

TURNFURLONG INFANT SCHOOL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Full Governing Board – Curriculum Focus of Turnfurlong Infant School held at the school on 8th March 2023 at 9.30am.

PRESENT:

Mrs L Arnott

Mrs G Hudson

Mr R Lloyd

Mrs R Ochiltree (Headteacher)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs R Weymouth (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

Mrs H Burnett

Mr D Burry

Mrs C Austin

ACTION

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked Governors for attending. Apologies were noted and accepted.

Mrs Arnott was welcomed to her first meeting as Staff Governor.

2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items would be discussed under Any Other Business;

- Mayoral Project

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs G Hudson declared that she is a Governor at Turnfurlong Junior School and works at Aylesbury High School.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 2nd FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 2ND February 2023, having been circulated, were confirmed.

4.1 MATTERS ARISING

Confirm signatories to school bank account

This matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

5 CURRICULUM

Student Data

Circulated prior to the meeting, Governors noted Autumn Term Data and EYFS data showing the percentage of children likely to reach Good Level of Development (GLD). The Headteacher advised;

- Over the last 5 years the number of children with SEND has increased. EAL has been constant and deprivation increased with a dramatic uplift post pandemic.
- When EAL children start in EYFS they are generally lower ability. This year it is likely that those children in EYFS that do not reach all prime areas, especially Communications and Language, are most likely to be SEND and EAL children.
- This year the school are predicting that 70% of the EYFS cohort will reach GLD which will be above national and local data.
- The cohort of children at the school is not typical of other areas of Buckinghamshire and whilst being in line with national is benchmark for the school, having data better than the Buckinghamshire average shows strong quality of teaching.
- Overtime EAL children make a rapid improvement in Year 1 and the gap narrows. Last academic year EAL children in Year 2 did better than any other group and better than national and local data.
- When looking at data of the past 5 years the deprivation gap is closing which suggests the school are addressing the needs of these children better.
- For children with SEND there is also a positive trend in terms of outcomes. The SENCO is now 3 days a week and there are more children with SEND as they are identified earlier in the nursery and pre-school. In terms of the number of children with EHCP's the school are in line with other schools but have more children with needs each year on the SEND Register. The school therefore spend more on Support Staff than other comparator schools (as seen in financial benchmarking) and this the reason why.
- When Ofsted inspectors come to the school, they will ask what actions the school have taken post Covid, and the headline information is sustained continued improvement. Governors asked;

Writing is a challenge for children and is lower than other areas. Is this a focus? Responding, the Staff Governor advised that the majority of SEND children enjoy maths and find writing and reading more challenging as the processing of information is difficult.

How can the school address the gap for writing? Responding, the Headteacher advised that for deprivation this is partly due to the Covid gap. Generally writing was still above local and national data, but is lower than it has been in previous years. The children in Year 2 were affected by the lockdown when in Reception and the main focus is improvement.

The school are also involved in Voice21 which is happening in a number of other local schools and will focus on strategies to develop comprehension and language skills across the curriculum which will benefit writing.

The Staff Governor advised that it is also important that parents understand that children require inference and the ability to decode when they are reading in order to improve writing.

Is a parent session required for this around the comprehension element? Responding, the Headteacher advised that this could be possible and may be a joint project with the junior school. A session did take place for parents on maths mastery and this had positive impact. The next parents' morning would be a session about Eid which Governors are welcome to attend.

The Headteacher advised that overall data is positive and SEND is now static which had been a comment of the Ofsted inspector at the last inspection.

The Staff Governor advised that it would be useful to tell other members of staff about the positive data so that people know they are doing a good job and are contributing to this.

The Headteacher advised that this is shared at SLT for Year Leaders to filter this to all staff. Last academic year children that had social care involvement did very well and this was shared with staff. Information about data could also be shared in TA meetings.

Governors discussed that the positive messages about data would also help to support Staff Wellbeing.

6 GOVERNOR SUBJECT VISITS

Mrs Hudson advised that she would be completing an EYFS report to be tabled at the next meeting.

The Staff Governor advised that the Music Lead from the junior school has been coming to teach music at the school and these have been extremely fun and positive sessions for children.

Agenda

The Headteacher advised that this has been gifted to the school and it is unlikely the school will be able to afford this next year if the arrangement changes.

7 WELLBEING – STUDENT AND STAFF

The Staff Governor advised that the ethos of the school has changed a lot and from a staff perspective is a much better place to work. Staff feel happy to move between classes, free flow, and feel welcome in other classes which is great for transition for the children. There is also a wellbeing WhatsApp group that staff use for birthdays and helping each other.

Governors discussed that the board have tried to focus on staff wellbeing and its importance as well as student wellbeing. A Wellbeing Governor (Mr R Lloyd) has been appointed and it is good to hear this feedback from a staff member.

The Headteacher advised that the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) is changing to a different provider.

The school have a demo from a new company, but this has not yet been progressed. Responding, the Headteacher advised that she would review this and provide an update at the next meeting.

The Headteacher advised that purchasing CPOMs has been excellent for staff in terms of documenting incidents and concerns quicker and easier with instant actions. 97% of the concerns listed do require some form of action but the software will be far more efficient when inspected and during the holidays when the site is closed.

The Headteacher advised that a pupil and parent survey will be conducted before the end of term.

The Headteacher advised that a new TA had started in Year 1 as well as a new TA in the nursery to support a child with significant SEND.

8 POLICIES

Circulated prior to the meeting, Governors reviewed and agreed the Looked After Children Policy.

The Attendance Policy had been reviewed and agreed at the last meeting.

9 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates and times of future meetings had previously been agreed:

Agenda

Headteacher

		ACTION
<p>Spring Term:</p> <p>23rd Mar 23 – FGB</p> <p>Summer Term:</p> <p>11th May 23 – F & P</p> <p>24th May 23 – P & C (9.10am)</p> <p>15th Jun 23 - FGB</p>		
10	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Mayor is arranging free tickets for children and for adults “pay what you like” for the last Aylesbury United football match of the season. The Headteacher advised that this information could be circulated to parents.</p> <p>The Headteacher advised that an Eid party is taking place on 28th April 2023 which Governors are invited to attend.</p>	<p>Headteacher</p> <p>All Governors</p>
11	<p>CONDUCT OF MEETING</p> <p>Governors confirmed that the meeting was conducted in an open manner and that all governors were invited to participate and contribute to discussions. It was confirmed that all members of the Governing Board would have access to these minutes <i>(with the exception of any Restricted Confidential Minutes)</i>.</p>	

The meeting closed at 10.40am.

Signed Date

CHAIR