PENSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pastoral & Curriculum Committee - Friday 2 November 2018

MINUTES

Apologies DS sent apologies – will arrive at 10am, JE sent apologies – will arrive late.

Attendance Kate Roberts (KR – Chair), Sue Evans (SE), Jennie Lawrence (JL), Kate Brown (KB- Minute taker), Joy Thomas (JT), Linda Grant (LG), Julie Evans (JE), Michael Weston (MW)

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Read and approved.

Policies

The clerk had sent a document showing which policies need to be updated and approved by governors and when. This will be emailed out with these minutes. From this list, policies the committee should look at are:

Special Educational Needs (known as information)

Sex Education and Relationships

Safeguarding – see Child Protection

Health & Safety

Child Protection policy and Safeguarding procedures

These will be emailed out with these issues and the committee will review them in the next meeting.

Pupil Premium review

KB has updated the website and this information is on there. She read through it. The committee asked if the website is compliant. KB responded that a governor is responsible for checking the website. The committee asked how often this is checked and how it is reported to the GB. KB said she had not received a report but recommended it is checked termly and reported at each full GB. The committee asked if the gov responsible for this could be confirmed and reminded of this. DS will email the governor.

SEND

Mrs Toal was involve in a meeting with the Education Psychologist and could not attend this meeting. She had asked LG and JT to feedback. SEND is very strong in the school. The role of SENCo was discussed and it was recognised that this is a very large and responsible role. The committee wished to convey that they recognised that Mrs Toal is a highly effective SENCo and wished to thank hr for her work.

The committee was updated on 3 pupils in the school who have recently received funding of for their needs. A year 3 child, a Year 2 child and a Year 1 child. They are complex pupils and this was discussed in depth.

KB reported that the Maths Dyscalculia in school had stopped due to funding issues However, NW maths hub are running a course and Mrs Toal will be attending this. This will ;fill the gap’.

DS and JE joined the meeting at approx. 9.50am.

Curriculum – HMCI speech

KB, JT and LG discussed the need to review all subjects in light of the speech by Amanda Speilman. This was viewed positively by the school. Mrs Beggs and Mrs Gilleece are working on this and have already met with key Governors to plan this. On Tuesday 13th November they are meeting with staff to review RE – Governors are welcome to attend this. A further review meeting has been set up that Governors are invited to.

JE – left the meeting at 10.30am.

Foundation Subjects Monitoring Update

Coding element of Espresso has been purchased. Mr Davies is also running a coding club. The spare classroom is now an IT suite. Mrs Beggs asked the committee to know that this has worked well and been successful. There is a need for new IT equipment – KB has gathered some quotes from leasing company’s and will present these to finance committee.

PE – Governors who have looked at PE delivery have noticed how full and extensive the range of sports is in the school. The organisation of equipment is excellent and this is supporting curriculum delivery. KB explained how the Midday team has been complimented by 2 Midday sports managers – this has been very successful and means sport happens even during a wet lunchtime. SE reported that Mr Davies had shared data on the extra PE sessions being held for those pupils who have weak skills. This will have an impact on curriculum standards. Feedback from monitoring governors was that PE is very strong in the school.

30th November – Governors will be in school to monitor the curriculum subjects. KB explained how the SIA visit has changed monitoring for maths – target a class a week for 30 mins and really see what is going on there – talk to children, observe engagement of children, talk to staff. This may be a way forward to the future of monitoring.

Outdoor curriculum day

A further discussion was held on how outdoor curriculum day operated in Reception and year 4. Detail was given. This had been a very successful event. LG is working towards Forest Schools status and this will be part of it.

AOB

* DS reminded the committee that we used to have all subjects covered by a named governor. With the demands of the foundation subjects review, the support of Governors named to subjects will be key. This will come to the full governors meeting to be reviewed. All agreed it was a good idea.
* KB detailed this years School Strategic Plan priorities. Priority 1 is the key priority for this committee and is likely to be a priority for at least 2 years, whilst the curriculum is fully reviewed. KB also reminded the committee of the OFSTED priorities from 2017. The priority point ‘developing the skills of leaders of subjects other than English and mathematics so that they have a firmer understanding of standards in their subjects across the school’ has been well covered and the committee agreed that the school had actually developed this further but demanding more in terms of richness of curriculum and diet for the children. The work over the next 2 years will solidify and demonstrate this. In term of priority point “ensuring that lessons are more consistently demanding and engaging to avoid lost learning time through occasional misbehaviour”… this can be monitored through the work of the committee. These priorities will be listed on the end of these minutes.
* SE brought a question from a member of staff about the 10 year celebration. This was discussed. All agreed it was a lovely idea. The impact of the idea is quite considerable and KB raised her well-being in terms of workload. A discussion ensued. This then ran into a discussion about the PTA and it was revealed that only 3 people actually organise events, one is a governor (JL) and one is KB. This was a shock to the committee. A discussion was held over ideas to increase attendance at the PTA.

YC left the meeting at 11.30am

* KB read a letter from a resident complaining about the firework event. The committee unanimously agreed that the complaint was unfounded.
* LG raised the ‘Old Peoples home for 4 year olds’ idea. This was passed to her by JL after reception parents came up with it. All agreed it was a good idea.

The meeting closed at 11.55am due to a fire alarm.

Date of next meeting

8th February 2019 at 9.15am.

School Strategic Improvement plan – priorities

*Key improvement priority 1* - To review the framework of our school curriculum to ensure the aims of the education for our pupils, including the knowledge and understanding to be gained at each stage are set out clearly.

*Key improvement priority 2* - To improve pupils’ independent understanding of reading, writing and mathematics through developing the effective use of manipulatives and resources across the whole school to ensure national standards at expected and greater depth are consistent in all 3 subjects.

OFSTED priorities from 2017

1. Ensure that leadership and management become more effective by:

– including precise success criteria in the school’s action plans for improvement that evaluate the impact of actions taken with reference to pupils’ achievement

– developing the skills of leaders of subjects other than English and mathematics so that they have a firmer understanding of standards in their subjects across the school.

2. Accelerate pupils’ progress, and especially that of the most able pupils, further by:

– ensuring that lessons are more consistently demanding and engaging to avoid lost learning time through occasional misbehaviour

– more consistently providing work for the most able, especially in writing, that is challenging and deepens their knowledge.