



# St George's Primary School

St George's Primary School

Curriculum and Pastoral Committee Meeting

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

Lower Site 5:30pm

## Present

<b>Community Governors</b>	B. Clark P. Walters	Chair of C&P Committee
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<b>Parent Governors</b>	C. Scott P. Dunning R. Olsen	
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<b>Staff Governors</b>	B. Cassidy L. Horton	Headteacher
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<b>Also Present</b>	T. Skarratts-Jackson K. Choudhary L. Binks G. Dunne S. Huxley J. Taylor	Clerk
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<b>Apologies</b>	N. Sullivan M. Wiggins K. Wadcock	
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## Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of AoB

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Chair welcomed the group and apologies were accepted as above.

## Item 2 Minutes of previous meeting

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Accepted as a true and accurate record.

## Item 3 Action Points from Previous meeting

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All action point from previous meeting have been addressed.

## Item 4 School Development Plan

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School Development Plan circulated as part of the papers.

C&PC reminded that this is a standing agenda item that provides an opportunity for C&PC to raise any questioned relating to the School Development Plan.

C&PC stated that there is no specific issue to be raised.

## **Item 5 SEND Update**

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SEND Update circulated as part of the papers.

C&PC welcomed Sonya Huxley to the meeting. She delivered a verbal update as per circulated presentation regarding successes and challenges in SEND improvements. Discussion points included;

- Outcome Support Plans
- SEND Waves Framework
- Person Centred Profiles
- Class Files
- Interventions
- Intervention Map
- Intervention Tracking Document
- SEND Staff Training 2017/18
- Data
- Progress of SEN
- 2018/19 Priorities
- SEND Investment

C&PC stated that they recognised the importance of identifying pupil needs as early as possible when they come into school. As such, do early years' staff receive extra training to detect any additional need?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that early years' staff do receive supplemental speech and language training and suggested that staff are skilled in recognising poor motor coordination. SLT stated that the school performed a WELLCOM Assessment for the whole Nursey and Reception cohort to identify any particular needs and the school has midyear reviewed the assessment to make sure pupils are making the right progress. Any flagged issues are passed to S. Huxley and where necessary, signposted to external agencies.

C&PC asked if there a lengthy waiting list for external agencies?

**RESOLUTION:** YES. SLT stated that the school has not had access to an LA Educational Phycologist for the whole of the academic year due to LA staff absence. As such, the school's commissioned Educational Phycologist has had to take the brunt of an increased workload. SLT stated that the LA staffing issue has very recently been resolved and as such the school can start making external referrals again. Current waiting times are upward of 3 months.

C&PC asked can any of this work be this be picked up in school to negate waiting times?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that this is already happening in house citing that the school is spending circa £80k more in this area than in the previous academic year. It was suggested that there is an issue of sustainability moving forward.

C&PC asked if there increase spending is because there are more pupils with additional needs?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT stated it is not necessarily that there are more pupils but rather the school has become much better and more rigorous in identifying pupil needs early on.

C&PC asked what PFA and EHCP stands for?

**RESOLUTION:** Pupil Funding Application (PFA) and Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

With regards to Progress of SEN when compared to the rest of the school, C&PC asked is the schools lower average points score in reading something mirrored nationally?

**RESOLUTION:** Yes, however writing is usually the area that falls lowest.

C&PC asked how the school manages outside influence on a pupil's progress? Is there a point where the school can simply say there is no more that the school can do as the barrier to learning is external?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that the onus is on the school for putting the pupil first and ensuring that best measures in places even if there are external factors impinging progress. C&PC informed that the school has to put measures in place irrespective of funding.

C&PC asked how early are pupils with issues such as dyslexia being picked up?

**RESOLUTION:** Historically they have been picked up however this is not until year 3 (as per British Dyslexia Association guidance) as the signs that a pupil is not just simply trying to 'catch up' become more apparent. A diagnosis has to be persistent and over time but the school can make adjustments to the pupils needs that does not require anything particularly strenuous nor financially restrictive.

C&PC asked does assess for Irlens Syndrome?

**RESOLUTION:** The school cannot assess for Irlens Syndrome as this need to be diagnosed by a trained optician. Geographically, the closest specialist is in Liverpool.

CP&C thanked S. Huxley for her endeavours in this area.

**ACTION CP11(05/18):** SLT to share a list of useful acronyms on the shared drive.

S. Huxley left the meeting.

## **Item 6 LA SEND Review**

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LA Send Review circulated as part of the papers.

B. Cassidy highlighted the challenging context in which the school is operating reminding C&PC that the all Wirral LA schools agreed to contribute 0.5% of their budget to support the rationalisation of Special Education Needs across the borough.

C&PC informed that the LA pulled the SEND Plan at the very last minute. As such, the LA currently has all Wirral schools 0.5% contributions and they are being challenged to return this immediately.

The LA have commissioned a SEND Review and asked schools to 'bear with them' however it was suggested that there is work going on that has little to no impact on SEND priorities. It was stated that all schools are facing a crisis at the moment and there is significant lobbying taking place.

The feedback and outcomes of the SEND Review is expected end of the 17/18 academic year.

C&PC asked what is the monetary value of 0.5% of the school's budget?

**RESOLUTION:** £16k. Across the borough it is £1m

## Item 7 OTIP Update

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OTIP update circulated as part of the papers.

C&PC welcomed Jennifer Taylor to the meeting. She delivered a verbal update as per circulated paper regarding Outstanding Teaching Intervention Support (OTIP) programme this academic year and plans for progressing into 2019-20.

J. Taylor informed C&PC that she is the lead OTIP Practitioner for the school and delivers training for school staff.

Anecdotally, SLT suggested the impact of the course is easily recognisable in the school environment, stating that it is apparent with staff have had the training by the material on display in classrooms.

C&PC asked how many school staff are in each training cohort?

**RESOLUTION:** 4 per cohort. The school has had 20 staff through the programme with training being delivered to Year 5 & 6 staff as a priority. J. Taylor is currently engaging with year 3 & 4 staff and there are plans for J. Taylor to visit EYFS staff in the coming week to assess how the training best fits with this cohort.

B. Cassidy reminded C&PC that the cost with OSIRIS was £10k per cohort and that while numerous Governors suggested that this was not sustainable in previous meeting, SLT identified the pressing need to invest in staff training as a priority. J. Taylor's commitment has been a significant success.

C&PC asked if new staff will go through the training?

**RESOLUTION:** Yes, new staff will have the training.

C&PC asked is it possible to expand the course so that staff member who have been through it can become trainers?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT would like to adopt this model however it is very challenging and great demand on staff time. The school is developing a staff meeting for OTIP staff on 4<sup>th</sup> July '18 to discuss this further. SLT have had discussions about any staff that have shown leadership quality in the programme and there is one potential candidate.

C&PC thanked for J. Taylor for her endeavours with OTIP.

**J. Taylor and L. Binks left the meeting.**

## Item 8 Curriculum Development Plan

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Curriculum Development Plan circulated as part of the papers.

B. Cassidy summarised the school's curriculum development plans for all non-core subject for Governor feedback.

It was suggested that the school is mirroring what has already happening in core subjects; English, Maths, Science, Computing and PE as set out in the Schools Development Plan. The challenge from OFSTED was to meet core subject standard in non-core subjects. B. Cassidy stated that the reality facing is that the school is not currently not meeting these standard in non-core subjects. As such, the school need to raise the bar.

Where there is an obvious skill shortage with the school, SLT are looking to commission work in where specialism is needed, for example, French speaking colleagues for MFL lessons.

B. Cassidy tabled a History curriculum paper to demonstrate the schools working progresses in developing a curriculum plan and suggested that the school is focusing on planning and coordination across staff teams to enhance the curriculum experience for pupil. Where appropriate, the school is moving away from Power Point presentations with the view to 'making things come alive' and providing something more tangible. For example, (as discussed in previous meetings) the school has developed links with a school in China and facilitates Skype calls between pupils and their Chinese peers.

It was stated that mapping out curriculum in so many areas is a massive challenge and made even harder when considering the school's ethos and moral duty towards Spiritual, Social, Cultural and Education.

## **Item 9 Spring Term Attendance Report**

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L. Horton tabled a report and highlighted the data contained within the report.

Overall, the figures are very positive however the data does suggest that there is an issue with persistent absence. There are currently 62 pupils whose attendance is below the school's benchmark of 90%. C&PC informed that the school is addressing this issue and (in the first instance) a Learning Mentor is tasked with calling and chasing poor attendance. If poor attendance escalates to persistent poor attendance that this issue is signposted to SLT for further intervention.

In a number of cases, SLT have conducted home visits and engaged external agencies to ensure that pupils receive the necessary support network to ensure attendance at school.

C&PC informed that the school is dealing with one case where one pupils attendance is less than 50% for the entire academic year. SLT and engaged with the family and other external agencies to address this and it is an ongoing issue.

C&PC asked is there a particular reason for this pupil's absence?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that there is no medical reason cited for the persistent absence.

B. Clark stated that this issue had been picked up in Standards Committee and as such, some Governors are aware of the issue.

When the school engages can we offer the mini bus to pick up?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT stated the school cannot resource such a course of action.

It was stated that the school's main cohort attendance data is looking really healthy however the school PP persistence attendance data is not enjoying the same levels of success – which is affecting the overall school position.

**A.Ward left the meeting**

## **Item 10 Spring Term Behaviour Report**

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B. Cassidy tabled a report and verbally updated C&PC on Spring Term behaviour.

The data suggest that overall, the school is seeing very positive trends in behaviour with the number of yellow and red card being issued significantly down.

The school has issued 87 red cards across the school in the academic year however in the context of over 900 pupils, this figure is very good. It was stated that SLT cannot remember the last time a red card was issued in the classroom environment, instead suggesting that cards issued were for social behaviours outside of the learning environment – both inside and outside the school. Anecdotally, B. Cassidy informed C&PC that he was forced to issue 5 red cards this week for an incident outside of school for behaviour that did not demonstrate the school ethos.

The school has not had any exclusion in the spring term and has only issued one exclusion this academic year. This is significantly down from the previous academic year where the number was circa 45 exclusions.

The school has logged 3 racist incidents this academic year – all surrounding the issue of inappropriate use of language and in each case the school has worked with the families and the pupil regarding education and support.

### **Item 11 Spring Term Safeguarding Report**

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Spring Term Safeguarding Report circulated as part of the papers.

T. Skarratts-Jackson discussed the Spring Term safeguarding report in capacity as schools designated safeguarding officer.

C&PC informed that the school the safeguarding team had received 44 safeguarding concerns raised by staff however only 4 have been escalated.

One of the biggest issues facing safeguarding (as with other areas such as SEND) within the school is building confidence with staff and supporting them within their pastoral roles – roles which they are embracing.

C&PC asked are staff getting more confident?

**RESOLUTION:** Yes, but SLT are engaging with staff that are not as confident.

Is there scope for pupil and parents to self-refer?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT suggested that there is health watch on the school website which offers opportunities for referral and support to those that need it.

T. Skarratts-Jackson informed C&PC that her and a colleague were scheduled to attend a two day training course however this has been rescheduled to June '18.

C&PC asked are safeguarding issues more concentrated on top site given older age?

**RESOLUTION:** No, the school faces the same amount of referral and challenge across both sites.

### **Item 12 Review School's Anti Bullying Policy**

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Anti-Bullying Policy circulated as part of the papers.

SLT is not recommending any changes to the policy.

C&PC asked how does the number of reported incidents compare to previous years?

**RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that it is very difficult to compare to previous years as the systems for recording were not as rigorous nor robust and recorded differently.

C&PC Committee accepted renewal of policy with no adaptations.

#### **Item 13 2018-19 INSET Dates**

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B. Cassidy outlined the school's proposed INSET Days as follows;

- 3rd Sept Resilience and New Curriculum
- 4th Sept Maths am – Safety and Safeguarding including Lockdown training (pm)
- 19th October Cluster - Developing Foundation Subjects/ADHD for SEND
- 29th October English Curriculum
- 21st December (exchanged for 3 twi-lights on new curriculum model)

C&PC asked if all INSET dates been moved to the Autumn term be design?

**RESOLUTION:** Yes, dates moved to Autumn so that the school staff can embed the training throughout the remaining academic year.

B. Clark stated that Standards Committee Governors had been made aware of the INSET training dates and invited to attend.

**ACTION CP12(05/18):** B. Cassidy to make sure that the dates are shared with all Governors and extend invitation.

#### **Item 14 Review Priorities for Curriculum and Pastoral Committee**

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C&PC reminded that K. Choudhary recently send email outlining the recently renewed NGA Gold Membership and the group encouraged to log onto this resource. C&PC also reminded of access rights to The Key and online training by Educare.

As per discussed in other committees, K. Choudhary and B. Cassidy are currently looking at way of improving Governor Visit Record processes to ensure the new curriculum changes are successful.

Anecdotally, C&PC suggested that teachers sometimes feel that they are being assessed when Governors visit.

**RESOLUTION:** SLT suggested that teacher might feel this way however but will get better over time as the culture becomes more transparent within the school.

#### **Item 15 Annual Planner**

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Annual Planner circulated as part of the papers.

CP reviewed and agreed Annual planner for Curriculum and Pastoral Care Committee stating it clearly maps direction of travel for the school. **As such, C&PC ratified the Annual Planner.**

#### **Item 16 Date and focus of next meeting**

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**Meeting Finished @ 7:30pm**

Date of next meeting – to be arranged

Chair Sign Off





Item	Summary of actions from C&P meeting	Whom	Date to be completed
5	<b>CP11(05/18):</b> SLT to share a list of useful acronyms on the shared drive.	SLT	May '18