



Curriculum & Outcomes Committee

11 February 2021, 4 pm [by Zoom]

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies for the first part of the meeting were noted from Lyn, due to a work commitment.

2. Lockdown curriculum

The same curriculum has continued, and parents are offered the option of a conversation if they are finding it too much, which has been well received. It has gone well but has been a big drain on staff, parents and pupils and everyone is ready to go back to normal.

It has been a difficult balance between governors' request for all children to be present online or in school with pressures on both parents and children from home-schooling. School has taken a flexible approach. Catch-up is only expected for a few children; most seemed to have managed well. All governors accepted that it has not been possible to deliver a full curriculum given the pressures of in-person and online teaching.

The talent show came at just the right time to keep kids' enthusiasm, and a disco is planned to give space for children to have fun together.

Governors expressed their huge appreciation for what the school – and parents – have managed to deliver, and for maintaining a high level of engagement with children and families who are learning from home whilst also teaching in school.

3. Wider curriculum

Lucy is taking a lead to help provide focus and support. Work has paused due to lockdown but will continue when school is operating more normally. OfStEd inspections have been delayed by a year so the school remains on track in relation to OfStEd preparation.

Sally and Camilla are arranging a time after half-term to talk about the music curriculum.

4. Outcomes update

Successful pupil progress meetings were undertaken in December, with promising results for Year 6 pupils (who will not be undertaking SATs). However, the model used during lockdown has prioritised teaching and face-to-face engagement, and there is not currently a comprehensive view of how each child is doing as they are not submitting a lot of work. When school returns from lockdown, teachers will spend several weeks understanding where children need additional support, and plan the catch-up over a year to make sure that it targets the right children. Parent consultations before half-term will help to develop a picture.

5. Safeguarding

Lockdown has resulted in interesting safeguarding issues. Vulnerable children are all now back in school, plus some at risk of vulnerability or whom the school is aware are potentially vulnerable given family history and the experience of siblings. Teachers can see children during online lessons which helps to monitor safeguarding.

Orleton has not experienced the same issues reported elsewhere with domestic violence and parental alcohol use, but it may be that this comes up when children come back into school. Mental health problems are definitely rising for both parents and children.

6. Wellbeing

Governors acknowledge the additional strain and stress caused by the pandemic and thanked Adam for his sensitive handling of staff anxiety.



In relation to family wellbeing, it has been a difficult balance to be supportive of parents while also ensuring that children are supported. A letter about this was sent to all parents, which has been well-received, and the talent show and disco have definitely also helped.

The 'Bar in a box' gifts for everyone went down really well at Christmas. This half-term, everyone has been given a book and hot chocolate.

7. Christian distinctiveness

Matthew is working to deliver virtual Open the Book and assemblies, trying to get something out every week across the three schools in his benefice. The diocese is also providing a recorded weekly assembly. These are shared on the Friday 'What's On'.

Adam has undertaken SIAMS training. Key points emerging were the importance of a clear Christian vision, that governors understand the vision, that there are clear links to Bible stories, and that children understand the vision and how to live it out.

Adam has been looking at the 1 Corinthians 16 passage selected and linking it to Bible stories and our (relatively un-diverse) context and community engagement, and ensuring it links clearly to the school's themes each year to reinforce the key values.

It is a difficult balance to make the school distinctively CofE whilst also being welcoming to people of other faiths and beliefs or of none. Adam may seek advice from the diocese on this.

Adam will continue to provide updates on progress.

8. Minutes of previous meeting

Unanimously approved.

9. Matters arising

Lyn has spoken with Adam to review the arrangements with class 3 and their improvement journey. Adam has spoken with the teachers to encourage them to be more visible and relaxed in communications, and feedback from parents is now much more positive. This was helped by the two-week lockdown in November and by the current lockdown, as parents have seen online how dedicated and hard-working the teachers are. The job share is working well now.

10. Any other business

None.

11. Date of next meeting

20 May 2021, 4pm