



Oldcastle Primary School
Inspire ★ Motivate ★ Educate
Mrs Ceri Littlewood
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Minutes Curriculum 19.09.22 4.30pm

Present – Barrie Lewis, Heather Holder, Ceri Littlewood, Sara Peters, Nia Vaughan, Janine Burr, Amanda Moore.

Apologies – Nerys Sales, Damian Faulkner, Page Blower, Lynn Walters.

Non-attendees - Martin Smidman, Gemma Poupon, Ian Williams, Mathew Jones, Jack Shaw.

2. To confirm the elected chair for the curriculum committee for the school year 2022-2023

For Information	To be Actioned/Response
Heather Holder was elected by the curriculum committee to continue as chair of the committee for the forthcoming school year.	Agreed by all present.

3. SIP and MER Update

For Information	To be Actioned
- An updated School Improvement Plan is available to view in the school drive, the document was updated over the summer following guidance received. - There are now 3 headers instead of the previous 5, Vision and Leadership, Learning and Teaching and Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion. These changes have been discussed with the new School Improvement Partner and approved. - An additional column has been added 'Rational' this will allow us to record our findings following self-evaluation. - A governor asked how Estyn will be inspecting and what they will look at in relation to the SIP? The Headteacher responded that Estyn will continue to inspect looking at the 5 areas however it is expected that they will not grade schools for a trial period of two years when a new frame work is likely to be available. There is a meeting next week to clarify however our self-improvement partner has approved the move to 3 areas as these are now the areas of focus. - The MER (Monitor, Evaluation and Review) sits behind the SIP and also fits in with the three areas, this is a working document and is updated regularly. This document sits within the school drive and is available to view at any time.	Noted

4. Learning and Teaching Professional development.

For Information	To be Actioned/Response
- A professional development plan was provided detailing the training plan for staff. - There is a training plan on literacy, which focuses on the new literacy scheme, Inset days are planned and staff seem to like the way it is moving forward. - Staff have looked at what good teaching and learning looks like and identified 9 areas that they would like to improve. - Training in the nine areas has just commenced and will roll out over the next term. For example, Mrs Burr has just delivered a 'developing relationships' training session which was particularly useful. This means that we can have a whole school approach to areas that we think need to be improved. - The new AOLE teams meet every two weeks and the school has directed the focus this term. This will ensure they use the time to research and prioritise, moving forward they will develop as a team and provide their own focus.	Noted

5. Challenge Advisor update

For Information	To be Actioned
- The school has a new Improvement Partner Simon Roberts who visited the school last week. He loved the school and commented on the good ethos and how well behaved the children were. He was also particularly impressed with how the school had used all the available space to provide specific learning areas, for example the Radio Station and the Sensory Room. - Simon had offered to come to meet governors, governors stated that this was a good idea and agreed to invite him to the next full governing body meeting.	- Noted - Ceri Littlewood will extend an invite.

6. Curriculum Committee school visits

For Information	To be Actioned
- The school currently has AOLE linked governors who focus on their particular area, this term the school would like to change the focus and choose one or two areas where a group of governors come into school as a team focusing on a particular area, the suggestion was Literacy for this term. - A governor asked if this would have a detrimental effect on the other AOLE's. The Headteacher responded that she didn't think it would as governors could return to their link AOLE's in the summer term. This would give the new AOLE teams a little time to find their feet and invest time in their subject before link governors visit. - Following discussion, it was agreed that literacy would be the focus for this term, Damian Faulkner is the link governor for literacy and it would seem sensible that he sits on this governor team, Heather Holder and Amanda Moore also volunteered.	DF, HH and AM will plan a visit to the school in November to focus on literacy and the new scheme to see how it is working and what impact is being made.

7. Literacy Update

For Information	To be Actioned
- Mrs Burr gave a brief overview of the new literacy scheme 'The Literacy Curriculum'. It's a text based scheme focusing on books, there is a lot more writing going on in school, pupils look at images and text within the books, unpick the story and discuss characters, they then write up their findings. - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have moved back to Read Write Inc and the Oxford Learning Tree Books. - Year 3 to 6 will have a class book which will be the focus in school but will be able to read for pleasure and enjoyment, choosing books they love to read. The old Accelerated Reading scheme sometimes stopped advancement as the quiz often discouraged reading. - A governor asked if the books they will now be able to choose will be levelled as in the old system. The Headteacher responded that there is no levelling system but that this will now be teacher led. Reading for pleasure instead of reading to answer quiz questions. The teaching of reading will now come from the class book, where they will learn as a whole class. Assessment will also happen in class. - There is also a spelling seeds link with the new literacy scheme which is much more meaningful and purposeful as it links to the class book. - The school is also about to commence Voice 21, an oracy programme for classrooms which has been given to the school from CSC, training is due to commence shortly. - Feed back form both staff and pupils so far is good.	

8. AOB

For Information	To be Actioned
- As per a previous email sent out, the toilet upgrade is due to commence in the next two weeks and a meeting is planned next week with BCBC and the contractor to plan the works and put a robust risk assessment in place. - Discussion was held around the date for the finance meeting (4th October), a request was made for a movement of	- Noted - AW will email all governors.

the date, this was agreed and the meeting was moved to 11th October.	
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All documents relating to the meeting were available to view and comment on in the Governor Drive prior to the meeting.

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

H Holder

Chair of the Curriculum Committee – Heather Holder

15/11/22
Date