

**Hemingford Grey Primary School**  
**Governing Body**  
**Minutes of the Curriculum Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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)

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

No apologies were received in advance of the meeting but a subsequent email was received from Rick Howell apologising for his absence. There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

RBU and JJ agreed to stand as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. This was agreed and as such both Governors were elected to these posts.

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

All Governors agreed with the minutes.

a) The Governor Visit Report from Science Week will be carried over to the next meeting

b) It was reported that Lianna Edmunds and Kirsty Beardall have been appointed as Teaching Assistants and that a Headteacher was successfully recruited which was discussed at the recent Full GB meeting.

**Action HC/HP**

**4. Governor Tests**

JC didn't provide tests on this occasion but the tests were instead discussed in depth in the next item.

**5. Data Scrutiny following SATs**

JC reported that Greater Depth in reading is an area which the school are focussing on this year as a result of being slightly below national in the end of KS2 SATs (23% versus 28%). To be awarded Greater Depth the children must score 110 or more in their test. Reviews were sent back for three children who scored 109 but no additional marks were awarded despite the school feeling confident about these. Had these children been awarded the additional marks the school would have been higher than national for Greater Depth reading. The school will be looking at a more generic way in which the children can access vocabulary; JC explained how teachers address reading lessons and there is a continuous push on reading for pleasure whilst encouraging children to read a broader range of books to access varied vocabulary. JC explained that the school include fun ways to teach broader vocabulary including crosswords and the use of a thesaurus etc as part of spelling lessons.

Signed ..... Date.....

The school saw a significant improvement in grammar from the previous year. There was a big improvement too in maths as well as those children achieving greater depth. Rachel Rayner, maths advisor, visited the school today and was very impressed with what she saw and fed back that the school's journey in maths has been significant.

Question: How many test papers were sent back for remarking?

Answer: 8 reading and 1 grammar

Question: Did you feel there was a political statement to award marks where it doesn't matter but not award marks where it does?

Answer: No comment

The results for the Year 1 Phonics Check were good, achieving 84% against the national average of 83% and (Year 2) achieving 100% against the national average of 61%.

The Good Level of Development in Foundation Stage scored 69%, slightly lower than the national average of 72% although the average point score for Foundation Stage was 36, slightly higher than the national average of 35. This was due to a number of children meeting the expected standard for reading, writing and maths but not for PSED, which prevents them from reaching GLD.

The Committee was shown some anonymised answers to Year 6 Reading SATs questions and a discussion took place about the marking process and the need for children to be taught very precise test technique.

Data scrutiny for all year groups will be looked at in more detail at the next curriculum more meeting when all committee members are present.

## **6. Ofsted Actions update**

SIP action 1 is to explore The Big Questions to enable the children to make considered responses and opinions which lead to a view being formed in relation to the thematic question. The school will look at making The Big Questions concise and precise so that the children can explore them in depth and on the first two INSET days the staff reviewed curriculum themes in teams to work towards this.

The school is working with Chris Quigley and attending a curriculum conference soon. Contacts are also being explored with humanities and RE through the PGCE links.

Question: Could the school get support from St.Ivo for Geography and/or History?

Answer: It is a good idea and something the school could look into.

SIP action 2 is to develop a meaningful approach to accessing foundation subjects to make judgements about attainment and better plan progress within each subject. JC has sourced some resources to facilitate achieving this.

Signed ..... Date.....

Question: Could the school access a grant or support from The School Improvement Board to achieve this?

Answer: JC will explore this.

SIP action 3 is to continue to develop children's application of spelling when writing in context; there is continuous monitoring of this in school and on SLT days.

## **7. Pupil Premium**

JC circulated a report 'Pupil Premium 2018/19' which is published on the school website. A suggestion was made to add "including subsidies for instrumental lessons" at the end of the Aim for the section 'Contribution towards extra-curricular activities £2000'. **Action JC**

Question: How is pupil premium access to extra curricular activities spread across the school?

Answer: We can identify which children have booked onto clubs and received music lessons during the Autumn 2018 term.

RBu noted that the Langley Trust may possibly have funds in the region of £250 available to the school. If received this could be considered to help any family in significant need.

**Action RBu**

## **8. Sports Premium**

JC circulated 'PE Premium Overview 2018-19' which is also published on the school website.

## **9. Homework Policy update**

Fortnightly projects are now termly which has taken place following feedback from parents and staff. The new policy was adopted and JC will forward it to HC to add to the website.

**Action JC**

## **10. Early Years Policy Review**

It was agreed that all revisions were sensible and as such, adopted. JC to send to HC to add to the website.

**Action JC**

## **11. Accessibility Plan**

The Governors looked at this which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. All Governors agreed that it should be adopted.

## **12. AOB**

A suggestion was put forward to set up a What's App group to make it easier for Governors to communicate quickly including sending apologies for meetings for example. This will be added to the next Full GB meeting for further discussion.

**Action HP/RBr**

Signed ..... Date.....

RBu explained that the DfE asks schools to submit an online survey regarding music provision. RBu has asked the DfE why the link has not been sent to the school and it was explained that it was, instead, published in a newsletter which RBu has since located in archives from 11<sup>th</sup> July. It is not compulsory for schools to submit the survey but RBu said it is useful to do so. RBu will send the link to JC who will speak with the school's Music Co-Ordinator

**Action RBu**

JC suggested making Curriculum meetings more interactive and a suggestion was put forward that data is circulated in advance of the meetings and then discussed in pairs with questions at the meeting. There were no objections from Governors.

JC shared letters from children who wanted to be appointed as a School Ambassador. There were 11 letters in total and the Governors chose 6 successful applicants.

A further AOB item was minuted confidentially.

**Meeting closed at 8:00pm**

Signed ..... Date.....