

Standard & Curriculum Committee

Minutes: 13 March 2019

Present: Miss Tracey Cleverly
Mr Simon Niles

In attendance: Mrs Nicola Dunford – Chief Executive Officer
Newton & Teign Representative – Lynda Cooper
Totnes LB Representative – Anna Neville
Woodleigh LB Representative – Alexis Saffin

Matt Matthew – Trust Business Manager

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Mr Jason Hayward Jones

Declaration of Business Interests

There were no declarations of business interest.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 30 January 2019 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Online Safety Policy, the CEO updated the committee on the latest development and proposed this is actioned by the academy led IT champion group followed by the Academy Heads. To be brought back to the next S&C Committee.

2.2 Support for Mental Health Issues. The CEO updated the committee on the provision currently provided, mainly through Kate Booth of Young Devon who has been working in several schools. A school counsellor is in place at Bearnese for 1 day a week and ½ day for a play therapist. At least one TA in each school is trained in various therapies and SEMH courses are operated by the ITH. The CEO is currently investigating the options for 19/20 and will be a priority for the MAT SIP plan. The CEO then went onto provide an overview of the MAT SIP for next year.

2.3 TBM Update on Devon Norse. Left with TBM

2.4 RAG rating clarification. Discussed later at point 5.

2.5 School Comparison Tables. Discussed later at point 5.

3. Terms of Reference

The Chair asked the Committee whether any clarification was required to the TORs with all indicating their satisfaction with the document. The number of meetings has increased to five per year.

4. Local Boards

The Chair requested that the LB's updated the folder with their feedback at least one week before. All agreed to do so in the future. The Chairs discussed the barriers to getting the reports compiled and they were currently reliant on the information provided, via email, from the heads alongside adding in the learning from the focused visits. They felt that the reporting could be better and were keen to explore ways to improve the reporting and the content of the reports to not only support them but better support the board. ND suggested that the format of the reports could be something that is looked at in the working parties.

Feedback from:

Newton & Teign – LC updated the committee that OFSTED had visited Bearnese & Hennock with governance being an area for improvement. Subsequent changes have been made to the LB with Jo Carter providing support and the Chair attending further training and increased number of visits to the schools.

Totnes – AN updated the committee that the focus visits are progressing well and on track with a focus on SEN & Pupil Premium to date. AN has also met with Sharon Lord at Landscope and is

proposing to ensure RE is a focus for the future, particularly for church schools. A risk exists at Landscope for KS2 and the Academy Head has stepped in to provide additional teaching support. **Woodleigh** – AS updated the committee that nil safeguarding, complaints existed with HLTAs and TA's working well with teaching staff. A learning walk focussing on literacy had been conducted at Tedburn St Mary and were impressed by the consistency of marking and progress being recorded including feedback to pupils. The witnessed a TA conducting intervention work on Phonics and saw the impact this was having. IT issues are resolved at Tedburn and Yeoford with Cheriton close to completion. The CEO gave the committee on a brief update on the use of SIMS for future data tracking.

The recent OFSTED inspections were discussed and noted how pleasing the results were with feedback from the inspections being provided to schools by the CEO. LC offered to provide feedback on her experience of the OFSTED inspection and the Chair agreed that this would form a future agenda item.

Several operational matters were raised that had not been passed to the CEO or TBM. The Chair expressed that the committee was not the forum to raise this but should be passed back to the CEO and TBM in the first instance.

Action: to revise the reporting format for Local Boards to the S and C Committee as part of the working parties. Return to in the summer term.

Action: Agenda item in next S&C Committee Meeting (TBC)

5. **Progress & Attainment**

The CEO spoke about the data reporting available and the challenge she had placed on the Academy Heads in recording the pupil progress and target data. The Chair questioned the CEO as to reasons why several schools were below floor overall at KS2 and challenged the LB's as to what they saw in the schools. The CEO then went onto explain the discussions and challenges she has had with, and placed upon, the Academy Heads.

The chair explained that next year the Trust would feature in the MAT progress tables as a Trust of 3 schools or more in operation for 3 years.

From an LB position the chair questioned how they were supporting and challenging schools. For the Totnes LB, they do this through their focus visits but acknowledged they might need to change their approach. For the Woodleigh schools, the LB explained that pupil progress meetings were being conducted in the schools and were challenging the Heads. The chairs raised concerns about their levels of confidence of how to use the data effectively and strategically and identified a training need which would support them in using data to underpin their questions and areas of focus in the focused school visits. The chairs were clear that they wanted to be able to use data effectively and understand which data was useful to them and which data was less useful.

ND shared the School Performance Tables and explained that in the first instance, the LB Chairs may find it helpful to visit the DFE School Performance Tables website and look at the performance of the schools in their hubs and Trust. This would help them identify trends which would support their monitoring during in school visits.

Action: Trust Data Lead to provide training for LBs looking at the trends per school and will be covered at the next working party meeting.

Action: LBs to use the 2019 Predictions tables as the basis for future focus visits.

6. **Effectiveness of Pupil Premium Strategies**

To be moved to the next committee meeting.

7. **Date of future meeting**

03/19 – 1 May 2019

Meeting finished at 6.30pm

Signed as approved copy by Chair, Tracey Cleverly

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Date 1 May 2019