



Dare to Discover

**Minutes of the meeting of the Teaching & Learning Committee
held virtually on
TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2023 at 7pm**

Governors Present:

- Jenni Caisley (JCa) (CHAIR)
- Joanna Cooper (JCo)
- Ellie Crowe (EC)
- Siddharth Deshpande (SD)
- Lucie D’Heudieres (LDH)
- Russell Fry (RF)
- Beci McCaughran (BM) (HEAD)

Others present:

- Helen Andrews (HA), Clerk
- Becca Edwards-King (BEK) – Maths Lead

		Action
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies for Absence JCa opened the meeting.</p> <p>LH was not present at the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was quorate and held using MS Teams.</p>	
2.	<p>Girls in Maths Presentation Governors were introduced to BEK. BEK and JCo were recently published in a maths journal. The focus was around girls’ confidence in maths.</p> <p>It is a national picture in KS2 data that boys are doing better in maths than girls. Puzzle Pals was shared as a presentation on screen, inviting Year 4 and 5 girls to take part in a new club solving puzzles and problems in maths. The club is held every Friday at lunchtime. It has now been extended to offer Year 6 girls the opportunity to attend. Feedback from girls has been very positive. Many have found the club has improved their confidence in maths and they now start to look forward to maths lessons. There is currently not data available to measure the impact statistically.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, you mentioned that it was a confidence issue for girls in maths, are we seeing this in other subjects? What are the underlying causes? Causes are not known. In school, it is considered to be related to the fact that there are more boys in relation to girls in the upper years. It is more noticeable in maths as it is a subject taught every day. Research into other subjects is taking place in school.</p> <p>A governor advised that there is a trend in IT, an industry where he works, where numbers of women working in IT are falling dramatically.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, have you thought about including younger cohorts – perhaps getting the older girls to talk at assemblies etc? The current Year 4s are so excited that they can now be part of the Puzzle Pals Club this year; they heard about it whilst they were in Year 3. BEK</p>	



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	<p>agreed that advertising it more widely will definitely help to encourage girls to participate when they are old enough.</p> <p>BEK left the meeting at 7.20pm.</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 3rd October 2023 The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023 were submitted and will be signed by the Chair as an accurate record.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting Governors were asked if they had any matters arising from the Minutes which were not already included on the agenda.</p> <p>No comments concerning the minutes or matters arising were received.</p> <p>Actions from the previous meeting were considered:</p> <p>8.2 Governors to discuss how they can make monitoring visits more rigorous at a future meeting. On agenda</p> <p>10.0 RF to draft some wording around appropriate security on online platforms for staff. RF shared a draft of his wording at the meeting. A 2-page document aimed at staff for improving their awareness of online safety has been drafted for governors to consider. RF will share the document with BM and EC.</p> <p>Action: Recommendations for the storing of online passwords will be shared with senior leaders after the meeting.</p>	RF
6.	<p>Governor Monitoring</p> <p>6.1 <u>Review of Annual Schedule of Work 2023-24</u> The Annual Schedule of Work 2023-24 was circulated ahead of the meeting and reviewed by governors.</p> <p>Action: JCa will follow up with LH concerning her T&L Committee related monitoring visit.</p> <p>6.2 <u>Discussion on governor monitoring activities</u> The Website audit has been completed by RF. The next step is to meet the Ofsted objective around giving parents more access to their children’s learning. The new website provides more scope to allow subject leaders to do this. It will be a great opportunity for Subject Links to monitor the content on the website, which can be carried out remotely whilst helping rapid progress in this area. Link Governors will provide a valuable insight of end-user experience for their subject monitoring objectives. A full overview will be shared at the next FGB meeting in December 2023.</p> <p>We were successful in obtaining a £6k bid from the Wind Farm supporting the OPAL Project. The PTA will support the shortfall. In terms of the SDP, this has provided a good ahead start on this objective. The funding has allowed the project to be brought forward.</p>	JCa



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<p>7.</p>	<p>Behaviour / SEND (SI)</p> <p>A Head from a Special School has visited the school with regards a specialist provision for a high-needs child. They were very complimentary about the school’s SEND provision. BM gave her thanks to the team of staff who have worked around this child; they have gone above and beyond in supporting his needs whilst he has been in school.</p> <p>The school continues to be in regular dialogue with the SEND Team at the local authority. BM explained alternative provision to governors. A small cohort of children with high needs remaining at school are not eligible for alternative provision. NTS have worked with the school, offering specialist tutoring off site. The school remains responsible for the safeguarding of that child. In consideration of risk, there is the space for this provision to be held on site. EHCPs cover the cost of a 1:1 which can support their individual care plans. This arrangement has proved very successful; the tutors that come to school are exceptional and are forming positive relationships with the staff team. Thanks to EC and the team for working with the local authority to ensure this provision. Places in special schools are very limited, the local authority are now working with schools to find alternative solutions. Now the high needs cohort have been considered, it allows children with medium need can be prioritized.</p> <p>Behaviour logs are reducing. Dangerous behaviour has dropped significantly. Governors were advised of an anonymized update on behavioural challenges currently experienced in school. In terms of high-level SEND and behaviour, things are looking a lot more settled in this regard. Governors learnt of the lack of capacity in the local authority SEND Team.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, what were your reservations in terms of safeguarding risk for tutoring these children off-site? The local authority has an agreed list of providers but, they do not go out and risk assess the venues being utilised. The buildings are not equipped to keep these learners safe. The school site is secure – there are protocols in place for any eventuality. An off-site arrangement would not provide this level of reassurance for school leaders. Thankfully, there is the space in school to support these provisions.</p> <p>A anonymized discussion took place concerning the reduced timetable arrangements for some children. Reduced timetables are in place to retain contact with learners which ultimately supports attendance and engagement in learning.</p> <p>Governors congratulated school staff for improving opportunities for this small cohort of children. It is a real success that all these learners are now happy to be in school. The school continues to be as inclusive as possible without becoming a SEND specialist provision for the county.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Quality of Teaching (SI)</p> <p>8.1 <u>Catch-up / Interventions (SI)</u> Nothing to report. See item below.</p> <p>8.2 <u>Teaching & Learning Related Safeguarding Update</u></p>	



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	<p>The school has lost one of the school's qualified tutors – which impacts numbers not provision. We are now in the third year of the tutor programme; funding is reducing year on year. There will be tutoring continuing next year, but it will look slightly different.</p>	
9.	<p>Policies for Review</p> <p>9.1 <u>SEND Policy</u> There are no significant changes to the content. Ratification: Governors unanimously approved the SEND Policy.</p> <p>Action: RF to contact the SENDCo thanking her for her continued support to the school – the evidence of her impact is very much acknowledged.</p> <p>9.2 <u>Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy</u> In consideration of good practice suggested by the local authority, a combined policy will be redrafted next academic year supporting the medical needs of all children. There were no significant changes to the current draft. Ratification: Governors unanimously approved the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.</p> <p>9.3 <u>EYFS Policy</u> – deferred to next meeting.</p> <p>9.4 <u>RSE Policy</u> – deferred to December 2023 FGB meeting.</p>	RF
10.	<p>Any Other Business There were no strategic items of business.</p>	
11.	<p>Date/Time and Agenda Items for Next Meeting The next meeting is planned for 5th March 2024 at 7pm. This will be a virtual meeting.</p> <p>No further questions or comments were received. The meeting closed at 7.50pm.</p>	

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ACTION GRID FROM T&L COMMITTEE MEETING, 28th NOV 2023

	Item	Owner	Deadline
5.0	Recommendations for the storing of online passwords will be shared with senior leaders after the meeting.	RF	ASAP
6.1	JCa will follow up with LH concerning her T&L Committee related monitoring visit.	JCa	Next meeting
9.1	RF to contact the SENDCo thanking her for her continued support to the school – the evidence of her impact is very much acknowledged.	RF	ASAP

Dates of FGB Meetings 2023-2024 – to start at 7pm

Safeguarding Training & Governor social – w/c 11th-22nd Sept - TBC

Tues - 26th September 2023

Tues - 5th December 2023

Tues - 6th February 2024

Tues – 19th March 2024

Thurs 9th May 2024

Tues 2nd July 2024

Dates of Committee Meetings 2022-2023 – to start at 7pm

T&L Committee (Tues) – 3rd Oct, 28th Nov, 5th March 2024, 16th July

P&R Committee (Weds) – 11th Oct, 22nd Nov, 24th Jan 2024, Tues - 12th March 2024,
Tuesday 23rd Apr, 19th June

Staff Governor Social – Thursday 18th July 2024