

STANDARDS & CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 7 th March 2018		14.00	Dartington C E Primary School		DRAFT MINUTES			
Attendees	Initials	Category of governor Any office held	Time they joined/left if not present for full meeting	Attendees	Initials	Category of governor Any office held	Time they joined/left if not present for full meeting	
Tony Gregg	TG	Foundation (Chair)		Jill Mahon	JM	Headteacher		
Amelia Poore	AP	Co-opted		Martyn Johnson	MJ	Foundation		
Abigail Read	AR	Parent						

Apologies	Initials	Reason (Category of Governor)
Lucy Woollett	LW	Parent
Michael Potter	MP	Co-opted
Amina Abdellaoui	AA	Staff
Joanne Tisdall	JT	Co-opted

Absent without Apology	Initials

In Attendance	Initials	(anyone who is not a governor/associate)
Yvette Elliott	YE	Clerk

Minutes to
All Governors
School Web Site

Documents shared or referred to:

- School working document for LA visit
- Admissions Policy 2019-2020
- Lead Governor reports (Maths, English, Attendance, Keys to Success)

Agenda Number	Details of discussion	Decision or action
1 & 2.	Apologies.	Accepted
3.	Declaration of Pecuniary or Business Interests. YE informed the Committee that her husband is a Director of the South Dartmoor MAT.	YE to update records
4.	Minutes of the last meeting, held on 22nd January 2018. Reviewed and approved.	Approved and signed by the Chair.
5.	Raising Standards	

1.	<p>Lead Governor reports were shared in advance of the meeting and discussed. Highlights and questions below:</p> <p><u>Maths (MJ Lead):</u> Year 6 SATS assessment as focus and there is an improved estimate of pupils on-track, showing real progress (now at 65%). <i>This is still below the national average - why?</i> There is a proportion of SEN pupils in this cohort (37% in current Year 6). Mixed Year 5/6 classes take skilful teaching and teachers need our support. Pupil instability continues to add challenge, <i>AR asked if SEN children are included in the final SATs results?</i> JM confirmed they are. Dartington has a higher number than national average (typically 10-15% across the school, Dartington has 25%). 14% instability in Year 6 so far this year. <i>TG asked if Maz had evidenced changes since the E-Visit?</i> MJ confirmed the focus has been more on actual SATs tests. JM highlighted that we don't want to purely teach to test and need to support good reasoning in maths. Practice SATs tests are done in Year 6 to support teacher assessment and end of year assessment. <i>AR asked if SATs practice papers are also sat at the end of Year 5?</i> This is the case and teachers have started using the end of KS2 predictions at this point.</p> <p><i>AR asked how progress is measured for children who won't reach on-track attainment?</i> Over time, you can see good in-year progress and can analyse where there is accelerated or slow progress for necessary interventions. When children join the school, we need to access their historic records and data, but this is not always easy. The school has assessed the difference in attainment and progress between Dartington Starters Vs Children new to the school in KS2. For maths this showed 82% Vs 43% on-track respectively.</p> <p><i>AP asked if Maz is tracking different groups?</i> Booster classes for invited children are now in place. Each class has 6 x tracked children and cusp children are well known (these are considered to be the 'raising standards' children). Conferencing (1:1 at end of lessons to check pupil understanding) takes place. New planning sheets are in use and pre-teaching is also supporting pupils where needed.</p> <p><i>AR asked if each item on the LA visit report has been addressed for maths?</i> JM confirmed it has and staff have a working document, which follows on from their non-pupil day at the beginning of January.</p> <p><u>Keys to Success (LW):</u> Confidence in rapid and robust change to teaching practice. Evidence seen for a range of abilities in books. Teachers working together to improve consistency. Key objective sheets and EGG sheets in use and improved upon.</p> <p><i>AR asked LW before meeting how Governors can be sure of teaching practice improvements across the school?</i> LW</p>	
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<p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>	<p>confirmed that the observed changes were as a direct result of the non-pupil day discussions and these have been implemented across the school by all teachers. <i>AR questioned that the data seems at odds with what LW observed? Many children had low starting points, but are showing good progress in the predictions. Phonics predictions have increased from 35% - 52% by focusing on cusp children.</i></p> <p><u>English (TG):</u> Training received from the Babcock programme for 2 teachers is cascaded down to all staff. Shared staff scrutiny is in place. Changes and measures have been implemented and are starting to impact on standards. There is a change of culture amongst some parents required - the school is working hard to make information as accessible to parents as possible to aid parental support.</p> <p><u>Attendance (AP):</u> The impact of the flu was significant, bringing attendance down from 95.1% at the end of December to 92.7% at the end of January. School closure due to snow will not impact on attendance figures, but was 2 days of lost learning with an impact on our ability to raise standards. February attendance figures still to be scrutinised by Governors. The new EWO is experienced and supportive.</p> <p>JM shared the working document that was created in response to the LA visit and subsequent non-pupil day work. Data tracker and matrices examples were discussed.</p> <p>Governors have covered this area in points 5.1 & 5.2 above. There is a clear focus on progress. JM felt that the focus now needs to move to benchmarking with national average figures. AR highlighted that links with other schools have allowed good practice to be shared.</p> <p>Debbie Clapshaw from Governor Services, Alan Betts, School Improvement Officer and Paul from Babcock met with AR and JM to highlight the vulnerability of the school and confirmed that we are now labelled as a coasting school. Our ability to show progress is positive, but we need to be able to clearly understand and explain the data on attainment and what we are doing about it. The school must demonstrate its capacity to move forward or our consideration of partnership working (DCC could trigger an Ofsted inspection and potentially force us into academisation). We have to remain focused on what is best for our school, be reflective and support each other. AR stated that the ethos at Dartington of being a caring and inclusive school must not be lost as a result of any new partnerships. We need to articulate our recognition of the challenges we face.</p>	
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6.	<p>Excellence for All / GAP The Governor Action plan meeting was cancelled due to snow and AP will rearrange ASAP. AR highlighted that we should expect a Governance Review from Babcock very soon.</p>	AP to rearrange GAP meeting ASAP
7.	<p>Christian Distinctiveness Ethos Committee planning meeting was cancelled due to snow and TG & YE will rearrange ASAP. TG observed an Open the book session recently and noted the children were well engaged.</p>	TG & YE Ethos Ctte meeting
8.	<p>Safeguarding & Attendance 1 <u>Safeguarding:</u> Nothing new to report from JM. YE to update Sarah maunder with any Governor changes for the Single Central Record. New section on website for all Safeguarding related policies following recommendation in Safeguarding Audit. 2 <u>Attendance:</u> Nothing further to report.</p>	
9.	<p>Policies 1. <u>Admissions Policy 2019-2020:</u> Ratified</p>	YE/JM to update & file
10.	<p>Matters Arising 1. Visits with clear evaluation activities - Governors have now undertaken visits and reported back, to be shared in full at FGB. 2. Complete SIP strategic priorities for the S&C Ctte - each committee has now worked to complete priorities and these will be discussed at FGB. 3. Ethos Ctte meeting - date TBA 4. Update & file ratified policies - Done by YE. 5. Update volunteers leaflet - Done by JM.</p>	
11.	<p>Evaluate impact on School Improvement LA return visit is key now. Preparation has been done and now evidence needs to be seen. All the above measures are aimed at improving the school and raising standards.</p>	
12.	<p>The next meeting will be held on Monday 30th April at 1.30pm. The meeting closed at 3.30pm.</p>	