

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**Meeting no. 4 held at the school on 22nd June 2016 at 9:00am**

Present:

Ms. D Cobden (Chair)
Mr. S France (Headteacher)
Ms. M Sammons
Ms. K Knudsen
Ms. L Dominey
Mr. D Dorrell
Mr. A More

In Attendance **Mr. D Ryder (clerk)**

The meeting commenced at 8:55

Summary of Action Points

Action Point	Description	Responsibility	Status
4.1 (14/15)	Circulate English and Art curriculum reports	SF	Completed
4.1	Add a consideration of SIP A data to the meeting no.2 agenda in the annual plan.	DR	New

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Declaration of Business Interests

The Chair asked governors if they had any changes to their Business Interests Form and there were none.

3. Previous minutes, matters arising and action points

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on March 23rd 2016 were **agreed** and signed by the chair.

4. School Lead Reports -English

Mr. France had placed a copy of the English (June 2016) Report to Governors on the governors shared drive, and a copy is filed with these minutes. The report has 3 headings –

- Major Successes
- Major Barriers
- Plans for the Future – next year 2016/17

The report was discussed in detail and questions invited from the committee. The major barriers were considered and it was noted that the increased national focus on SPAG meant that time was required to develop SPAG skills in order to meet new targets. The constant changes in requirements and dramatic increases in required achievement levels from the government are making it difficult to help the children

meet targets. Much of the material that has been released for the new English curriculum isn't now suitable as it doesn't reflect the increased difficulty of the tests. However new SPAG & spelling resources and scholastic tests have been purchased and SPAG skills are improving. Mr. France also mentioned that the Year 2 results in phonics have gone down from Year 1 and this is probably due to the recent emphasis on correct spelling.

A discussion took place around the amount of work required for teachers to produce reports and could they be simplified to reduce the time needed. It was noted that the school has a legal requirement to produce a summary each year that addresses every subject. Mr. France also said that the school maintains a good balance, as although the reports are time consuming, teachers are allocated inset days to complete them. However the time taken to produce reports will be reviewed regularly. Ms. Dominey also mentioned that the school includes photographs of work from the Pupil Tracker in reports which is very popular with parents.

The committee also noted that despite the importance of test results, the school doesn't neglect the more creative aspects of education and maintains an excellent level of activities such as trips etc.

Mr. France mentioned that test results will be available on July 5th and will be taken into consideration when the next School Improvement Plan is written.

Mr. More mentioned the 'granny cloud' which is a scheme devised by Prof. Sugata Mitra whereby a network of volunteers help poorer children to learn via Skype. He wondered if the school could do something similar to help raise SPAG standards. It was agreed that having volunteers assist was a good thing, and it was also noted that the school already makes good use of volunteers, with up to 15 coming in a day to help with reading etc.

The committee wished to thank Ms. Shotliff for all she had done in improving English teaching.

Geography

Mr. France had placed a copy of the Geography Governors' Report on the governors shared drive, and a copy is filed with these minutes. The report has 3 headings –

- The New Geography Curriculum
- Planning scrutiny within KS1 & KS2
- Possible next steps

The report was discussed in detail and questions invited from the committee. It was noted that the development of Mastery in Geography is being made more difficult due to the changing definitions and requirements from the government.

The committee wished to thank Ms. Leigertwood for all she had done in improving Geography teaching.

5. Curriculum Planning and Priorities for Next Year's School Improvement Plan

Ms. Dominey had placed a copy of the Overall Curriculum Planning Report 2016 on the governors shared drive, and a copy is filed with these minutes. The report has 5 sections which are linked to objective SDP Focus 1 in the School Development Plan -

- To have the school's bespoke updated curriculum in place by late Autumn 2015
- To enable year groups to effectively plan Mastery across the curriculum then monitor and intervene as appropriate
- Ensure staff confidence in teaching the new curriculum with appropriate differentiation and expectations.
- To monitor the modifications to the new curriculum and adapt as appropriate.

- To ensure that activities are well matched to the middle ability groups specifically following Ofsted observations

Plus a Curriculum Next Steps 2016-17 section.

The report was discussed in detail and questions invited from the committee. The next steps were also considered. Mr. France mentioned that the history curriculum had been amended to include more diverse aspects of social history, and not just focus on facts and dates. It was again noted that planning ahead for the curriculum was complicated by the repeated changes, vagueness and uncertainty in nationally mandated standards from the government. For example. The term 'Mastery' has now developed into 'Greater Depth' throughout the year.

Ms. Dominey mentioned that the school was doing a great deal to develop the curriculum, and not everything could be mentioned in the report. Ms. Dominey also said that any further suggestions that the governors may have for curriculum development would be very welcome.

The governors thanked Ms. Dominey for her report and all the excellent work done in curriculum planning.

6. Review of School Information Technology Provision and Plan

A discussion took place around how the responsibility for IT provision should be balanced between the Curriculum Committee and the PFM Committee. It was agreed that the Curriculum Committee should lead on the teaching of computing as a subject, and the PFM committee should lead on procuring the systems and hardware needed to facilitate the curriculum. Therefore the Curriculum Committee would need to produce a report for the PFM committee outlining computing requirements so that the PFM can look at the required funding etc.

Mr. France also summarized the latest IT equipment updates. The school still supplies laptops for all the teachers as this ensures that all work done is backed up on school systems and therefore would not be lost in the event of an individual laptop being destroyed or stolen. Various software purchases were also discussed and the school will monitor their use carefully to ensure that value for money is maintained and unwanted software isn't renewed. It was noted that generic software for basic skills such as spreadsheets and databases are installed on all devices. iPads have been very successful as they can all be easily updated with new apps from a central master tablet.

7. Review Effectiveness of the Committee

The meeting times were discussed, and it was agreed that at least one of the committee meetings should be held during the school day in order to limit the pressure on school staff to attend meetings after school. It was also agreed that the committee had fulfilled all its functions and areas of work during the year. It now has enough members and is responsible for the correct policies. The subject lead reports for 2016/17 were agreed as per the current schedule.

The committee felt that the data from the SIP A report should be considered by the committee each year at meeting no.2. Mr. Ryder agreed to add this to the annual agenda plan. The committee chair would then give a report to the FGB at FGB meeting no. 3.

Action 4.1: Mr. Ryder to add a consideration of SIP A data to the meeting no.2 agenda in the annual plan.

8. Chair's Correspondence

There was none.

9. Items for next Agenda

- Lead report for Maths
- Lead report for R.E.
- SATs results data

The meeting closed at 10:35

Future Meeting Dates:

FGB Meeting no.6
PFM Meeting no.4

Wed 6 Jul 2016
Mon 18 Jul 2016

17:30
16:00 (amended)