

ST BARNABAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
MINUTES OF THE TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2015

Present

Brian Lennon (Chair), Karen Boardman (Headteacher), Mike Grant, Joyanne Ball , Ursula Simpson, Martin Cumming, Andrea Mann

In attendance

Brenda Christison (Deputy Headteacher/English Leader), Sarah Curry (EYFS), Nicola Mitchell (Minute taking)

Apologies

Anne Williamson

1 Welcome

KB welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Election of Chair of the Committee

Brian Lennon was elected as Chair of the Committee, nominated by Mike Grant and seconded by Joyanne Ball.

3 Terms of Reference

KB asked all members to read the Terms of Reference to ensure that they understood the remit of this committee. Terms of Reference were approved.

4 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 16th June 2015 were approved.

5 Matters Arising

- KB is looking into Hi-viz jacket suppliers and will report back at the next meeting.
- Car park closure: A parent/childminder had spoken to KB to ask if it was possible for them to park in the car park due to the number of children they bring to school. All agreed that no exceptions could be made and the car park will remain closed.
- Home School Agreement has been amended as agreed and sent out to all pupils.
- KS2 Spelling Bee: The school performed well with a Year 3 winner, and a Year 5 runner up.

6 Report about EYFS Principles into Practice Project

KB gave a brief overview of the project which is new national initiative. Sarah Curry explained the basic principles of the project, highlighting the changes from the current group based learning to more child lead learning. Teachers are encouraged to leave the children for up to an hour, so that they can get really involved in their play. Martin Cumming presented his findings from the day and felt that his children may need to be pushed further whilst still allowing them the freedom to do whatever activity they choose. The project Tutor has informed them that it will take at least 2 years to embed this project, with the ultimate aim that the children become better learners. The Tutor will visit the school in the near future to assess the layout of the classrooms and may recommend some changes. The cost of this project is £2,500 per school and £1000 per teacher for extra training. KB explained that this has been partially subsidised by the cluster group.

7 Collective Worship Policy

KB suggested that she meets with the Church School Committee to discuss collective worship and will report back her findings at the next meeting.

8 Changes to end of Key Stage tests for Year 2 and Year 6

KB handed out some examples of the new tests for members to view. The tests are aimed at all levels with questions increasing in difficulty towards the end of the test. It was highlighted that the children will have to use instant recall to answer the first questions in order for them to complete the tests within the time limits.

9 Changes to assessment in school

KB highlighted the importance of preparing the children for these new tests and as a result the school have subscribed to Assertive Mentoring Grammar, Spelling and Maths assessment materials. 'Grammar Hammer' provide 15 sheets per year for children in Year 2 and above: the class work together on a sheet the first week and then the children complete the sheet themselves the following week. This will help the children to get used to the types of questions used in the new tests. 'Maths Key Skills' works in a similar way, with 1 test every 2 weeks, thus encouraging children to try and beat their previous scores. This is similar to Big Maths CLIC tests but using wider types of questions. All children have been tested using last years' test I maths. Results show that very few children performed at the level of their year group. On speaking to other schools KB found that they had similar outcomes. Feedback from the teachers showed that the children enjoyed using the sheets and learning in this way.

10 Current and planned interventions to support learning

BC explained 'Toe to Toe' which is a back to basics method of teaching literacy, with proven results and appeals to children with particular needs.

MC informed the committee that the school have subscribed to 'Nessy', an online learning tool which moves children through phonics. This has been purchased for 15 children who need extra phonics support.

11 AOB

None

12 Date and time for future meetings

23.2.16 and 14.6.16