline. Dance and drama activities have been linked to the school values, leading to performances by the children. Stoke footballers have worked on Writing with pupils. Sports have included cross-country and basketball. JW thanked the staff who provide specialist education, in PE, Music and French, saying that the pupils gain a great deal from them. He welcomed the opportunity to work with other Staffordshire Heads and said that two Heads had visited SM to carry out a mock inspection. There is an emphasis on Reading over the MAT. A visit to York by Y5 and Y6 was very successful and there was also a visit to Wonder Dome. Other trips have been to see a film at Burton upon Trent, a Geography trip to Lichfield by Class 3 and a visit to Wolseley Wildlife centre. EB thanked SM for being so proactive in using Makaton: it is used to say the Lords Prayer in Acts of Worship.

HTs were thanked for their reports.

1. **Trust Updates**

JW informed LAG members that there are now Curriculum Champions for each of the four schools. There are Curriculum Leaders (RM for English, Head at AS for Maths, JW and NJ for Foundation Subjects, HJ for RE and Worship) who work with the Curriculum Champions, developing the Middle Leaders.

PL informed members that a new Finance Director, Mrs S Cole, has been appointed, starting work the following week. PL was thanked for all the extra work he has done since the start of this term.

*RE and Worship -* HJ came into the meeting to talk about the SIAMS inspection which takes place every 5 years. RC, SM and AS are church schools and, as such, have a distinctively Christian ethos which is reflected in the vision (Believe and Achieve) and values (Respect, Friendship and Love) of the MAT. The aim of the MAT is to produce well-rounded pupils, offering an inclusive education for all children. The focus from the last SIAMS inspection at SM is on Worship, which takes place every day and in the local church at Colton on Wednesday; the support from the local vicar has been wonderful. As a Church of England aided school, the RE lessons will also be graded by the inspectors. HJ asked LAG members to do [the quiz](https://forms.gle/NGCjJRx19gDEubf16) (click on the link) which will only take a few minutes but will inform members about valuing all God's children. JW also asked members to look at the SM pages on the MAT website and give feedback and suggestions on any items there.

1. **Community Updates**

**Richard Crosse/Kings Bromley:** EB reported on the fundraising efforts by the RC PTA, the money going towards a project to improve the playground. More PTA members would be welcomed and the present committee were thanked for all their hard work. AA thanked EB for enabling the school to run smoothly this term and wished NJ all the best. He raised parental concerns about some aspects of the script and casting for the Y4 play and EB will look into this.

**The Howard/Elford:** CM reported that, following SM's example, The Friends of TH had held two Big Breakfasts which had been very successful, attracting villagers and families from the school. Christmas cards, photos, crafts, the Christmas Fayre and involvement in the village Christmas market had all raised funds. A clothes recycling scheme also brought in money and the village Scarecrow Festival had been helped to raise funds for a new tea urn. Money had been spent on the trip to the Wonder Dome, learning resources, the Chromebooks and home reading books. Events planned include a Chocolate Bingo and a Summer Fayre; a planned quiz has been postponed to September so as not to clash with a village fundraising event. Plans are being developed for the new classroom.

**St Mary's/Colton:** CC informed LAG members that the PTA AGM had been held and members had been re-elected. The Treasurer had since resigned due to pressure of work and was thanked for all her hard work; a new Treasurer was appointed. The car wash was very successful, with money raised used to buy new reading books. The Christmas film night, Christmas Fayre and sale of calendars and Christmas cards all raised money. A successful disco was held and plans for the future include Chocolate Bingo, Big Breakfast, Open Gardens and another car wash. Tesco have agreed that SM can be a charity in-store and money raised will go towards the outdoor horticultural area. A sheltered area has been bought for the outside area. More parents are needed to recruit to the 59 club and there was discussion on how worthwhile this was. CC considered that the PTA was thriving and helping to enrich the school. JW thanked CC and the PTA members for all that they did, raising much-needed funds for the school.

AR sent a message to say how much she appreciates the commitment of staff at SM, PTA members, St Mary's Church and the wider village community, together with TSSMAT, giving the children at SM such a happy and supportive education.

1. **Any other business**

AA thanked the MAT for the letter regarding Coronavirus; he was aware that some visits have been cancelled and asked staff to prepare children for the likely eventuality that visits in the near future will not take place.

1. **Date and location of next meeting;**

22 June 4pm at SM

Signed............................................................. Date.........................................

Sue Cockayne, Chair of Local Advisory Group