

West Cliff Primary School

Standards Committee Meeting

22nd April 2015

PRESENT: Susan Clough Head Christina Zanelli Tyler
Diana Jeuda
Dot Russell Mark Burnett
Clerk Peter Geer

S15/01 The meeting was opened at 1600 hours.

S15/02 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Jo Shipton and Mathew Brown

S15/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

S15/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 2015 were proposed as accurate by CZ and were approved by all as a correct record.

S15/05 Matters Arising

None

S15/06 Analysis of Data

The Headteacher explained that as had been discussed at previous meetings the transition period with life after levels means that there is no data available for the Governors to view.

The Governors asked about Year 6 as they will still be assessed under the 'old' levels system. The Headteacher explained that their forecasts were that the results would show that progress would be strong but that attainment would be down on that of the Year 6 from last year. The Governors asked why attainment would be lower. The Headteacher confirmed that three children have joined the school in Year 6 and two of them would not be in a position to be entered for the SATs - this would automatically bring down the percentages. There are also a further three pupils with significant learning difficulties who will not be entered for all tests.

The Governors asked about the progress of Year 6. The Headteacher confirmed that all children bar one are expected to reach two levels of progress and there were specific reasons for that one pupil.

The Governors asked about the influx of pupils in this year group. The Headteacher confirmed to the Governors that 9 out of the 29 had joined the school during Key Stage 2. The Governors noted that these children brought with them new perspectives and backgrounds and that the school as a whole had gained by the addition of these pupils.

The Governors noted that from the evidence of transfers to the school, as well as from discussions in the local area, that it was clear that the school was gaining a reputation as being outstanding at dealing with pupils with significant difficulties. The Governors appreciated that this would have an impact on the SAT results and on attainment figures but agreed that it was a cornerstone of school ethos that they welcome all pupils regardless of the challenges.

S15/07 Maths and Literacy

The Headteacher confirmed that good progress was being made in Maths and in Literacy across all year groups; in particular Year 4 was an exceptionally strong cohort.

The Governors will continue to monitor this through lesson observations and book trawls.

S15/08 Improve Quality of Teaching

The Artsmark Gold has now been achieved and an application for the Science Quality mark has been submitted. The feedback from NYCC who checked the application for the Science Quality mark was that it was an exceptionally strong submission.

The Headteacher reported that staff are taking on active leadership roles. Staff are leading their own subjects and taking responsibility for them - but there are consistent approaches and priorities which join them all together.

A teacher attended Stonewall training and this has been cascaded across the school. The Governors asked if homophobic bullying was an issue in the school. The Headteacher did not feel that this was present and the questionnaires which were completed by pupils seemed to confirm this, however there is now a considered and consistent approach in place across all staff to deal with this eventuality.

The Governors noted that the school appears to be gaining a strong reputation within the local community for the quality of education. The Headteacher reported that Reception for 2015/16 will be full for the first time in at least ten years. The Headteacher also reported that when the school has advertised job vacancies they have had lots of interest and lots of strong candidates as people are keen to work at the school.

S15/09 Nurture and Accelerate Vulnerable Learners

Governors have now received training on SEND and DJ is drawing up guidelines for use across the Whitby Town Partnership for monitoring the delivery of SEN provision.

S15/10 New Curriculum

The school pledges have been a success with very positive feedback from the parents, other local schools are now considering rolling out similar systems. The pledge books have now been set up for each child.

S15/11 Develop Global Awareness

The Islamic Development Centre has visited the school again. They worked with the whole school but most specifically with Years 5 & 6 where they discussed extremism and IS. The Governors asked about the response from parents about this. The Headteacher confirmed that while there was some negative feedback from parents this was outweighed by the positive comments.

The Governors noted that SMCS was an area which they should continue to monitor closely; SC will lead and make lesson observations in SMCS.

S15/12 Any Other Business

None

S15/13 The meeting was closed at 1700 hours.

Action

SC to lead on lesson observations on SMCS