

**Hemingford Grey Primary School**  
**Governing Body**  
**Minutes of the Curriculum Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 6:30pm**

**Present:** Ruth Burrows (Committee Chair, RBu)  
Jenny Jones (Committee Vice Chair, JJ)  
Jonathan Clarke (Deputy Head, JC)  
Helen Peat (HP)  
Rachel Brown (RBr)  
Tony McMahon (TM)  
Hayley Coulter (Acting Clerk, HC)  
Rick Howell (RH)  
Grace Matthews (GM)

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence, declarations of interest**

No apologies were received in advance of the meeting and all committee members were present. There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

All Governors agreed with the minutes.

a) Governor Science Visit. HP and HC will look at completing this for the next meeting

b) The Pupil Premium Statement has been completed

c) A discussion took place as to which families would benefit from the funds donated to the school by The Langley Trust. The FSM families receive a 50% discount off school and residential trips and a question was asked as to whether the school could subsidise the transport cost of residential trips so that every child benefits. Another Governor questioned whether this money should benefit just those in need. JC will speak with KF and HC further to discuss which families are most in need. Discussion of the Langley Trust fund allocation to be added as an agenda item to the Curriculum meeting in November.

d) Homework/Early Years policy has been done

e) The Music Survey was discussed

**Action HC/HP/JC**

**3. Learning Walk**

The Governors had a tour of the Foundation Stage and KS2 classrooms to look at evidence of the foundation subjects. Foundation Stage had a visit from the Police and the Deputy Commissioner to talk to the children about road safety. The first staff meeting of the half term focused on geography and the children's geography theme folders were laid out to see if progression was evident. Across the school the children have been looking at different countries of the world, globes and maps but at incremental levels of challenge and depth according to phase. One element of the Foundation Stage framework is Knowledge and Understanding of the World so their theme is 'If you go down to the woods' with science, nature and art linking in to this theme. The Governors saw the reading and writing resources in the Foundation Stage classroom as well as the number and sentence snakes and a role play area.

**Question: Has anybody from St.Ivo's Geography Department visited the school as they are very keen to work with Primary Schools.**

**Answer: JC will look into this opportunity**

The Governors looked at LKS2 who have 'Country and City Life' as their theme, which explores life in both the UK and India. The Governors looked at the theme books where they saw a whole unit of Geography with map comparisons, the differences between city and village schools and how the children have looked at the artist Lowri and villages and cities in artwork. The children have been learning about Hindu Gods and science was also evident. The Children's homework was to create their

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own landscape paintings and the termly homework produced some very high quality work. In UKS2 the Governors saw evidence of art and geography. JC asked if any Governors had any questions. There were no questions but thanks was given to all staff as the Governors were impressed with what they saw, particularly the quality of art and how it has been embraced.

#### 4. Data Scrutiny

This was circulated in advance for Governors to look at and provided for the meeting. JC invited the Governors to ask any questions.

**Question: Do you find that as the children grow older they 'get it' which is why the % figures are so high?**

**Answer: Yes, particularly the boys as they mature later and then progress. SEND in Year 1 impacts too and the summer born children (born after 1<sup>st</sup> April).**

JC clarified that prior lower attainers are those children who were working towards ARE at the time of assessment.

**Question: Maths was a key area last year but only a couple of year groups have increased the percentage at ARE across the year. Is there a discrepancy between progress with maths?**

**Answer: JC explained that in some cases this was impacted by mobility, e.g. this could be accountable by just two children who have left the school. Other factors such as home life could impact too and these circumstances are considered when looking at data.**

One Governor said it was difficult to read the data properly when children leave and join the school and JC explained that mobility does skew the figures.

**Question: How often does the school share with the parents whether their child is at ARE?**

**Answer: At Parents' Evenings and via the children's school reports.**

A Governor asked for it to be minuted how difficult it is for the school to produce data as a result of children mobility and that the data needs to be unpicked.

**Question: Could mobility be looked at in more detail at a future Curriculum meeting?**

**Answer: JC could look at mobility data with HC. By the next meeting in January JC and Kirsten Marriott would have produced further data.**

There was a suggestion by a Governor to add onto the data spreadsheet what the pupil numbers were on Census day.

**Question: If Hemingford Grey had an outstanding SATs year, what would the figure be for combined (64.3% is HGPS result, 71% is expected)**

**Answer: Outstanding would be above 80%.**

JC reported that in Foundation Stage GLD was not met due to immature boys and personal development was not met so GLD could not be given.

When looking at the new Cambs LA 'Data on a Page' document, JC explained that at the end of KS2, reading was blocked as red as the progress score was lower the zero. The way that Year 6 are being taught reading has completely changed. Years 3 and 4 are using a resource called Brilliant Books and children are reading together again, supporting each other to access the text. They are also using picture books and poetry to get the children to get discussions going about the text and working collaboratively.

JC reported that the school are most proud of the maths results with a huge jump from 6% to 26% shifting from significantly below to above is very pleasing. Lots more maths reasoning is being used, getting the children to reason their answers. The CPD in having Rachel Rayner in has been really successful, valuable and is now embedded and will continue.

**Question: There is a bit of a gender gap in KS2 where boys are doing better in maths than girls.**

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Answer: Confidence in some of the girls can bring this figure down and the changes in the curriculum has had an impact. The maths reasoning has been more challenging and is quite a new thing for the current Year 6 children.

JC pointed out that the Data on a Page document, despite the issues discussed, was actually a very positive summary, had mostly green blocks and this should be celebrated.

**5. FFT information**

KF and JC went to a regional FFT briefing and the national data was presented which JC felt the Governors would be interested in. JC prepared a quiz for the Governors to look at and answer the questions which looked at percentages achieved for end of KS2 data, differences in percentages across counties and the Local Authorities SATs figures.

**6. Tracking of Foundation Subjects**

JC is going to a 'tracking foundation subjects' briefing by one of the LA's Education Advisors. He hopes that it will be meaningful and accessible for teachers to use to move learning forward. JC will update on this briefing at the next meeting.

**7. Equality Act Updates**

RBu has looked at the Equality Act and reported some minor amendments. RBu will amend the

**Action RBu**

**8. SEND update**

The SEND visit takes place next week so this will be discussed at the next meeting

**9. AOB**

A card and collection for Kate has been arranged for Governors to contribute to. Governors were invited to attend the last assembly on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9:15am followed by coffee and cake in the staff room afterwards where staff will join at 10:45am. K Miller to be invited too and RBr to email all Governors about this.

JC reported that a document has been received by schools this week from Jonathan Lewis with a comprehensive list of contacts.

HP reported that she attended the LA's Financial Consultation and that the news wasn't good as £1.7million needs to be transferred into the High Needs Block.

**Action RBr**

**Meeting Closed at 8:15pm**

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