

St Barnabas CE Primary School
Minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting
Held at 4pm Thursday 15th June 2017

Present: Brian Lennon (Chair), Karen Boardman (Headteacher), Anne Rawlinson, Mike Grant, Martin Cumming, Helen de Saram, Anne Williamson

In attendance: Eileen Connolly

Apologies: None

1. Welcome

KB welcomed everyone.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 9th March. No matters arising that wouldn't be addressed through agenda items.

3. Marking and Feedback Policy

Karen Boardman introduced the policy which detailed the practices that had been developed and implemented in school following initial staff training in October 2016. The policy was underpinned by the message that high quality immediate verbal feedback was more effective than long written comments in pupils' books. The policy also referred to guidance from the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (NCTEM).

Questions from governors:

How are the codes used?

KB explained that the codes were used in margins in exercise books to indicate to children that an error needed correcting on this line. The extent to which the error is indicated varies according to the age and needs of the pupil but overall the aim is to help pupils to be responsible for checking and correcting an error or 'slip'.

How do teachers check pupils are correcting spellings?

MC explained that children correct spellings using their 'purple polishing pen' so it can be seen clearly by teachers.

What happens if children correct it wrongly?

The teacher notes it as a spelling that may need working on as a class or highlights it to the child as they are aware of the children that are prone to copying words incorrectly from dictionaries and word lists.

The policy was adopted.

4. Feedback from the Year 2 and Year 6 SATs tests

Governors looked through blank copies of the tests that had been completed by Year 2 and Year 6 pupils. They agreed that it was useful to see the standard of the tests. Discussion took place about the range of vocabulary that pupils needed to understand in order to be able to be successful in the tests. One of the texts in the Year 2 reading tests was about a Native American, referred to as a 'Brave' which was an unfamiliar theme for most children.

5. Update on progress towards school improvement priorities in:

a) Maths

Teachers have been trialling new resources to support planning from the White Rose Maths Hub. Feedback is that they are very useful in helping to ensure coverage and teaching at the standard expected for the specific year group. Some staff have been

developing 'Bar Modelling' which is a way for pupils to visualise and draw a model to help solve a problem. Julie Woolgar as maths leader is currently undertaking some training with the White Rose Maths Hub to be a professional development leader of maths in school.

b) English

Classes, especially KS2 classes have been working on reading using different strategies including whole class reading rather than guided reading, improving reading stamina and improving understanding of vocabulary. This is an area that will continue to be developed in 2017-18.

Moderation of writing had taken place across the school to help staff gain a shared understanding of the expectations.

Talk for Writing seems to be having a positive impact but boys writing and spelling continue to be areas to improve.

c) SEN

Anne W (SEN link governor) and Martin Cumming have met recently. The number of pupils on the SEN register is stable at the moment. MC reported that he is currently evaluating the impact of the new Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and the increased involvement of parents in setting and reviewing the targets.

A pupil will be attending the Dyslexia ERP in the mornings from September to receive the additional support they need.

At the termly Pupil Progress Meetings, the SENCO and all teaching staff involved with a class have attended in order to develop a shared understanding of the progress of pupils and strategies needed to support.

MC is working on a new SEN policy.

The school has an increasing number of pupils with medical needs which is taking a great deal of staff time, however each of these children do not qualify for an Education Health Care Plan which would provide additional funding. The idea of employing a care assistant was discussed if there were opportunities to employ additional support staff.

Anne R asked if there were many children with autism in school.

MC reported that there is a growing number of pupils on the autistic spectrum. One pupil has a confirmed diagnosis and 2 pupils are currently being assessed through Limetrees. Class teachers have had support and guidance from the autism teaching team.

6. Draft school improvement priorities September 2017

Kb explained that these would include: Maths – bar modelling and reasoning, Mental Health, continuing to develop Growth Mindset, Talk for Writing and vocabulary to support understanding in reading.

7. Draft class arrangements Sept 2017

KB explained the classes are planned to be arranged as follows: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3/4, Year 4/5, Year 5/6.

8. AOB - none

9. Date and time of next meeting – to be set along with dates for FGB meetings.