



**Governing Body of the Winchcombe School
Minutes of the Governing Board
Monday 11 July 2022 at 5.00pm**

Present: Rachel Redgwell (RR) Chair of Governors; Neil Pilsworth (NP) Head teacher, Natasha Grove (NG) (elected staff governor); Regina Kosa (RK) (elected parent governor); Liam Anderson (LA) co-opted governor
Apologies: Derek Peaple (DP) (Vice Chair) co-opted governor; Kathryn Bowers (KB) parent governor
Absent: Harriet Skinner (HS), Clerk
In attendance: Elode Scarlett (ES), Deputy HT; Sheilagh Peacock (SP), School Business Manager (SBM); Sharon Goddard (SG), visitor

Key: Strategic direction/Challenge or Question/Answer/Action/Extract
1.Apologies Derek Peaple (DP) (Vice Chair) co-opted governor, Kathryn Bowers (KB) parent governor <i>The meeting was quorate</i>
2.Declaration of any other business None
3.Declaration of interests None
4. Minutes of the meeting of 28 April 2022 It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and were signed by RR. Clerk to upload minutes to the school website: ASAP
5. Matters arising There were no matters arising.
6.Appointment of Co-opted Governor SG left the room whilst the Governors discussed her application. RR asked the Governors for any comment and it was agreed to elect SG. RR welcomed SG back to the room and to the role of Co-opted Governor, starting from 11/7/22. Clerk to update website, advise WBC Governor Services, add to Governor Hub.
7. Governor Roles Over the last two years it has been difficult to put ideas into practice due to the pandemic but now is the time to move this forward. The recent Ofsted visit, whilst complementary about the curriculum itself, challenged the in-depth knowledge of subject leads, which will be addressed from September. The following expressed interest in the following roles from September: Communications Governor: Regina Kosa Data Governor: Derek Peaple Development Governor: Liam Anderson Disadvantaged & PP Lead Governor: Derek Peaple

Equalities Monitoring Governor: Kathryn Bowers

Health & Safety Governor: Regina Kosa

Safeguarding Governor: Rachel Redgwell

SEND Governor: Sharon Goddard

Website Monitoring Governor: Regina Kosa

LA/NP to arrange a meeting to discuss curriculum development Autumn Term 2022.

8. Headteacher's Report

SLT currently working on implementation plans which will be shared along with the updated SIP in September. Generally looking at fewer things in greater depth which will then feed into the professional learning schedule.

There has been a trend of dangerous behaviours over the last year and the school is struggling to cater for some children's needs, which WBC external agencies have said are outside the scope of a state mainstream school. Fixed term exclusions have increased because of the behaviour, including 4 individuals in Y6. The implementation plans will also aim to improve behaviour, reduce low level disruption, and cater for highest needs.

SG noted that persistent absence was quite high. NP responded that a lot of this was still Covid-related and also that he had been lenient with holidays which had had to be cancelled previously. Also, late arrival to school increased the absence figures, as did medical appointments which do need to be honoured. LA asked what plans were in place to combat persistent absence and lateness to which NP replied that the FSWs and the school receptionist were working closely together identifying and working with families to bring the absence and late arrival down. Prior to the pandemic members of the SLT were in reception to ask children why they were late and to encourage parents to send their children to school on time. This will be reintroduced in September.

SG had observed that there was a lower intake in nursery in 2021 and queried the numbers in September 22 for the nursery and FS2. NP and SP were able to confirm that there is a higher intake in the nursery this year and that FS2 was full with a waiting list of 20.

RR noted the number of leavers and queried why children were leaving. NP responded that generally these were families leaving the area. RR also asked about the increase in EHCPs. NP agreed that the number of EHCPs was a challenge to the school and he was working with WBC to try and address this. Also, 3 Y6 children needed EHCPs in place so that they were able to access the ACE unit at Trinity.

SG sought clarification on the term "Big Questions". NP explained that each unit of work for each subject is driven by a "big question" which is a method to try and streamline factual knowledge in order for the children to retain more information.

SG had noted that the phonics score was 82% and wondered whether this was an improvement on last year. NP was able to confirm that it was.

LA queried the SEF at Grade 2 and NP was able to confirm that following the Ofsted inspection and work done since November 2021 he was confident in this grading.

RK queried the progress on values. NP is planning to invite parents to school in September to share the four new values Respect, Kindness, Curiosity and Courage. LA commented that the parent session on values was well received and appreciated by the parents.

NP will send out further information on the values to FGB before the inset day on 5 September. All Governors are invited to the morning of the Inset day for safeguarding training. Please confirm your attendance with the Clerk.

9. Headline Data

ES introduced the data and reported that while the FS & Phonics results were good, KS1 results have taken a hit because of the pandemic, but this seems to be the trend across West Berkshire. Overall KS2 was good, comparison with national data cannot take place till information is published in October. ES commented that she would have preferred more Greater Depth (GD)

in writing, Maths results were good but again, GD down and Grammar also good. Across the board the combined score was down but taken within the context of Covid and two Y6 teachers long term ill with the infection, the SLT were pleased with the results. NP agreed and feels that the Ofsted grade of Good has been vindicated whilst also being aware that KS1 has been hardest hit and the focus needs to be on closing the gap.

SG queried the PPG and SEND results within the data and ES explained that further information will come out within the PPG and SEND reports.

10. Safeguarding

RR reported that she had visited school and carried out the termly check on the SCR and confirmed the DBS updates were going ahead. The FSWs were doing a marvellous job working with the vulnerable children and confirmed that there were 3 open cases with social workers and 9 Children in Need (CiN). These children were well known to the school with provisions in place. Levels of risk vary but not at risk overall as they were already recognised by the school and other external agencies.

11. Health & Safety

RK came into school in May to do the Summer term walk round and record checks. All in order and any outstanding items have been done or will be done over the summer holidays, for example reviewing the COSHH files.

There were no further accidents or incidents to report other than those in the HT report.

12. Health & Safety Policy

The new H&S policy had been distributed to Governors previously. SP commented that it was in a much-reduced form and therefore easily accessible. The new policy was adopted unanimously by members.

13. Report from Finance & HR Committee

Minutes from the F&HR meeting held on 20 June had been circulated previously. Recent decisions had included the employment of two, rather than one LSA as the school is struggling to operate with so many SEND children. This will adversely affect the budget which will probably sink into deficit by the end of the financial year.

RR queried whether a letter had been sent out to parents regarding school meals cost increase, swimming costs and contributions to extra-curricular activities. SP confirmed a draft had been put together and it was being decided whether to include all the cost implications in one letter. School meals will be increased from £2.40 to £2.50, in line with another school which has in-house catering. SG queried charging for swimming lessons and SP advised that this was done previously, and several other schools also charged. Costs had been reduced by children walking to the pool rather than using a coach. The letter will be sent out to parents before the end of term in order to give them notice before the start of the new academic year.

It was confirmed that FOWS had regained charity status and was proving active with an end of term Bar-B-Q planned on 15 July. Other events scheduled include a Halloween Disco and a new and improved Christmas Fayre. Staff members, including NG, had joined FOWS which has encouraged other members of staff to help out with events. RR encouraged the Governors to attend these events.

14. AOB

None

Date and time of next meeting

Monday 19 September 2022 at 5.00pm

The meeting closed at 5.58pm

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