



Minutes of Thirsk Community Primary School Governing Board held Online on Monday 12 July 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: David Duffey (DD) (Chair), Richard Chandler (RC) (Headteacher), Jason Tazzyman (JT) (Vice Chair), Stuart Mountford (SM), Jenny Buck (JB), Gemma Wall (GW) Lisa Garthwaite (LG) Jane Grainger (JG), Rachael Pearce (RP),

Apologies: Lucy Minican (LM)

In attendance: Kate Booth (KB) Prospective Governor, Sheila White (Clerk) Jane Jackson (New Clerk)

No 20/21	Item	Action
PART 'A' – Governance		
10.1	Welcome The Chair opened the meeting at 6.17pm and thanked all governors for attending. A warm welcome was extended to RP and JG as governors and KB as prospective governor.	
10.2	Apologies and determine whether absences should be consented to Apologies were given and accepted from LM. JT joined the meeting after the start.	
10.3	Declaration of Interest JG notified the board that she works for NYCC. RP will be working for Thirsk school in future. These are appropriate declarations. It was agreed that now they are noted these declarations do not need to be made at every meeting. When there is an agenda item with a possible conflict of interest JG and RP will notify the board and absent themselves from such discussions or decisions as necessary.	
10.4	Notification of any other urgent business None	
10.5	Correspondence None	
	JT joined the meeting at 6.22pm	
10.6	Approve the Minutes from 14 June 2021 <u>Approval</u> – The minutes of the Full Governing Board (FGB) meeting held on 14 June 2021, which were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting, were deemed as a true record, with the following amendments, and will be duly approved and signed by the Chair DD. <u>Amendments</u> 9.10 The first two lines to read - JB has been into school twice for reading and writing and produced two reports. The reports are uploaded for governors to read. 9.10 add On 26 May SM visited the school and had a useful and in depth discussion with Sam Collier re science.	
10.7	Matters arising 9.7 JB has been in contact with the school business manager and whilst there is a cost to the Smart boards this is covered by a PTA donation so it is no additional cost to the	

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	<p>school to go ahead with the Smart boards. The boards will be installed in the first week of the summer holidays with repainting scheduled for the second week.</p> <p>9.8 SM is to liaise with RC over possible dates for the mental health training. SM advises level 1 mental health training is the most appropriate for governors and suggests splitting this normally one day course into two sessions.</p> <p>8.7- RC confirmed that it is possible to separate out the data for pupils in and out of school and Anthony Conlin (AC) is working on this. The data will be uploaded to the governor area when available.</p> <p>- RC clarified that the colours on the charts move through light green to purple as progress is made. The colours are a representation of the levels, 1-, 1=, 1+ and 1 mastery. So, for any topic, in the autumn term it is expected that pupils would be at 1-. They can do the work with support but do not yet have a proficient grasp of the curriculum. Thus 1- is 'on track' for pupils in the autumn term as pupils are expected to be at the beginning of their journey. As pupils travel through the school year they would expect to gain more mastery of the curriculum. In the spring term 1= is appropriate and 1+ in the summer term. The expectation is for pupils to move across as the terms progress.</p>	SM/Head
10.8	<p>Governor Training</p> <p>LG, JG and RP have done safeguarding training. LG has also done Compass Buzz level 1.</p>	
PART 'B' - School Improvement		
10.9	<p>Headteachers Report</p> <p>RC reported that a teaching member of staff has a new job and will be leaving at some point up to the end of the autumn term. The leaving date will depend upon when the new appointee is able to start. RC asked for governors interested and able to be on the interviewing panel for a new teacher on Monday 21 July. RP and JT are able to do this. RC thanked the governors and will liaise with them.</p> <p>RC gave his heartfelt thanks to DD as Chair of the Governing body for all of his hard work and support during his term of office and also JT as Vice Chair for his long period of supporting the school. Their time, work and commitment has been hugely appreciated. RC also thanked all of the staff at school for their hard work and commitment during this time.</p> <p><u>COVID-19 Update</u></p> <p>On Tuesday 6th July 2021 the government produced its latest guidance relating to how the bubble structure may come to an end from July 19th 2021. The most significant change will be the end of bubbles and significant changes to what happens in the case of a positive case. Throughout the pandemic the school has continue to provide continue of routine, structure and learning for pupils. Staff at the school have worked tirelessly to do this providing remote learning and provided face to face teaching. For the majority of the year the school has been very fortunate to have very few cases of Covid and when these have occurred they have been during holidays or when pupils or staff have not been attending school. However, over the last two weeks the relaxing of restrictions has seen an increase in cases and this has impacted on the school and its pupils. During that last two weeks of term the EYFS bubble closed as the result of 1 positive test from staff working in the EYFS, a further positive covid test from a member of staff already isolating at the time and 4 members of staff having to isolate as they have been identified through the NHS Covid-19 APP. Over the coming days the school will look closely at the new guidance and seek to implement it in school. Any changes that are made will be in line with national guidance and the risk assessment developed by the local authority.</p>	Head RP, JT

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The systems in place during under the previous guidance will be examined and will be continued where they have had a positive impact. Systems such as the one way system to drop pupils in to school and the smaller break times have been successful. However, systems that create additional work for staff will be phased out. For the final week of term there will be no significant changes to the organisation of school.

Quality of education

Despite the impact of a disrupted academic year the school has continued to develop, deepen and broaden its curriculum. Sequencing of learning is very important across the whole curriculum. With the exception of the humanities, all subject leaders have worked with an NLE, Ian Clennan, to develop and challenge their understanding of subject leadership. Ian is currently the Headteacher of Selby Academy school and is also an OFSTED inspector. During the series of interviews he has challenged staff about the subject leadership focussing specifically on the structure and organisation of learning. Subject leaders have interviewed well and have been able to articulate clearly the structure and organisation of the curriculum that they lead. Catch-up across the whole of the curriculum is something that will continue in to the next academic year. This is because within almost all subjects there are units of learning that have been missed, each subject leader has mapped these out for each year group and planning is adapted.

Curriculum

The implementation of the redeveloped curriculum has successfully continued, monitoring of pupils topic books indicates that pupils learning across the curriculum is much improved and across a wide range of subjects. The quality of geography (which is this terms 'driver' subject) has been significantly improved with pupils having the opportunity to catch-up on learning that has been missed due to the periods of school closures. In the new academic year there are further improvements to the curriculum that the school would like to implement. These include carefully defining the tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary across all subjects in the school and continuing to develop the structure of the curriculum to make the most of links between subjects.

The curriculum has been further enhanced by enrichment weeks that have included a STEM week with a very memorable visit from a dinosaur and a Sports enrichment week. The school has worked hard to provide additional opportunities for pupils. Further information is under curriculum enrichment below.

Overall evaluation of the quality of teaching including McKie Mastery:

Regular monitoring of pupils' books indicated that the structure of McKie Mastery is now secure throughout the school. The relentless focus that the school has had on reading and the teaching of reading is now beginning to have an impact on pupil outcomes. Pupils' books in English pupil show indicate that pupils have developed much strengthened comprehension skills. More pupils are now able to read fluently and with greater comprehension. Teaching of reading throughout the school is now good. The McKie structure is replicated consistently and this means that pupils are meeting a range of texts and improving their reading ability. At the beginning of term all Teaching Assistants carried out additional phonics training on the letters and sounds this has been used to support phonics catch-up intervention. The 'everyone everyday' reading at home expectation has had a significant impact on this.

Book scrutiny shows the quality of teaching of maths is consistently high throughout the school. The McKie structure is well understood and consistently applied. Pupils are regularly challenged in calculations, reasoning and problems solving. Where maths teaching needs to further develop is in relation to ensuring that even more pupils have better mental maths skills. To do this staff are being training in CLIC maths. This will impact on pupils reasoning and problem solving abilities.

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Data

Currently the in year data is being analysed by the school data company. RC will upload this to the governors area when it becomes available. The end of year data for years 6 and 2 and EYFS has been voluntarily moderated by the LA. There is no national data to consider. The data for 2021 is unofficial. The benchmark value has been generated by the School Data Company based on the results from the schools that they work with. This is a sample of over 100 schools. Reading has improved dramatically across the school and as well as the pupils themselves thanks are due to the staff and JB as reading governor for their hard work and commitment. RC advised that maths needs to be a focus for next year to ensure it stays strong.

GQ: In the light of the effect of the pandemic the figures for reading are outstanding? A. Yes. Reading skills are applicable across the curriculum and are possibly not as highly impacted by home schooling as maths say, which does need to be taught. It is easier for pupils to get on with reading remotely.

Behaviour

Behaviour throughout the school continues to be good. Pupils follow the schools golden rules and adults have positive relationships with pupils. The use of the learning behaviours are well established.

Bullying

There have been no incidents in school. This was borne out by the Pupil Voice. This maybe due to i) the bubble structure of playtimes meaning that pupils remain with the same group of children throughout the day ii) the continued use of TAs for duties iii) pupils feel safe and trust that adults in school will resolve issues. The number of racist incidents has increased. These are all inappropriate use of language that would be considered as having racist connotations.

eSafety log

This has increased reflecting the every greater availability of technology to primary age pupils. Since the return to school in March we have been involved in resolving issues with pupils in Y5/6 relating to Tiktok and Snapchat. Year 6 pupils have had additional learning provided by the police community officer. During pupil interviews pupils speak with good knowledge about keeping safe online.

Enrichment highlights

Over the Summer term the school has worked tirelessly to enrich the curriculum for pupils. Despite the current restrictions the school has organised a number of event to enrich the curriculum for pupils. Fortunately the weather allowed events to take place outside. Events have included a Sport Enrichment Week. During the week, pupils had the opportunity to take part in rock-climbing, dance, wheelchair basketball, skip to be fit and even The author of the month and composer of the month have been re-established. The school hosted Sowerby Music 'six pack' Jazz group with pupils participating in music workshops with the group. The Year Six production on the outdoor stage was an amazing example of the determination to give pupils more of a normal end to the year. Year 6 pupils were able to enjoy a residential to Peat Rigg. Other events have included Year 2 and the Sunshine rooms visit to the Seaside. The PTA sponsored walk was a huge success and raised just under £2k. Seven separate sports days allowed parents to come in to school to see pupils in action.

Value of the week has been re-established, with pupils celebrating the school values of Perseverance, Enjoyment, Excellence, Compassion and Respect.

Attendance

Attendance is 96.3% as at 2 July. There is quite a gap between disadvantaged and advantaged pupils attendance. Addressing this continues to be a priority for next year.

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	On behalf of all governors DD thanked RC for his comprehensive report.	
10.10	Feedback from Link Governors DD undertook a pupil voice on safeguarding. It was good to see the children and hear what they said. Despite the pandemic pupils were very switched on to safeguarding issues. They were particularly strong on online safety bullying and relationships. The pupils were less confident on identifying school rules and religions of the world. RC feels that this may be due to the lack of whole school assemblies because of Covid restrictions and this should improve. Pupils have been given this information but it is difficult to monitor remotely.	
10.11	Chair and Deputy Chair roles. No one has so far volunteered for the role of Chair. RC has spoken with Donna Makepeace at NYCC who had two suggestions, encouraging an interim Chair for possibly just the first term, or taking it in turns to be Chair and effectively chair the meetings in rotation. It was felt the second option is not viable as it is not just a matter of chairing the meetings but having a chair in position to answer queries/ steer the board in between meetings. GQ: Are NYCC able to provide a Chair? A. That does not appear to be a possibility. The local authority (LA) may suggest an LA governor in due course but this is not linked to the role of Chair. SM offered and all governors agreed to his becoming interim Chair from September. In the meantime governors are asked to consider standing for deputy or co Chair as discussed at the previous meeting. A number of governors are very new to the board and it may be in six months they are more confident to take on the role or joint role. Many thanks were expressed to SM and to all governors for the hard work they undertake on behalf of the school.	All Governors
PART 'C' – Other		
10.12	Confirm Governing Board dates for 21-22 It was agreed that FGB will continue on the second Monday of the month. With the proviso that where this falls on the first day of term or half term the date will be shifted. The dates are 13 September 21 11 October 21 8 November 21 13 December 21 10 January 22 14 February 22 14 March 22 4 April 22 (early to avoid Easter holidays) 9 May 22 13 June 22 11 July 22	
10.13	Agree schedule of work for 21-22 It was agreed that this needs to be updated. RC is available in the second half of next week and LG agreed to assist. The revised document will be brought to a future FGB.	Head LG

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	The clerk to send a copy of the existing schedule to RC and LG. <i>This was done on 14 July.</i>	Clerk
10.14	Policies The following policies were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility plan 2021-23 RC to check the dates of the accessibility plan and why a section is highlighted in yellow. • Flexible working policy and job share guidance • Induction checklist • Induction policy • Probationary procedure • Resolving issues at work policy and procedure With the above proviso on the accessibility plan all the above policies were approved by governors.	Head
10.15	Safeguarding / Child Protection This was covered in the Headteachers report at 10.9 above.	
10.16	How has this meeting impacted on the welfare and progress of our pupils? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors considered end of term data • Governors considered the enrichment activity week and its effect on pupils wellbeing. • Governors examined the outcome of the pupil voice on safeguarding. 	
10.17	AOB - Some policies have been uploaded without the amendments. Do we need a better system for ensuring this can't happen in future. All the amendments are noted in the minutes. It was agreed the issue may have arisen due to there currently being no hard, signed copies. Ordinarily DD would sign the copy before it is sent out and this can't currently happen. It is expected this will improve in September when we are back in face to face contact. - Governors expressed their desire to meet face to face as soon as possible. It is hoped and expected that the September FGB will be held in person at the school. This is obviously subject to any government guidelines/directives. - DD thanked all governors for their hard work and commitment. There have been many visits into school by governors. Staff appreciate governors taking the time to do this as reflecting on their practice and events with governors helps clarify issues. This knowledge exchange also means governors are better informed.	
10.18	Confidential staffing/school update There were no confidential items to discuss.	
10.19	Date of Next Meeting 13 September 2021 at 6.15pm	
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'.		

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.45pm

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