



Minutes of Thirsk Community Primary School Governing Board on Monday 11th July 2022 at 6:15pm

Present: Richard Chandler – Head (RC), Stuart Mountford - Chair (SM), Jenny Buck (JB), Jane Grainger (JG), Gemma Wall (GW), Charlotte Pearson (CP), Lesley Miller (LM), Lisa Garthwaite (LG), Lucy Minican (LAM)

Apologies: Rachael Pearce (RP),

In attendance: Sarah Kirkman (SK), Jane Jackson – clerk (JJ)

No 21/22	Item	Action
PART 'A' – Governance		
11.1	Welcome The chair opened the meeting at 6:20pm. RC welcomed governors and thanked them for their support for the recent summer fair.	
11.2	Apologies and determine whether absences should be consented to Apologies had been received and consented to from RP.	
11.3	Declaration of business interest JG works for a virtual school.	
11.4	Notification of any urgent business There was no urgent business.	
11.5	Approve the minutes from 22 June 2022 The minutes of the Full Governing Board (FGB) meeting held on 22 June 2022 were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting. Amendments: 10.9 – it should be clarified that the deficit of £37k was for the 21-22 year and that staff changes would impact this moving forward. <u>Approval</u> - With the above amendments, the minutes were deemed as a true record.	
11.6	Matters Arising A meeting regarding the demolition of the mobile classroom had taken place.	
11.7	Correspondence There had been an email from the PTA thanking governors for their support of the summer fair. Governors also expressed thanks to the PTA for their efforts.	
11.8	Governor Training LAM had attended School Complaints on 6.07.22 and Being an Effective Chair on 8.07.22	
11.9	Review Skills Audit The skills auditing analysis had been shared on Teams. It was agreed that this would be revisited in September.	

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PART 'B'- School Improvement

11.10 Headteacher Report

A written report had been circulated to governors prior to the meeting which was discussed as follows.

The head thanked governors for their work over the year and mentioned highlights such as the "Good" Ofsted rating, the Platinum Games Award, and the wide range of enrichment activities.

He informed governors that Covid updates no longer formed part of the Headteacher's termly reports.

Quality of Education

Face-to-face catch up sessions had continued this term and were more effective than remote sessions. The curriculum was moving away from McKie mastery towards the new approach to teaching and learning devised by the senior leadership team (SLT), called "Super Scholars". This would be implemented from September and the second staff training session was due to be held the next day. This would add consistency to how learning was organised throughout school. Lesson observations had taken place in May and June. Strengths were a consistency of approach. Areas to develop were the level of challenge for more able pupils and the challenge across school was to develop greater depth.

End of year data

External data had been received the previous week.

- GW reported on data for the Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS). 40% of pupils had achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD). There had been a high SEND need in the cohort. Boys' performance had been lower and SEND needs had impacted on their results. Writing had been the weakest strand. All those who did not achieve GLD were summer-born and would remain with the reception group or afternoons in September. This was likely to continue through the year.
- GW reported on Phonics data. 86% of pupils had achieved the expected standard. The Yorkshire Endeavour English Hub (YEAT) target had been 90%, excluding SEND children's results, and school had achieved 100%.
- GW reported on the Year 2 SATS tests. 63% of pupils had achieved expected standards in reading, compared to a School Data Company (SDC) figure of 64%. The SDC collected data from a large sample of schools and provided values comparable to National Data, which was not yet available. Initial analysis of the tests showed strong vocabulary knowledge, with inference being an area to work on. There had also been a number of queries raised nationally regarding the question types with a feeling that some had not been properly set.
- In Year 2 Writing SATS, 42% of children had achieved the expected standard (SDC 55%). Writing would be a target for the following year and staff training for spelling, which continued to be an issue, would be taking place in September.

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- The Year 2 maths SATS results showed that 67% of children had achieved the expected standard (SDC 67%). This was a strong result and some initial analysis had been done with Pupil Premium papers, all of which had done well.

GQ – Had no children achieved Greater Depth in Maths?

Answer – No, this would be a target moving forward. It was possibly due to the Covid catch up situation. There were children within this cohort with the capacity to achieve greater depth, however there were several gaps from Reception and Year 1.

- RC reported on the Year 4 Multiplication check. This was the first year this test had taken place. The test was carried out online on a computer and children had 6 seconds to record a tables fact. There was no opportunity for children to go back and correct typing errors. The average point score for the cohort was 20 (out of 25). The SDC figure was 19.6. There were 26 children in the cohort and one child had not taken the test. Boys had scored higher than girls and there was a possible wider gender issue coming to light in maths. A lot of hard work had gone in to preparing for these national, external tests, and this was a good result.
- SK reported on the Year 6 SATS Reading results. 67% of pupils had achieved the expected standard compared to a national average of 74%. The national average had risen considerably from the 2019 average of 51%, giving a much higher benchmark. Tests were being checked for incorrect marking and some would be sent back for remarking.

GQ – Would governors be able to revisit the data in September in relation to national results and any re-marking?

Answer – This would be added to the agenda. There were incidences of very specific wording in the mark scheme – children with answers that were very similarly worded answers did not receive marks.

Action – Data to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

- SK continued to talk about the Year 6 Writing SATs results in which 61% of children achieved the expected standard compared to a national average of 70%. Pupils had come a long way in writing since the start of the year. Staff input through catch up sessions had helped considerably. There were two writers who achieved greater depth which would be an area of focus moving forward.
- SK shared the Year 6 Maths SATS results in which 69% had achieved expected standards with a national average of 71%. Maths tests were being checked as some questions had been marked as not answered when it was clear they had been. 19% of pupils had achieved greater depth and the streamlined McKie grouping and approach had allowed for this. Results were slightly stronger with boys which would be monitored.

GQ – Were there any results for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG), or Science?

Answer – SPAG was slightly lower than the writing results because of issues with spelling. Science was similar to the maths results but slightly stronger. Combined reading and writing levels were to be confirmed: national averages were 59% and it was thought school results would be 52-53%.

GQ – Is there a charge for returning SATS papers to be remarked?

Answer – There was a small charge per paper, but this was worth doing. If the challenges to the marking and grading were correct the charge would be waived.

Clerk

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	<p>RC thanked staff who had worked tirelessly with the children. It was commented that the rigour of the phonics programme's input every day had made a big difference. It was noted that the greatest impact in maths had been in mental maths and that the McKie streaming system had benefited this.</p> <p><u>Behaviour and Attitudes</u></p> <p>There had been a decline in the number of yellow cards and blue cards issued. There had been two incidences of alleged bullying which were not found to be bullying. There had been a slight increase in prejudice based incidences with the use of some homophobic language. There had been no exclusions, one use of restrictive physical intervention, and no e-safety incidents.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>This had improved over the summer term and was returning to pre-covid levels. There had been some impact from summer holidays which had not been approved absences. Attendance was 93.3% for the year; a more normal year would be around 96%.</p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>There had been a safeguarding inspection from the local authority on 7th July, who had been joined by JG for the whole morning. It was a rigorous inspection including the examination of the single central record, personal files, judgements in the Ofsted report and the school website. Arrival of the children was observed and staff and pupils were interviewed. It had been a positive visit with a few minor suggestions but no significant issues found.</p> <p><u>Personal Development</u></p> <p>This was a strength of the school. Particular highlights had been the trip to Peat Rigg, Young Voices, sports weeks, trips to Saltburn, sports competitions and clubs.</p> <p><u>Leadership and Management</u></p> <p>There had been further staffing changes since the last meeting and would be a significant change of staff at the end of term. Those leaving were thanked and would be missed. Staff departures and new appointments would mean that there would be more full-time and fewer part-time staff meaning teaching staff would largely be the same each day. There were no significant changes to leadership and there was a good balance between levels of experience. Some changes were being considered to the leadership of different subjects. Initial thoughts for the School Development Plan would include focus on the number of children achieving greater depth, and grouping of children to allow for progress and intervention.</p>	
SK left the meeting at 7:15pm		
11.11	<p>Share external reports</p> <p>School were currently awaiting the report from the recent safeguarding inspection. JG commented that pupils had spoken well in pupil voice and mentioned a good range of things that kept them safe and helped them with mental health. She felt that the inspector had been impressed. Governors commented on the maturity and care of Year 6 pupils noted at sports day.</p>	
11.12	<p>Agree Schedule of Work for next year</p>	

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	This had been reviewed in 2021-2022 and it was agreed that this would be followed again.	
PART 'C' – Other		
11.13	Premises There were no further updates from the previous meeting: decorating would be taking place over the holidays as well as the removal of the old mobile classroom.	
11.14	Health and Safety It was noted that there was only a small amount of shade outdoors for children in hot weather. The message to parents about sun cream and hats had been reiterated that day. There had been some issues with people coming onto the site out of hours. It was possible that the fence height would need to be increased at certain areas but this would be explored after the report had been received.	
11.15	Policies The following policies had been circulated to governors prior to the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance – “Prevention” to be changed to “Early Help” • Collection from School – gate opening times to be changed from 3:05 to 3:15 • Complaints NYCC – previous chair’s name to be updated to SM • Flexible working • Complaints • Managing unreasonable complaints • Probationary Period • Whistle Blowing • Induction Policy – the links to the induction checklist needed to be checked. • EYFS behaviour • Resolving issues at work. With the above changes, the policies were agreed by governors. There was a request from governors that changes made to existing policies were highlighted as this made them much easier to check.	
11.16	How has this meeting impacted on the welfare and progress of our pupils? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headteacher’s report had been shared and data discussed including its impact on plans for the next school year. • Successes had been celebrated 	
11.17	AOB JG had completed a safeguarding visit and had uploaded a report to Teams. It had been a very positive visit including pupil voice and observing the school drop off with the inspector. JG had been very impressed with the one-way system and how children came into school and felt that the inspector had also been impressed. JB asked governors whether they felt they were getting value for the NGA membership which cost £97 for the year. After discussion it was felt that little use was being made of the membership and governors resolved to cancel the NGA membership.	

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	<p>Action – RC to speak with the school business manager about cancelling NGA membership.</p> <p>RC congratulated GW who had been approached to be a reading lead for YEAT and would be interviewed for the post the following week. If appointed, the role would involve 39 days per year working for YEAT but GW would be bringing ongoing expertise into school as a result, and would receive three days of training with the DfE.</p> <p>Governors were invited to the Year 6 performance on Wednesday 20th July on the back field.</p>	Head
11.19	<p>Confidential staffing/school updates</p> <p>These were minuted accordingly.</p>	
11.20	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>There was a discussion about the practicality of holding a meeting in the initial weeks of the school year, and it was agreed to miss the September meeting. The first meeting would be held on Monday 3rd October 2022 at 5:30pm. There would be an early start in order to include governors safeguarding training.</p> <p>Following this, meetings would be on the second Monday of the month.</p>	
<p>Please note: The colour coding above links to the three key roles of governance questioning; RED for 'setting strategic direction', BLUE for 'holding Headteacher to account for educational performance' GREEN for 'ensuring financial health, probity and value for money'.</p>		

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7:50pm.

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