

Local Advisory Group Meeting

Monday 8 October 2018

MINUTES

PL	Paul Lovern – Executive Head	NJ	Nicola Jarrett – Headteacher Richard Crosse
SC	Sue Cockayne – Director for LAG and Chair of LAG	RM	Rachel Mills – Headteacher Howard
HB	Heather Bowman – Chair of Directors	JW	Jon Wynn – Headteacher St. Mary’s
AA	Antony Allen – Parent Member Richard Crosse	AH	Alison Howard - Clerk
MHE	Marcella Henley – PTA Member Richard Crosse	RC	Richard Crosse
PB	Phil Bate – Parent Member Howard	SM	St Mary's
CM	Claire Malcolm – PTA Member Howard	TH	The Howard
CB	Chris Billingham – Community Member Howard	NQT	Newly qualified teacher.
AR	Anna Redpath - Parent Member St Mary's	TA	Teaching Assistant
CC	Claire Clarke – PTA Member St. Mary’s	GPS	Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
MH	Marie Havelock – Community Member St. Mary’s	ARE	Age-related expectation
		GD	Greater Depth
		SEN	Special Educational Needs
		EYFS	Early Years and Foundation Studies

Attendance : PL, SC, HB, CB, PB, CC, MH, MHE, AR, CM, NJ, RM, JW, AH

1. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Anna Redpath was introduced as a new LAG member and other LAG members introduced themselves to her. The meeting opened with a prayer.
2. **Apologies :** AA sent apologies.
3. **Pecuniary Interest**
Annual updates of the pecuniary interest forms were completed.
4. **Minutes of last meeting**
An amendment was made to the minutes to show that in Item 9 MHE asked about changing the day of the meeting. These were then accepted as a true record and signed by SC.
5. **Head of School Reports**

Richard Crosse School: NJ talked about the autumn term, saying it had already been a busy term with many events having taken place. There are three new members of staff, including one who will cover a member of staff on maternity leave. Two of the new teachers are NQTs who have settled in very well and are involved in everything; they are mentored by experienced staff. The harvest festival has taken place; there is no vicar in place at present but the churchwardens are giving assistance during the interregnum. Children dressed up for the Roald Dahl day and money raised

went towards Oliver's Fund which is reaching £6000. Other events include the Big Breakfast, Open Evenings and a SATs information evening for Y6 parents.

NJ went on to present data for the end of the summer term at RC, saying targets in general are set for 90% reaching ARE (Age-related expectations) and 40% reaching GD (Greater Depth). However the targets may be lower if there are a number of SEN children in the class; extra support through intervention is given for these children. She congratulated the teacher and TAs in Y2 last year; this year group was in a large class and had a majority of boys, they achieved 95% ARE in Reading and Writing and 89% ARE in Maths. Y3 gained 94% ARE in Reading and 89% ARE in Maths, with a high level of GD. In Y4, 86% of children gained ARE in Writing and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) with high levels of GD. The data showed that 92% of Y5 children achieved ARE in GPS and Maths, with some high levels of GD; the aim is to correlate this across all subjects. The SATs results in Y6 were excellent, with 84% of children gaining ARE in Reading, 100% in Writing, 95% in GPS and 89% in Maths; however NJ was disappointed that 16% achieved GD in Maths and aims to improve this figure this year. LAG members were shown the Progress Measures based on teacher assessment for Reading, Writing and Maths.

Howard Primary School: RM presented her report, saying that staffing was now more settled and she is now working with Y4 in the mornings. A TA is working on a one-to-one basis with a child in Y2 and there is a new Care Club leader in place. There are 61 children on roll, with 3 new families having joined the school. The school is now focussed on the Ofsted targets of stretching and challenging children in Maths and improving spelling. Bids have been made to raise money for the environmental area and Forest School. Extra-curricular activities include cycling proficiency and the residential at Kingswood; there has been an international day of languages based on Poland, China and France. Events coming up or ongoing include NSPCC workshops, STEM activities with Dr Allen, a visit to Burton Brewery, the pantomime, healthy eating activities and Stoke City footballers coming in for sports activities and reading.

Regarding data, RM advised that the small numbers of children in year groups can affect the data, making it spiky. In Y1 last year, 73% of children achieved ARE in Reading and GPS, but there is a focus on Maths (55% ARE) and also on achieving GD in Writing and Maths. In Y2 there were only 5 children, 3 of whom have SEN, and 60% achieved ARE in all subjects. 90% of the 7 children in Y3 gained ARE in Reading and there is a focus on spelling with this group. 86% of the 7 children in Y4 achieved ARE in Reading, GPS and Maths; more children achieving GD is a target. The six children in Y5 worked very well in Reading and particularly well in Maths, with 100% gaining ARE; the focus is on Writing (particularly spelling) and gaining GD in Reading. Of the children in Y6 who took SATs, 70% achieved ARE in all subjects. Progress measures were presented with progress for last year's Y2 in Reading and Writing being a focus and Maths being a priority in the school. The White Rose system is proving to be a good way to improve Maths by focussing on Mastery of Maths.

St Mary's School: JW introduced his report by talking about staffing at the school; a new teacher started at Easter and two teachers have been welcomed back to the school, one after taking maternity leave. There is the same level of support by TAs as last year and one TA is running Care Club at the school. JW felt there was a strong team of experienced staff in place. Two pupils have left the school, but there are likely to be new pupils starting. JW talked about the enrichment activities, including sports and music. He praised the children on the Kingswood residential for their behaviour and ability to get on well together. There are trips planned and also a MAT football tournament. At SM there is a focus on values in PHSE lessons. The Forest School is very active, there has been some outside art and the Stoke footballers are helping to develop playground leaders. JW praised the vicar for the close links established with the church.

JW started the presentation on data for the end of the summer term by showing that in EYFS, 66% were at a good level of development. In Y1, 69% of children achieved ARE in Reading, Writing and Maths; there is a focus on GPS particularly spelling. 75% of the nine children in Y2 achieved ARE in all four subjects. Y3 were a strong cohort, with 80% gaining ARE in Reading, GPS and Maths and

good levels of GD. In Y4 100% achieved ARE in Maths and 89% in Reading; the focus is on GD. Of the Y5 group last year, 75% achieved ARE in Reading and GPS, 83% in Maths. There were 6 children in Y6 taking SATs and JW was pleased to report that 100% gained ARE in Reading and Maths, 83% in Writing. The Progress Measures showed that last year's Y1 needed to improve their progress in Reading, but progress overall was good in Writing and very good in Maths.

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

6. Trust Updates

PL advised that TSSMAT wished to grow and Anson School had applied to the DfE to join the MAT. The Regional Schools Commissioner is currently assessing TSSMAT's capacity for growth. The application will be discussed on 18th October at the RSC's Headteacher Board Meeting and a decision will be made as to whether Anson may join TSSMAT. We continue to apply for CIF (Condition Improvement Funding) for all three schools annually and we have been successful in gaining funding for an extra classroom, play area, MUGA pitch and car park at RC and new heating boilers and refurbishment at SM. A new bid will be put in for work at TH and hopefully will be successful, but unfortunately a new classroom at TH cannot be funded by CIF.

7. Community Updates

Richard Crosse/Kings Bromley: MHE presented the PTA report, saying unfortunately the poor weather at Kings Bromley Show meant that less money than hoped for was raised; however the racing car was a focus of interest and the stall was a good way of promoting the PTA and attracting new volunteers. The Big Breakfast was the best one yet, with good support from the local Co-op; staff were thanked for taking part. Money has also been raised from clothing sales. Future events and fundraising activities include the Christmas pantomime with KS1 and KS2 going on separate days, a disco, Christmas Fair, producing Christmas cards and making a CD of classes singing songs and the choir. It is planned to have a Valentine's Disco which will include a sleepover for children, with money going to the PTA and Oliver's Fund. At the AGM it is hoped that volunteers will come forward to take on positions on the committee.

St Mary's/Colton: CC reported that the Chair of the PTA was standing down and she thanked the Chair for her hard work on the PTA which now was working together really well. At the next meeting fundraising ideas for the year will be discussed. There will be a Big Breakfast in November, a Christmas Film Night, the school Christmas Fair and the PTA will have a stall at Colton Christmas Fair.

MH reported that SM had attended the official opening of the new park in Colton. The History Society has been coming into school and there will be a World War One event with which the school will be involved during the 11 November weekend, including an exhibition in church. MH said the Harvest Festival had been wonderful and she was looking forward to the Christingle event. She thanked JW for his hard work and said that the school was a calm and quiet environment. MH also thanked TSSMAT for enabling SM to continue and grow.

The Howard/Elford: CM announced that planning permission for the new classroom had now been received, so bidding for match funding and further fundraising could go ahead. It was decided to separate the classroom project from the school fundraising efforts, so a sub-committee would work on making bids for funding. At the AGM a new committee was elected, with two Y1 parents sharing the role of Chair, and more parents were getting engaged with the Friends of TH who were giving money for resources in school. Events planned include the Christmas Fair, making Christmas cards, a craft day and a disco.

CB thanked RM and SC for attending the village twinning celebrations in August and said their presence had been much appreciated by villagers. She was pleased to see a steady hand at the tiller.

PB considered that TH is very much improved, with everyone pulling in the same direction and a very positive atmosphere.

8. Any other business

AR asked whether Ofsted took SEN children into account when judging a school. PL explained that this was why tracking progress was so important, so that the school could show that SEN children were making good progress despite not achieving ARE and could also show that gifted children were not coasting. NJ said that it was more difficult to show progress when children had recently joined from other schools.

AA had sent a note asking schools to consider an alternative charity to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal as he had grave reservations regarding the American charity which was connected to OCC. PL and NJ reported that they had reviewed this and had agreed that completed shoeboxes would be donated to an alternative, local charity.

MHE was concerned that younger children were upset by the building works at RC which involved the felling of a number of trees. NJ said that older children were also worried by this and teachers were talking to their classes, explaining why this was necessary. Some trees and the boulders had been saved and the children would be involved in planting new trees. NJ reported that the builders had invited the children to visit the site in the future and had hard hats and hi-viz jackets for them to wear; the workforce were working well to keep disruption to the minimum.

9. Dates and location of next meetings:

4 March 4pm at SM

1 July 4pm at TH

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

Date.....