



Curriculum & Outcomes Committee

3 February 2022, 4:30 pm [by Zoom]

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were noted from Lyn Broom and Lucy Rossiter.

2. Curriculum update

Sallie had circulated the Writing moderation visit report in advance. This included ideas for questions and future visits, including how ECTs are mentored by more experienced staff members in English and Maths. There will be a further look at Writing across the curriculum and how this is supported, noting suggestions such as Talk for Writing and raising consistency. Writing is already a strong outcome.

Maths is also a priority, and current interventions are expected to pay dividends. Computing and History have been delayed by staff absence and Covid, and Sarah Somers will look at Science after the half-term break. Progression documentation is in place, and assessments have been postponed until the week of 7 February. Governors noted the work which Sian, Emma and others have been doing to close the gap, and progress by the end of January suggests that most children will have caught up by the end of the academic year, notwithstanding further disruption.

Governors acknowledged with thanks that the staff team is doing everything possible to deliver as full a curriculum as possible and with as many catch-up interventions as possible despite the challenging circumstances; about half of the staff members and most of the children have now had Covid-19 (which may improve immunity), although at one point 7 staff members and around 40 children were off. The situation seems to be stabilising.

3. Outcomes update

Pupil progress meetings have been continuing, and Year 6 in particular remains on track. Raw data are being uploaded and will then be analysed more deeply to see where skills have been mastered or more work is required. Back-up has now become front-line!

4. Safeguarding

Camilla and Adam continue to liaise about safeguarding and ensure that all statutory obligations are met and that supervision for current cases is planned. There will hopefully be some feedback from the Council's annual questionnaire, and governors noted the improved provision from school nurses and Early Help. All governors noted the need to have an up-to-date DBS certificate.

5. Wellbeing

Adam and Emma have put together a well-being pack for staff as a thank you for how everyone has adapted so well to staff shortages, and governors reiterated their huge thanks to all staff, including to office staff who have had to answer constant queries from parents about test results etc..

Children's wellbeing will be addressed following the parent/staff surveys, which are ready to go out and will also inform other policies.

6. Christian distinctiveness

Christian distinctiveness also features on the parent/staff surveys. In the meantime, an artist has been engaged to paint a mural showing the vision (with courage, love, creation etc.). Adam has been leading collective worship; this included a talk by Diocesan Director of Education Andrew Teale about the bible passages which most influenced his faith, and Dain (Ludlow Elim pastor) and Sallie are also booked to come in to school.

The Diocese has been providing some excellent weekly worship sessions led by Mark Harrington, and Songs of Praise with Martin has been going well, as well as the after-school choir club.

Liz and Sara Burnham and Liz are working with the worship committee on strengthening links with the church and chapel.

7. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved nem con.

8. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

Sophie Robinson is working with Emma Morgan on maths interventions, including for greater depth together with Sam Griffiths, although this has been affected by staff absence.

9. Any other business

Sallie (in lieu of Camilla who had to go into work at short notice to cover staff absence) and Adam met Kimbolton chair of governors Gill James on 3 February for a preliminary discussion about academisation and what this would involve, noting that if Orleton and Kimbolton remain in a soft federation then the schools would be likely to join a church MAT given that Kimbolton is voluntary-aided. Governors noted the potential benefits (e.g. dedicated MAT in-person and ongoing support with safeguarding *cf* a local authority safeguarding audit), acknowledged that this is the likely direction of travel, and agreed that the process will need to take time and be appropriately paced.

10. Date of next meeting

Committee meetings (Curriculum & Outcomes, Finance & Premises, then Pay & Personnel): online from 4:30pm on 9 June 2022

Full governing body meeting: in person from 4pm on 7 July 2022

[ends]