**St John The Baptist Roman Catholic Primary School, Dartmouth**

**Local Governing Body meeting**

**Tuesday 19th July 2022**

**Attendee** **initials** **Role** **Present/Apologies**

Elizabeth Hamilton EH Headteacher Present

Laura Upton LU Chair Present

Karen Moseley KM Vice Chair Present

Nicola Ashton NA Clerk to Governors Present

Angela Simmonds AS Parent Governor Present

Angela Robinson AR Foundation Governor Present

Mike Robinson MR Foundation Governor Present

**Agenda** **Topic**

**Item**

**1** **Prayer**

Opening Prayer lead by EH

**2** **Matters arising from previous meeting**

All Governors received copies of previous meeting minutes and were approved by LH/MR

**3** **Declaration of Business interests**

LH Are they any interests from any of the governors?

LU/ KM/ AS/ AR/ MR. No interests declared

**4** **Leadership –SEF**

**LH** has everyone had a chance to look at the SEF document?

SEF presented to Governors.

Discussed contextual information PP, SEND (twice national and nearly four times as many EHCPS as National) and class structure from September and class sizes.

Ks1 and GLD data below national. KS2 data on the whole above National. Foundation particularly small cohort of 7, 4 of which have SEND needs.

Maths data much stronger this year. This has been an area of school improvement for the past few years. The introduction of Power maths has helped.

Writing will be a focus this year as we have been focussing on Reading since the introduction of Read, write, Inc , two years ago.

We will be part of a Plymouth CAST Oracy project this coming year.

We are considering purchasing Accelerated Reader so we can monitor reading at KS2 more closely.

Staffing – 2 new teaching assistants are joining the staff from Sept.One has come from a specialist setting with lots of SEND experiences.

**LU** Will Mrs Waiters have to teach two different years if she is having to work with year 4 children too?

**EH** No, they have an entitlement to the year 4 curriculum, but the children have often got EHCPs in place or will get them in the future as they are not accessing their normal curriculum were as most children even if they fall behind are able to get access to their curriculum as you do want them to catch up, some it just takes a little bit longer, its where they are complex needs.

The next page is contextual information which has not changed massively from the previous term, therefore more or less the same we do have quite an elevated level of SEND children, but it is good that we get an elevated level of funding and able to get the staffing to support that, so that is looking positive going into a new term having an increase in staffing levels.

The teaching of early reading is a strength, our phonics score for example this year has gone up to 80%. This is the first cohort that have experienced Read, write, Inc from the start. Year 2s scored 86% with their phonics ( test taken Autumn term instead of Year 1 summer).

LU What are the reasons for the KS1 reading score not being as high but below National?

LH There are several borderline children who are about a term behind. They are not quite fluent readers. More work needs to be done on comprehension. I think this is where we are seeing the two years Covid disruption. Also this cohort has had a high transient rate with approximately a third of time cohort have not been with us since the start of Reception.

**LU** Will you continue to use power maths?

**EH**  yes, we will continue to use power maths as it has been effective ie our key stage 1 results show maths is now stronger than reading and writing and the same in key stage 2 results showing maths again is stronger than writing showing the impact the programme is having.

**LU** is power maths a package or a subscription hub where you were offered the support

**EH** it’s a package that cast spent about £6000 on last year to introduce it into schools to buy all the resources. You get access to online planning it's a verytightly sequenced curriculum, staff didn’t like it at first but it means that there isa much more consistent approach to delivery across the 3 classes. One of the reasons why it has been so effective is having to split our year groups off, rather than trying to deliver maths to a year2/3 class, the classes are split to get separate input and similarly with years 4,5,6. It has worked better for lots of reasons. It is a very well sequenced curriculum. All the resources are there for you so much more consistency for one class to the next. It is an ambitious curriculum but it seems to be having the desired outcomes.

For the next 12 months we are going to be working on some other areas of the curriculum just to bring them up to the same level as science geography and history, in a small school everyone coordinates lots of different areas, so you focus on some and then move on the other areas of the curriculum the next year.

**Areas for improvement**

We would like to improve and getting more of our children that attain to the top level we have mentioned it in the RE inspection. We have areas around our curriculum.

Other areas of improvement include areas around teaching and development and learning so we will be working on modelling, questioning, scaffolds to support the curriculum.

**LU** with the teachers who have particular subjects for example the geography lead would get support from Plymouth Cast.

**EH** They regularly have curriculum training days for leadership to deliver back in school. The ESM has come and carried out Deep Dives in several curriculum areas such as Reading, Maths, Geog, Hist, Science etc. They have then interviewed the co-ordinators. The primary areas they have been developing through Network meetings are Early years, English, Maths, SEND and Safeguarding. Our Geography and history have come from a local advisor who has run local geography and history conferences and has published work nationally. Science development has come through the Science Mark which is an Accreditation that we have received twice. We worked on this last year, with a group of other CAST schools and got accredited in the Summer.

**LU** so, there is support out there for the teachers?

**EH** yes, depending on the subject for example French, I deliver French, but we have a fantastic online programme called language angels what is good its full of games and songs delivered through that programme and the children love it, this was recommended from another cast school, so yes you do talk to other schools and get ideas from them. We all use a Catholic scheme for PSHCE called Ten:Ten which Governors will be aware of.

There is networking across certain subjects, but they are difficult to attend, but they are also professional associations for example DT to get support in specific subjects.

**5** **Standards – Insight Reports (Statutory Reports)**

Our early years data is below national this year at 57%, a very small cohort of 7 and 5 of those have special educational needs. Each child is 14%.

Whereas our year 1 cohort have 80%( phonics) age related showing cohort to cohort varies.

KM What is happening to support pupils who are below in reading?

We have worked for two years with the reading hub with a lot of intensive support on developing synthetic phonics and that is a strength now having had 10 advisor days were they have come in and observed lessons and track progress carefully, we have quite detailed targets for children that are operating just below and working with them on that, we are now signed off but we will continue to access support from them and have further training days on the phonics.

LU- Could we have a more detailed report for EYFS to break down the areas of strength and development?

**EH** Yes. I just wanted to give Governors an over view today.

MR- Are there any other key areas of development?

EH- Attendance data is lower for 21-22 than the previous Year.

LU- Are there any particular groups that we need to focus upon?

EH- SEND- we have a few pupils with SEND needs that are persistent absentees (below 90%) that need to have improved attendance. We will work together with the EWO on this.

**6** **Safeguarding – SG4 and SG5**

**EH** **(KM)** has been nominated for a role designated governor for children in care due to two of our children going into care in July. This is quite an involved process, and it will involve training on it, this is the highest status of children you have. The sg5 is the form we must return termly update to cast.

**KM to attend training on this in new academic year.**

**7** **Health & Safety – Governor's visit**

**AS** Had a recent visit to inspect the school we started in the headteachers office we found the damp that had been treated with paint effectively on one wall has now spread to the adjacent exterior wall, this will need to be treated and painted soon

We had a look around the building the library Mr and Mrs Rowden have done a fantastic job remodelling the area its bright and cheerful and a lovely setting now. The coat hooks have been relocated outside classroom 3 and in-between the area adjoining classroom 1 and 2 which are much better locations making them more easily accessible.

The IT room has been converted it is now comfortable and calming with a valued intervention space.

The room currently used for speech therapy has been spruced up and re arranged to a new clean and clutter free area which is more functionable

Class 3 has had a new fire door but will benefit from new windows.

Class 2 could do with a spruce up and new flooring.

**EH** class 2 are having new floors and a repaint during the school holidays

**AS** class 2 would also benefit from new windows and patio doors leading to an outside seating area this could be valuable to the class.

The play area outside class 1 needs replacing as it has deteriorated over time the gate leading to the playground needs replacing as it is really dilapidated.

**EH** the gate has already been replaced since the inspection as well as a new fence at the back.

**EH** the play area need to have a bid done for it, the bid was going to be done last Easter but the quotes from the companies did not come back in time, but now I must wait for the next round of bids for between £20,000 and 50,000 so we need 3 different quotes which I must send to cast for them to decide who they will choose to do building work for hopefully we I will be in a better position for the next round of bids.

**AS** the surrounding security fence needs replacing with a stronger material.

**EH** we are expecting a health and safety audit in September. The door panel has been replaced in the last year and this is the material the whole fence needs to be made from. This may involve a bigger bid.

Other areas need looking at is the removal of the ivy growing up the wall and locks on the bin cupboard doors.

**LU** Angela please you email me the notes from your visit so I can keep it in a folder; this is the same for any governors visit reports so we can have the evidence of the visits for inspection.

**LU** Well done on the Governor visit and thorough information and for all the work that has already been carried out on maintenance

**8** **Policies-** **Children in care**

**Outdoor Visits**

**Medication policy**

**EH** These policies have all been updated please can we all read and approve these policies

**AS\KM** have read and approved all new policies.

**9** **impact of the governing body**

**LU** **AS** has had a good impact with the visit to the school and the report put in place for improvements implemented and needed around the school building and grounds.

**10** **Chaplains**

we have interviewed the new chaplains and we have a lot of interest in those wanting to be a chaplain in particular class 3, due to running out of time the old chaplains did the interviews on Friday doing an incredibly decent job.

The old chaplains did some training on how to write up liturgies and have written up next half terms liturgies with them. It has been great to utilise the existing Chaplian expertise.

**11** **any other business**

**EH** is everyone happy to continue a Tuesday for governors' meetings

**LU/KM/AS/AR/MR** Yes

**EH** will put a list together in the next week to arrange the days and let everyone know, thankyou everyone for your support and contributions this year we will meet again in September.