



MINUTES OF PUPIL, CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2019 – 9.30am

1. IN ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Main (Chair)
Shaun Jukes (Headteacher)
Dorothy Jones
Maureen Rothwell

Gail Beaton and Ian Fazackerley sent apologies for their absences.

Joanne Jones gave a presentation on the Contemplation Room and link to support the mental health agenda. The Contemplation Room booklet was handed out to Governors (Appendix 1).

Debbie Rickard (Deputy Head) and Helen Murdoch (Head of PSHE) gave a presentation on Personal Social Development and Sex and Relationships Education within the curriculum. As RSE is now a statutory core subject area, they explained how the PSE curriculum has been assessed and overhauled within school (Appendix 2) and illustrated the new schemes of work (Appendix 3), together with the spiral curriculum for PSE (Appendix 3).

It was suggested a Lead Governor for PSHE/RSE is established at the next Full meeting

Governors expressed their thanks for the above presentations.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

6.1 DJ asked for an update on the monitoring of students identified as not making as much progress as expected. The Headteacher informed Intervention programmes are put in place, specifically in English and Maths for individual students identified through monitoring and tracking of progress.

2. STUDENT NUMBERS/DISTRIBUTION/COMPLEXITY

2.1 The Headteacher updated Governors on numbers on roll. Current numbers are 173, 9 in Semi-formal; 9 in Experiential; 63 in KS3; 41 in KS4; 51 in FE. Trends suggest an increase in students with complex mental health and emotional support needs that often run alongside other identified learning disabilities or difficulties. There is also a significant increase in the numbers of children known

to social care either in Child Protection, have a child in need plan are Looked after or post Looked After. The impact of this means that the deputy leading on pastoral care/Designated Senior Lead for safeguarding and child protection is often called to meetings and has to draw up reports several times a week.

- 2.2 PM asked is there pressure to take more children into school? The Headteacher replied there is due to capacity in special schools as a whole, and it is an ongoing situation. LCC are looking closely at this and developing strategic plans along with schools to address the situation. He explained that there is a new protocol in place in the office for WPVs and before any WPV is arranged the child must have an EHCP. This is to help reduce the number of speculative visits. School is considering having 'Open Day' type events for more speculative visits.
- 2.3 The Headteacher advised that in September 2020 there will be potentially 15/16 places available to Year 7s and there are already 9 from Acorns, 2 places agreed by LCC and is aware of other requests likely to be made.
- 2.4 PM asked are parents made aware that there may be no places available during visits? The Headteacher said yes, they are told the situation and also that it is the local authority who commission the placement of students to school not the school itself.
- 2.5 MR asked if it was an issue of funding? The Headteacher said no, in his opinion our critical capacity is 175. (Which is significantly over the schools original agreed numbers). The local authority is encouraging mainstream to keep young people in their provision and providing additional support; which may come from special schools offering outreach/inreach services. Although there is a capacity issue with this as well.
- 2.6 PM added that the amount of personal care required for some reduces the time to do other things.
- 2.7 DJ mentioned she would like it reporting in the Head's report that the Governors are supportive of the stance the Headteacher is taking in discussions with the authority.
- 2.8 DJ asked if more students are being kept in mainstream, is the level of complexity of need at STFCH increasing? The Headteacher replied that there is a rise in students with a need for more complex mental health care, whereas the physical and medical health care remains similar. There is also an increase in students with social care involvement, i.e. looked after child, child protection, child in need. DJ asked is there any reason or understanding for this, and do their problems ease when they come into school? The Headteacher replied that it was difficult to speculate on this; although more young people and families are being identified as needing support. Results, rates of progress and the work in school to support young people with mental health and emotional issues is substantial and it suggests pressures to ease.

3 ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATIONS

The Headteacher advised that the report is in the process of being prepared for the FGB on Wednesday 6th November. It will be slightly different to previous reports to mirror how the new Ofsted framework suggests inspectors will consider assessment. So the background data will be kept in school and governors will receive the headlines the

data and information suggests; the positives and areas where and actions may be required.

4 CURRICULUM SUBJECT SUMMARY

The curriculum summary for each subject is on the website, with the exception of English – which will be put on in due course.

5 SEN INFORMATION REPORT

The Headteacher handed out the report which is a statutory document (Appendix 4) for information only.

6 SIP MAIN OBJECTIVES REMINDER

The Headteacher handed out a document to who the SIP Main Objectives (Appendix 5) for information and reminder at the Chair's behest.

7 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY PATTERNS

The Headteacher asked for discussion of the school holiday pattern for 2020-2021. SLT/HOD had agreed for two days inset at the beginning of the academic term and either 1 or 2 days at the end but this could impact on whether the students finished on a Friday or a Monday. DJ and MR agreed that it would be beneficial for students to finish on a Friday. Other Inset day(s) to be agreed upon by SLT/HOD through the academic year. Delegated to SLT to confirm arrangements with LCC.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DJ wanted to highlight the key documents which had been sent to Governors and Simon Chester informed whether he had been informed these had been received and read by individual governors. At the time of the minutes not all Governors had informed him:

- Guidance for Safer working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings.
- Keeping Children Safe in education.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Full Governing Body (Local Authority) Meeting – Wednesday 6th November 2019, at 9.30am.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – The Contemplation Room booklet

Appendix 2 – Assessment and Overhaul of RSE in curriculum

Appendix 3 – RSE – New schemes of work including RSE – Spiral curriculum

Appendix 4 – SEN information report

Appendix 5 – SIP Main Objectives