

Moorland Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

Minutes

Wednesday 22nd January 2024 at 5.30pm.

Online via Microsoft 'Teams'

Attended:

Chair- Oliver Heathman

Staff Governor- Vicky McDonald

Academy Headteacher- Alex Waterman

In attendance:

Governance Professional- Charlotte Roe

Minutes: Clerk to the Trust- Nicol Bush

No	Item	ACTIONS
1.	Welcome and apologies Apologies were received from Lynda Cooper, Rosie Stamp and Richard Nutbeam.	
2.	Declarations of interest LC is a Trustee for No Limits CIO, Newton Abbot (charity status pending) and a parent representative for The Outdoors School, Exeter.	
3.	Approval of meeting minutes from 27th November 2024 The Chair to ask for approval from governors via email due to low attendance at this meeting.	Chair
4.	Matters arising from 27th November 2024 (not on the agenda) There were no matters arising listed.	
5.	Clerk Update 5.1 Appointments/nominations- The Clerk advised that there was now a vacancy for Foundation Governor. The Parent Governor vacancy for Bearnas had received some interest, and the Clerk would update the LAC once confirmed. 5.2 Training- The Clerk reminded the LAC of the upcoming training that the GP had arranged which was: Data Training with DoSI Andy Keay on Wednesday 12 th February 2025 at 4.30pm online and SEND Training with Fran McLoughlin on Wednesday 2 nd April 2025 at 6.30 pm online. The Clerk advised that the GP was looking into training on Risk assessments once the minor teething issues had been resolved.	
6.	Focus: Wellbeing/PHSE and Safeguarding Audit with a <u>LEARNING WALK</u> to evidence the practice within the school Wellbeing – pupils and staff <u>Widecombe</u> Safeguarding Audit <u>Widecombe</u> The review had been completed and the actions within the action plan were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of CPOMS and embedding into staff culture. • Continue to embed filtering and monitoring systems • Complete Prevent Self-assessment 	

- Split staff / pupil / visitor access to Widecombe's internet service
 - Include the Devon Safeguarding learning briefing into staff CPD.
- The action plan was reviewed by the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and DDSL (Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead)

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There were no issues raised with the Safeguarding audit.

Mid-year overview of Attendance

Widecombe

The term's attendance was 93.5 from September. This current term was 95.8 (Both of those figures included annex r -child on part time timetables) Without the Annex Rs, these would be 95% and 97%.

Widecombe were continuing to work with the Attendance Improvement Officer from Devon through targeted support, and the actions in place were:

- Following the robust escalation policy
- Relational approach to support parents e.g. picking up on small improvements and informing families.
- TAF meetings offered to support target families.
- Referring families to the LA for fines.
- Working with Trust attendance lead.

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- Attendance was at 96%, there had been some minor ongoing absences leading to illness.

Parent and Community Engagement

Widecombe

Widecombe noted that the following was in place to encourage parent and community engagement.

- Having staff on a gate rota to ensure that all teaching staff were regularly developing relationships with the community.
- Using Seesaw – a parental engagement app, to give families a window into the classroom.
- Biweekly newsletters and social media.
- Phone calls and email communication when appropriate.
- Working with the local community e.g. the Widecombe History Group, local church etc.
- TAF meetings to ensure regular communication with hard-to-reach families who require support.
- EPAC meetings in place.
- Termly parent consultation meetings and online form for parents to use to increase parent voice.

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There had been more pre-empted information circulated to parents/carers, which had been well received.

Curriculum Subject Focus English

Widecombe

KS2 results were above national average in reading and writing.

Phonic results were above national average.

Writing is on the ASIP and ATSIP.

Widecombe were currently working through the Trust CPD package to support teachers to develop their writing offer.

Widecombe plan on refining their ordinarily available inclusive provision in writing to ensure they were meeting the needs of all learners e.g. explicitly teaching vocabulary using widget cards (pictorial representations) in all classes, use of

	<p>colourful semantics to support sentence constructions – which was a strategy recommend for children with literacy difficulties.</p> <p><u>Ilington</u> A point that was raised during the visit, was around pupils' attainment at greater depth in English, and why Ilington hadn't been achieving many children with greater depth, despite several children passing the 11+ and being accepted into grammar schools, the AH was keen to unpick that and support.</p>	
7.	<p>Feedback from Ethos Committees and Community Groups (The Ethos group minutes were circulated to governors via email before the meeting) The Chair asked for an update on the Foundation Governor vacancy. It was requested by Sharon Lord for the GP to share the general SIAMS update, which contained the following:</p> <p>The SIAMS SEF was being updated to reflect any current work that has been achieved with vision and values and support for the RE curriculum with implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus. Work is/will be happening to ensure the new Link website for the school reflects the Trust's Christian Distinctiveness in a way that is impactful and easy to access.</p> <p>Monitoring enquiry: Collective Worship RE was clearly planned and had an important place in the school day, with a liturgical structure and weekly involvement of Rev Gareth. Staff were supported by Worship Councillors, who lead the greeting and placed the Trinity items. The children were keen to share their experience of Collective Worship, which seemed to be a very positive one, with evidence that it did indeed have an impact on their understanding of the values and how these might affect their attitudes. Valuation by pupils showed particular enjoyment of Rev David's Collective Worship, as he involved children with role play. There was currently no Open the Book team, could more elements of role play be introduced to Collective Worship, with costume, to develop this inspiring aspect of Collective Worship. Picture News was only used occasionally, for big world news events – could this be extended to more regular use as the format is good.</p> <p>The GP updated the Governors that the vacancies of Foundation Governor for Ilington and Wolborough were in hand and would be discussed under the LAC update item on the upcoming Board of Trustees agenda for the meeting, to gain permission to have a Foundation Governor for each school (Wolborough and Ilington)</p>	
8.	<p>Risk Assessment As mentioned in item 5. the Governors discussed and agreed that more clarification and training on the Risk assessments would be useful.</p>	
9.	<p>School Updates <u>Widcombe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAN (to include pupils joined/left)- 91 on a roll (2 new children joined, 1 left) • Pupil wellbeing- Recent survey completed and children at Widcombe scored above the Trust average on every question, the results were to be planned into staff CPD in spring 2. <p><u>Bearnes</u> The Chair fed back to the meeting on the recent Ofsted inspection that he had attended at Bearnes and highlighted the importance of robust and adequate governance within schools.</p> <p><u>Hennock</u> The Staff Governor updated the meeting that attendance had improved at Hennock, which was a result of letters being sent out and school communication with harder to reach families.</p> <p>Moretonhampstead The AH said that there had been some issues at the school last half term with long term staff sickness and some hard to manage dysregulated pupils, but the</p>	

	<p>support received from the Trust and the Inclusion Hub had been helpful and had made the issue more manageable. The AH noted that she had been working with families on attendance and all seemed positive.</p> <p><u>Staff Governor Update</u> The Staff Governor advised the meeting that she had emailed the LAC school staff to invite them to raise any issues and there were none brought forward.</p>	
10.	<p>Standards and Curriculum Trustees Meeting The Chair raised that the newly introduction of the S&C question sheet had been useful and improved the process. The GP explained the process of the question sheet and said that any questions raised would be either answered during the meeting by the GP or delegated to the appropriate staff member to follow up with an email response. For any additional matters, those questions would be addressed at the S&C meetings, minuted and brought forward as matters arising items to discuss at the next LAC meeting.</p>	
11.	<p>Next S&C Focus: The Chair reminded the Governors of the next S&C focus and there were no comments brought forward. The GP advised that the data training in February with AK would be helpful in preparing for the next focus. The Chair requested that it would be useful for the governors to receive the data during the training session. The GP agreed and would email AK on this.</p>	GP
12.	<p>Questions to be escalated to S&C There were no questions raised by Governors for the S&C meeting.</p>	
13.	<p>Evaluation of Governance impact The GP explained that, moving forward, item 13 would focus on governors' self-evaluation as an area of governance development, specifically targeting assurance and reassurance. The GP asked while assurance was obtained from the Academy Headteachers (AHs), what reassurance do the Governors have? The Chair added that reassurance was also gained by speaking with the pupils of the school.</p>	

The meeting ended at 6.25pm

Signed by the Chair of the committee on March 12th 2025.