



Curriculum & Outcomes Committee

14 May 2020, 4 pm

[by Zoom]

Minutes

Present: Sallie Peacock (committee chair), Camilla Argyle, Adam Breakwell, Lyn Broom, Jane Keenan, Kerry Martin, Emma Morgan, Mark Simmons (clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies from Wes Coleman and Lucy Rossiter (on maternity leave).

2. Curriculum update (***NB Adam's update circulated in advance, and NB no data available***)

Progress with progression skills maps, knowledge maps and intent, implementation and impact plans, including brief update on the History format (approved by Sarah Somers)

Governors noted their appreciation for the time, care and effort invested by staff in devising a curriculum format which could be shared across every area of the curriculum. Sarah Somers has been supportive and complimentary, felt the format was straightforward and easy to understand, and tweaked it to ensure simplicity of language. The History curriculum format was shared with the committee, with thanks to Debs, as an example. As required by the new OfStEd framework this shows the curriculum intent, implementation and impact.

The intent includes enjoyment, environment and excellence) and references curriculum progression grids to ensure that as pupils move through the year groups the skills required become progressively more demanding. The implementation (how the curriculum is delivered) ensures that documentation ties up with the reality (e.g. not promising in the curriculum that children will read every day when they only read four times a week). The school will continue to use Big Books (which Sarah Somers has approved), and there will be additional assessment focus on supporting and challenging those at the top and bottom of each class. The impact shows what progress looks like and what children are expected to have learned by the time they leave primary school. This draws on the national curriculum and is then broken down into expectations for each year group, showing how skills and knowledge develop from year to year.

Knowledge maps are also integral to the curriculum. This shows what is taught per term (including terms when that co-curricular subject is not being taught). Headlines from the knowledge map will be merged with skills progression headlines to show everything simply on one page, which will be available on the school's website. The end product will be a 12-page curriculum document which will be a helpful and proactive way of showing OfStEd how co-curricular subjects are being taught.

Governors agreed that the curriculum format gives a clear overview, and expressed their appreciation for the work that has gone into this and for the user-friendliness and robustness of the finished product.

New Religious Education syllabus

Bryony is working on the new RE syllabus, and Andrew Teale (Diocesan Director of Education) has been very supportive. Only half of the new syllabus has been released to date.

3. Reading review for Early Years (***NB Sarah Somers' report circulated in advance***)

Governors agreed this was a good report, with helpful action points, and which shows clear progress in an area about which there had been some concern at the start of the year. The current approach with Sarah is working well, with clear objectives for each meeting which lead to concrete outcomes such as this report. Governors expressed their thanks to Emma and Sian in particular for their work with Sarah on this.

4. Arrangements/Planning/Issues re: potential return to school in June 2020 for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Governors noted the contradictory advice from the Department for Education, and the lack of any apparent scientific basis for the decision about which year groups are expected to return. They acknowledged their responsibility to protect their employees, as any employer, agreed that if staff are not able to keep a 2-metre distance from pupils they will not be required to come to work, and noted their appreciation for the supportive and understanding way in which staff have engaged with the 1 June start. PPE has been ordered, and some may be provided by the Local Authority, but staff are concerned not to scare children by wearing masks.

Adam has written to all parents/carers explaining that social distancing cannot be guaranteed, even with all the new measures in place (noting that this has not always been possible to ensure even while the school has only been open to key workers' children), and asking parents/carers to confirm whether or not their child/ren will be returning to school. With around half the responses received to date, numbers are 8 in Reception, 6 in Year 1 and 2 in Year 6. This means splitting Reception and finding an additional TA, and Charlotte Munday is very happy to teach Class 6 if necessary. Some families may base their decision on what is provided, and the attraction of a high teacher-pupil ratio could lead to an increase in numbers. Numbers should be known by Friday 15 May. Governors asked about opportunities to encourage children to return to school if their families are those who need the most support, and although it was hoped that these families would be those who would send their children back to school it was agreed that the guidelines make it clear that parental choice is paramount.

The school expects to open in stages from Monday 1 June, building up through that first week. Staff are now looking at what parts of the curriculum can reasonably be provided, and the school will continue to maintain home learning at the same level. Breakfast club and after-school care will not be provided, though as pre-school is also looking at how it handles a return, this overlaps with potential provision of after-school care. This is dependent on insurance, liability, and has been difficult to plan in line with government guidelines which change almost daily.

Governors asked if families could choose which days their children go to school, as in lock-down, and it was agreed that this would make consistent curriculum delivery too difficult.

Governors queried the motivation behind the choice of year groups and whether the DfE really expected curriculum delivery during a phased return to school, and appreciated the clarity, honesty, and reassuring, supportive tone, of the school's communication with parents. Adam agreed to copy all governors on Covid-19 / school return communications to parents.

5. Assessments/information for secondary schools for Year 6, and induction of new children to the school for September

In the absence of SATs, teachers will be sending teacher assessments up to high schools, though Herefordshire has not yet confirmed all students' high school places. Teachers usually talk to secondary teachers anyway, and Sian is normally quite accurate (though slightly conservative). The majority of the curriculum had been covered before lock-down. Governors asked about opportunities for Year 6 pupils to prepare for high school, and to celebrate the end of primary school. Some schools may offer virtual tours, as Ginny will do for Orleton.

6. Minutes of previous meeting

These will be approved remotely, with consent assumed if no response by the end of 20 May.

7. Matters arising

None.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date of next meeting

Given that there will be no data available, governors agreed to cancel the usual late July meeting of the C&O committee. There will be a Full Governing Body meeting on 2 July as planned.