

Rye Community Primary School Local Governing Board

17 July 2017

MINUTES

A meeting of Rye Community Primary School Local Governing Board was held on Monday 17th July 2017 at 3.30pm at Rye Community Primary School.

PRESENT: Niki Stuart (NST), [Chair]; Martin Dilworth (MDI), John Hart (JHA), Jane Howard (JHO), Kaylie Kist (KKI), Helen Mucci (HMU), Gwyn Williams (GWI).

In Attendance: Kelly Martin (KMA), Deputy Headteacher, Sally Welch (SWE), [Clerk].

ACTION BY:

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies as all members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 None declared in relation to the business of this meeting.

3. Trust Update

3.1 The CEO was unavoidably absent from the meeting and would provide a written update on wider trust matters by email.

4. Matters of an urgent nature

4.1 None for report to this meeting.

5. SATS Outcomes

The headteacher reported verbally on headline SATs outcomes, emphasising that the data is unvalidated at this stage and subject to further analysis by leaders.

EYFS

- 5.1 Summary headlines for EYFS were reported as follows.
- a) 76% of children achieved a good level of development (GLD), which is above national at 70.7%. The 2016 comparator was 65.5%.
 - b) The Average Points Score (APS) for EYFS is 40.5 which is a 3% increase on 2016 and above national which is 34.4.

Phonics

- 5.2 Summary headlines for Phonics were reported as follows.
- a) In Year 1, 81% of children achieved their phonic screening. This compares to national at 81.3% and represents a slight decrease on the 2016 figure which was 83%.
 - b) In Year 2, 91% of children achieved their phonic screening which is in line with national and represents an increase on 2016.
 - c) The chair queried outcomes for those children (eight in total) who were required to retake their phonics screening in Year 2. The headteacher reported that five of the eight had achieved their phonic screening; three had not achieved. Of the latter, two children are statement and had been disapplied. One child did not achieve the screening and will be tested again in Year 3.

KS1

5.3 Summary headlines were reported as follows.

1) **Reading**

- a) **At expected** is 75.4% against national at 75.6%.
- b) **At greater depth** is 35.1% above national at 25.2%.

2) **Writing**

- a) **At expected** is 70.2% above national at 68.2%.
- b) **At greater depth** is 33.3% above national at 15.6%.

3) **Maths**

- a) **At expected** is 77.2% above national at 75.1%.
- b) **At greater depth** is 38.6% above national at 20.5%.

4) **Reading, writing and maths combined**

- a) **At expected** is 63.2% against national at 63.7%.
- b) **At greater depth** is 33.3% above national at 10.9%.

- 5) **Science** is 91.2% above national at 82.6%.

5.4 The following points were noted in discussion of the above.

- a) The headteacher advised that not every child achieved reading, writing and maths combined. The data indicates boys tend to achieve in maths and girls tend to achieve in reading and writing. Leaders will analyse the trend data in further detail to better understand contributing factors and develop strategies to address them.
- b) The headteacher noted that within KS1 overall, the data indicates children are achieving well. A key focus for the school is to identify those children who have not achieved and implement targeted intervention strategies which they make at least expected progress in KS2. The children who have achieved at KS1 need stretch and challenge to continue progressing well in KS2. The updated school improvement plan for 2017-18 will address these aspects.

KS2

5.5 Summary headlines were reported as follows.

1) **Reading**

- a) **At expected** is 52.9% against national at 71.4%. Teacher assessment for reading was 70.5%.
- b) **At greater depth** is 15.7% against national at 24.5%.

2) **Writing**

- a) **At expected** is 74.5% against national at 76.2%.

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b) **At greater depth** is 5.9% against national at 17.7%.

3) **Maths**

a) **At expected** is 76.5% above national at 74.8%. Teacher assessment was 72.5%.

b) **At greater depth** is 7.8% against national at 22.6%.

4) **Reading, writing and maths combined**

a) **At expected** is 47.1% against national at 61%. School predicted score was 58.8%.

b) **At greater depth** is 3.9% against national at 8.7%.

5.6 The following points were noted in discussion of the above.

a) Governors discussed the disparity in teacher assessment versus outcomes in reading. It was noted that teacher assessment in reading is not based on children writing answers down. Further analysis is needed of the children's writing ability and comprehension levels. The headteacher commented the outcome for reading is disappointing given the school emphasis on reading. Teacher assessment has been externally validated as accurate and therefore leaders need to examine the issues in further detail.

b) Leaders believe holding the reading test on the Monday morning of the SATs week was a factor affecting outcomes. The headteacher reported several children had been very wobbly and in tears immediately before the test. The school has plans to set the tests up differently next year by using classrooms not the school hall. The reading test will be held later in the day and there will be a focus in circle time on confidence building beforehand. The headteacher believes that other schools locally have an advantage over the primary school as their smaller environments help the children to feel more comfortable. The chair observed that she had been present for the administration of the tests and the children had coped well on the whole in her view. All factors should be examined to ensure outcomes improve next year. GWI queried whether absence was a factor affecting outcomes. The headteacher reported one child had been absent and had sat the test the next day.

c) GWI asked if the school plans to appeal any results. Following a review, the headteacher confirmed there will be no appeals. Analysis of results for seven Pupil Premium (PP) children who did not achieve teacher predictions at expected resulted in a positive difference of one point which has no impact on scale scores.

d) The headteacher reported that the 2017 percentage figure for children reaching the expected standard in reading increased by 6 percentage points. GWI queried the percentage value of each child which was confirmed as 2%.

e) Governors queried the average points score for the current Year 6 cohort in KS1. The headteacher confirmed this was 15.3. Governors suggested taking a flight path approach to predicting progress of the children from the cohort starting points, also to demonstrate value added from the school.

f) KKI asked whether there is any variation in classes shown in the data. The headteacher confirmed the data indicates one class performed less well overall.

g) Governors queried the impact of the school's reading strategy in the light of outcomes. The chair noted that current Year 6 did not follow the Primary Writing Project (PWP). MDI queried how the school will ensure improved outcomes in reading next year. The headteacher outlined the strategy for the maths and English leads to jointly identify those children who are at risk of not achieving English and maths. These children will be targeted for intervention in collaboration with class teachers.

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In addition, middle leaders will be expected to take a greater role in monitoring and holding individual teachers to account as part of moving towards a more distributive model of leadership within the school. The meeting discussed other strategies such as small group support for reading and the headteacher confirmed plans to introduce an after-school reading club for next year's Year 6.

h) KKI queried the impact of school performance externally in relation to performance tables and an early Ofsted. The headteacher reported she has checked the school's performance against other East Sussex schools and Rye is not in the lowest 15% for performance. KMA added that the school would have expected contact with external agencies by now in the event of significant concern re outcomes.

i) The meeting discussed the DfE floor standard which is the same as in 2016 with attainment set at 65% of pupils meeting the expected standard in the reading, writing and maths in the KS2 SATs and the progress scores set at -5 in reading, -5 in maths and -7 in writing. No school will be confirmed as being below the floor until December 2017 when schools' performance tables are published. Cohort progress headlines were reported as: 27.38 for reading; 57.01 for writing; and 56.55 for maths. These are well above the floor standard indicating the children have made progress. Schools are awaiting DfE confirmation of benchmark progress indicators.

j) Pupil Premium progress scores were reported as: reading -57.5; writing -2.99; maths 30.83. Governors expressed concern at the headlines for reading and writing. The headline for maths was welcomed as demonstrating the impact of the intervention strategies implemented by the school.

k) SEND progress scores were reported as: reading -32.55; writing 6.58; maths 3.87 against 2016 comparative outcomes of: reading – 18.36; writing -41.21; maths 18.38. The improvements shown illustrate the impact of school interventions and support.

l) The meeting discussed new staff starting in September who will be teaching Year 6 and KKI queried school plans for managing these changes. The headteacher advised the new staff members had attended the transition afternoons and Pupil Progress meetings with the current Year 5 and Year 5/Year 6 staff. Leaders will ensure any support required is made available. Importantly, the children are confident about the changes. Governors queried CPD for new starters on the PWP. The headteacher confirmed that training will be provided, including visits to other schools.

In-Year Progress Data

The headteacher reported verbally on in-year progress data generated from FLiC.

5.7 Summary headlines were noted as follows.

a) **Year 1 & 2** data indicates progress above FFT20.

b) **Year 3** data indicates progress above FFT20 for reading; progress in writing just about meets FFT50; maths is below FFT50. At expected and greater depth is lower than 2016 comparison data.

c) **Year 4** progress is above FFT20 in reading, writing and maths.

d) **Year 5** is above FFT20 in reading; within FFT50-20 in writing; below FFT50 in maths.

e) The headteacher concluded the data provides a mixed-picture on progress across the school. Governors queried the factors contributing to underperformance in some areas such as the weighting of subjects within the curriculum and teachers' expectations. MDI queried KS2 outcomes as suggesting pupils do not make progress lower down the school. Governors commented on the need for school action to improve progress for the current Year 3 cohort.

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KMA commented that leaders are working on reframing teachers' understanding of accountability across all year groups.

f) The chair commented on the need to ensure that appropriate stretch and challenge is in place for current Years 1 & 2 to ensure they continue to make progress.

g) The meeting discussed the allocation of responsibilities for teaching staff next year. HMU commented that split teaching in Year 3 has caused some anxiety amongst parents. The headteacher commented that leaders will ensure this arrangement does not impact on the quality of teaching and learning.

h) HMU raised the wider issue of the Pupil Premium (PP) strategy in the context of reviewing a Pupil Premium report for Years 1,3,4 and 5 which was distributed in the meeting. The headteacher confirmed this is the responsibility of the Pupil Premium lead. The meeting discussed the need for the PP action plan to include support for reading across all year groups. Governors requested the PP action plan be brought to them to review and to be presented with regular reports of progress and impact.

5.8. Action(s):

a) The meeting noted the verbal update provided on the SATS outcomes.

b) Governors noted the notable successes in outcomes in some areas and asked the headteacher to thank staff and pupils for their hard work.

c) Governors asked for a full analysis of the data to be made available in order to review and discuss 2017 performance for all year groups and school improvement actions.

d) Governors to be circulated with the Pupil Premium action plan.

6. Headteacher's Report

A copy of the Headteacher's Report was distributed and discussed in the meeting. The meeting received an update on the visit by Jonathan Rowsell, SLES Adviser (17th July 2017); pupil numbers; attendance and punctuality; safeguarding and staffing.

- 6.1
- a) The headteacher updated the number on roll for Reception which now stands at 53.
 - b) Governors queried attendance figures for Pupil Premium versus non-Pupil Premium children. The headteacher reported there is a gap but it has narrowed as a result of school action. Governors to be provided with a report.
 - c) MDI queried a correlation between attendance and performance of Year 6. This data was not available in the meeting.
 - d) The headteacher commented the punctuality penguin scheme is still very popular but there are still persistent offenders needing to be addressed. The meeting discussed giving consideration to changing the start time of the school day which may alleviate punctuality issues. The chair asked for a breakdown of the geographical location of families who are known to be persistently late. The general view of the meeting was that the school should continue issuing regular reminders to parents on the importance of attendance and punctuality.
 - e) The meeting discussed the drop-off location for coaches and whether this should return to Love Lane so that the children are able to access the campus directly.
 - f) KKI raised the issue of DBS checks for the school photographer which would be checked. The meeting discussed safeguarding arrangements for school events.

7. Minutes of the Meeting of 19th June 2017

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Initials:

A copy of the minutes was circulated with the agenda.

7.1 The minutes were signed and accepted.

8. 2017-18 Meeting Dates

8.1 Members would be consulted on dates outside of the meeting.

Meeting closed: 4.50pm