



Minutes of Thirsk Community Primary School Governing Board held Online on Monday 8 March 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: David Duffey (DD) (Chair), Richard Chandler (RC) (Headteacher), Jason Tazzyman (JT) (Vice Chair), Stuart Mountford (SM), Jenny Buck (JB), Lucy Minican (LM), Gemma Wall (GW) Lisa Garthwaite (LG) Becky Kaufman (BK)

Apologies: None

In attendance: Sheila White (Clerk)

No 20/21	Item	Action
PART 'A' – Governance		
6.1	Welcome The Chair opened the meeting at 6.15pm and thanked all governors for attending.	
6.2	Apologies and determine whether absences should be consented to There were no apologies.	
6.3	Declaration of Interest There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.	
6.4	Notification of any other urgent business RC advised Governors that Ofsted has announced their intention to resume Section 5 inspections after Easter. Since the school is due for an inspection it is sensible to assume this will happen sooner rather than later. RC would like the SLT and Governors to be best prepared and with that in mind he has arranged for some on line training with Mike Smith (MS). MS will research the school and provide tailor made training looking at what to expect. Governors agreed that with the focus having been so much on Covid and remote/in school learning it is timely to refocus on the schools 'normal' activities. RC offered several dates and governors agreed Tuesday 16 March 2021 in the evening for 90 to 120 minutes. The training will be open to governors, SLT and other teaching staff. GQ: Will the inspections be remote or in school? A. it is not entirely clear, physical visits are what has been suggested. GQ: Will the inspections be the quality of education framework since there is no up to date national data? A. That is the assumption. There is no national data since 2019 except for some year 2 phonics in November 20. It is likely to be curriculum and what is in pupils books. Anthony Cowley (AC) who processes the school data is keen to do some training on internal data and the dashboard. RC offered several dates and governors agreed Thursday 25 March 2021 in the evening. RC will contact MS and AC to finalise arrangements and will confirm dates and times for both sets of training to Governors via email.	Head All
6.5	Correspondence None	
6.9	Reports from SLT autumn data	

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1

The data was circulated to all governors prior to the meeting. RC gave an overview of the whole school. Data shows pupils made good or outstanding progress in reading writing and maths in all year groups. For some pupils attainment is lower. This is likely to have been impacted by the long absence in the first lockdown. Subject leads gave a detailed precis of maths, writing, reading and PPG/SEN. EYFS will be considered at the next FGB

Maths

Kate Gloag discussed progress and attainment against national values for all year groups. Most year groups showed no significant difference between boys and girls and PPG and non PPG. McKie Mastery is well embedded. Year 4 has a high proportion of SEND pupils. Areas being targeted are all where attainment is below standard and greater depth where there are high figures at ARE.

GQ: What is the baseline for progress. Is it from the end of the last school year? A. It is from the beginning of September as lockdown was still in place for most pupils in July 20. The impact in the autumn term shows good rapid progress. The McKie Mastery approach works well for catch up.

GQ: How do the current year 6 compare with last years? A. Attainment is much higher.

GQ: When will pupils be tested again? A. The plan for the first three weeks is that the first week is wellbeing/emotional checks/PHSE. From weeks 2 and 3 assessments will take place. Pupils will be reassessed before Easter and the data given to AC who prepares the data sets for the school. AC has a quick turnaround. It is a tight timetable but the expectation is that SLT will receive the data after the Easter break and the results will be available for the next FGB on 12 April.

Now all pupils are back and there is some form of normality it was agreed governors with subject oversight will recommence a closer focus. SM is the governor with oversight on maths.

Writing

RC led this as subject lead Lillian is unavailable today. The overall picture is similar to maths in that attainment is mixed and progress good or outstanding. Year 4 are significantly below for the same reasons as in other subjects. Writing has been harder hit during lockdown. It is felt this is because reading is easier to do at home and maths easier to check remotely but across the board pupils writing has suffered in lockdown. Writing has been prioritised in the autumn term and this has resulted in much good or outstanding progress. Unsurprisingly attainment is not yet there. The data supports that the curriculum is correct in terms of progress and this will be continued. The school will put portfolios together to illustrate pupils progress. No moderation events took place in the autumn term.

GQ: When sustained data is available is it envisaged that the sunshine room will show difference? A. BK will address this fully later but essentially a lot of children in years 3 and 4 are on pivot to track progress.

GQ: Pupils who were in school in the first lockdown are more likely to be PPG. Should the impact of lockdown be less on these pupils? A. During the first lockdown key workers pupils as well as vulnerable pupils were eligible to be in school. Then reception, year 2 and year 6 were allowed in. This means many children had no in school learning for six months. The emphasis in the first lockdown was much more on wellbeing and keeping children safe rather than prioritising learning. The latest lockdown had a much higher focus on learning along with improved methods for achieving remote learning. It is too early to draw conclusions from the second school lockdown but when available this data might be more useful in terms of comparison.

SM

	<p>GQ: Do staff regularly moderate? Greater depth for example can be subjective. A. Yes moderation is vital. There has been less recently because of circumstances. Bubbles mean it is difficult to swap book for example. There has been moderation by SLT but recommencing increased moderation across the board is the aim.</p> <p>GQ: When will reports and parents evenings recommence? A. It is felt that this year reports will be more meaningful towards the end of the summer term. There is a view that mid term reports can be more useful as this facilitates timely home support. An end of year report can sometimes be lost over the summer holidays when pupils then return to a different teacher. These are all considerations the school take into account. The longer term aim is to return to mid term reports. Pupil forums will be considered as a method of letting pupils know where they need to be.</p> <p>As above, with all pupils back and some form of normality, it was agreed governors with subject oversight will recommence a closer focus. DD and LM share oversight on curriculum and writing.</p> <p><u>Reading</u></p> <p>GW presented the data and invited questions. Overall trends are similar to other subjects and positive. Progress is good or outstanding. For all except year 4 attainment is higher than national values. All staff have had training on phonics letters and sounds and GW has had further training and is designing a plan for each child where there is a gap. Online contact is planned with these pupils parents/carers on 22 March. Data shows an increasing gap between PPG and non PPG in years 1 and 2. This is concerning and is being addressed as a priority.</p> <p>GQ: There are differences between some of the data on the charts sent prior to the meeting and that presented tonight? This can be confusing. A. The data produced by AC did not include the pupils tracked on Pivot. The attainment data covers all pupils but the progress is children being measured at ARE and not Pivot so the figures needed adjusting. This is being discussed with AC to find a way of presenting the data sets so they can be compared.</p> <p><u>SEND and PPG</u></p> <p>BK explained that for SEND pupils working below the Key Stages ARE is not appropriate as they would never be able to show progress. A system called Pivot breaks progress into very much smaller chunks and enables progress to be measured. Some pupils in every year use Pivot with a larger number in year 4. Many pupils have made very good progress on Pivot but attainment is far below national far below national values. Pupils here tend not to like reading and writing, they usually prefer maths.</p> <p>The sunshine room is not designed for SEND pupils. Its aim is much broader to accommodate pupils with emotional social and mental health issues. So not all 'Pivot pupils' use the sunshine room and not all sunshine room users are on Pivot. Similarly a good number of PPG pupils are SEND but there is no correlation. PPG in the school is currently 34%.</p> <p>KG, BK and LM left the meeting at 19.58pm</p>	<p>Head</p> <p>DD</p> <p>LM</p>
6.6	<p>Approve the Minutes from 8 February 2021</p> <p><u>Approval</u> – The minutes of the Full Governing Board (FGB) meeting held on 8 February 2021, which were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting, were deemed as a true record, with the following amendment and will be duly APPROVED and SIGNED by the Chair, DD.</p>	
6.7	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>5.6 An action point required on this item. RC to follow up.</p>	Head

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3

	<p>5.10 RC contacted Donna Makepeace (DM) at NYCC re obtaining the data set and he was referred to another person who is currently on leave but will hopefully contact RC on his return to work on the 15 March.</p> <p>5.11 RC reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a contact has looked over the school website and feedback with constructive comments - a contact has agreed to produce a promotional video for the school free of charge. This is excellent news. It was agreed to hold back work on the video until the weather improves and all the children are settled back in school. The video will be put on the school website in the first instance. - he approached DM who is not hopeful of any support from NYCC on this issue but she is looking into it. - Thanks to the head of Easingwold school the yarn bombers have got involved and are producing twenty white roses to distribute around Thirsk. There will be a Thirsk CP School White Rose hunt over the Easter holidays with children encouraged to spot as many white roses as they can. The event will begin after the 29 March when hopefully larger groups will be allowed to meet outside. - Jasmine Harrison made headlines recently being the youngest female to row solo across the Atlantic. Being from this area it is hoped she may make an appearance at or near the school. <p>5.16 Advertising for new governors is now circulated in three different areas, the newsletter, Indeed and NYCC website. LG drafted a flyer that is ready to be distributed to GP surgeries and other public spaces as soon as appropriate.</p>	
6.8	<p>Governor Training</p> <p>LG and JB completed the investigating complaints training on 10 Feb.</p> <p>SM has completed mental health first aider training stage 2 and will do stage 3 in two weeks time.</p> <p>LG and SM agreed to do the safer recruitment training. It is necessary to have up to date training within the board on this. It is a two hour online course.</p>	<p>LG</p> <p>SM</p>
PART 'B' - Resources/ Improvement		
6.10	<p>School Financial Value Standard</p> <p>This was circulated to governors prior to the meeting. JB has been in discussion with the school business manager (SBM).</p> <p>GQ: Why is spend on other than staffing costs in the highest 10% of schools? A. To ensure the answer is entirely accurate RC will talk with SBM and email JB within the next few weeks.</p> <p>GQ: The percentage of pupil premium (PPG) pupils does not match with the figure given in the data discussed above at 6.9. A. This is likely because the figure varies over time. RC will follow up.</p> <p>Following the meeting it was confirmed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the higher cost is due to the remainder of EMS costs falling within the 20-21 budget and these costs were covered by NYCC. -the proportion of PPG pupils has risen from 29% to 34% since the 2019 census. 	<p>Head</p> <p>Head</p>
6.11	<p>Feedback from link Governors</p> <p>None. All governors agreed to increase link activity as the school opens up.</p> <p>The wider opening of schools update document and the term date calendar were circulated to governors prior to the meeting for information.</p>	All

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4

PART 'C' – Other

6.12	Proposed staffing structure 2021-22 This is to be discussed under confidential.	
6.13	Policies The following policies were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capability policy and procedure • DBS policy • EYFS key person policy and procedures Amendment replace what is a key person to who is a key person • Information security incident reporting • Privacy notice • Visitor and speaker policy GQ: Are we exposed at all in terms of open events such as summer fair? A . Agreed no because this is arranged by PTA and they have public liability insurance plus there is always a risk assessment conversation before any event. Children who attend the fair as there under the protection of their parent or guardian. With the amendment shown the above policies were approved by governors.	Head
6.14	Safeguarding / Child Protection All governors agreed the NYCC safeguarding audit.	
6.15	How has this meeting impacted on the welfare and progress of our pupils? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors reviewed the data and identified groups of children needing more support • Governors reviewed and agreed the safeguarding audit. • Governors reviewed the SFV. Governors reviewed the reopening of school to all pupils.	
6.16	AOB <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was confirmed that the next FGB is 12 April, the first day of the return to school after Easter. SLT will review the end of term data in advance of the 12 April FGB. There is a discrepancy between the different lists of school governors and their terms of office. The school website to be amended to match NYCC information. Governors would like a new copy of the instrument of government. The clerk to email this to governors.	Head Clerk
6.17	Confidential staffing/school update <u>Confidential Item</u> – please refer to the confidential minutes.	
6.18	Date of Next Meeting 12 April 2021 at 6.15pm 12 April 2021 10 May 2021 14 June 2021 12 July 2021	
Please note: The colour coding above links to the three key roles of governance questioning;		

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5

RED for 'setting strategic direction',

BLUE for 'holding Headteacher to account for educational performance'

GREEN for 'ensuring financial health, probity and value for money'.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.20pm

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6

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