

Heaton St Barnabas' CE Primary School

Curriculum/Pastoral/SEN/Admissions Committee Meeting, 17 January 2017

Meeting commenced at 4.16pm

Present: Ms M Phillips (Chair), Mrs D Smith (Head), Mrs J Arif, Mr I Grant

In Attendance: Mrs A Mason (DHT), Mrs S Edwards (Clerk)

In Attendance for staff presentations: Mr P Clark, Mr P Collins, Miss L Marshall, Mrs S Bakal, Miss T White

Action

C12/16 Apologies for Absence/Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Mr Howorth, (apologies were received from Mrs Butler after the meeting); in line with Governing Body policy no apologies were recorded as being accepted. No declarations of interest.

C13/16 Minutes of 22/11/16 and matters arising

The minutes of 22/11/16 were **agreed** as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

C14/16 Head's report and Curriculum developments

Curriculum presentations:

Forest Schools Mr Clark and Mr Collins were in attendance to report on Forest Schools at HStB and provided the following update:

- The core values of Forest Schools are to inspire, aspire and transform via a holistic and outdoor based approach to learning which enables all abilities to understand themselves as learners
- The Forest Schools approach complements classroom based learning and gives learners small achievable tasks designed to promote self-esteem and confidence
- Forest Schools sessions at HStB are 1hr,40m long and take place weekly in a particular area of Heaton Woods (a different year group each half term). A typical session will start with games followed by two activities and ending with a period of reflection. Pupils are free to choose if they take part in the activities or not
- Activities may include art, fire lighting, cooking, shelter building, tree climbing etc., (governors were shown photos). Children are thoroughly enjoying Forest Schools and parents have commented on the positive benefits. **Would you consider putting on a session for parents?** Yes we will look at that, governors would be very welcome too!
- Personal safety of all participants is obviously of great importance and appropriate risk assessments are carried out prior to every session (eg. assessment of risks due to weather and/or ground conditions etc.). Governors were reminded of the difference between perceived risk and actual risk.

The Committee was very appreciative of the benefits of Forest Schools at HStB and thanked Mr Clark and Mr Collins for all the work they have done on the scheme.

4.30pm Mr Clark and Mr Collins were thanked for attending and left the meeting

4.31pm Miss Marshall, Mrs Bakal and Miss White entered the meeting

Talk4writing project Miss Marshall, Mrs Bakal and Miss White were in attendance to report on Talk4writing at HStB and provided the following update:

- The Talk4writing approach has been used in school for nearly 18 months
- Activities include grammar games at the beginning of every lesson, learning stories to build vocabulary, inventing and writing class and individual stories
- Staff showed governors workbooks which demonstrated the quality and breadth of the final piece of writing compared to the original 'cold task'
- Children learn various strategies (eg. 'boxing up') to help them plan a structured piece of fiction or non-fiction writing
- Each class uses an 'It's Only Words' book to record and develop vocabulary and are challenged to use the words in their writing (governors viewed sample books)
- New work books have been purchased for pupils to present their final work in - parents have commented on the difference these have made to neatness and pride in work etc., (some books will be on view at the school Open Morning, 31 January)
- The Talk4 Writing long term plan is very comprehensive and covers a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts

The Committee was very impressed with the effectiveness of the scheme and thanked staff for all their hard work.

4.44pm Miss Marshall, Mrs Bakal and Miss White were thanked for attending and left the meeting

Head's report:

RE Data for RE is being compiled and will be presented at the next meeting. The recent whole school RE day went very well, in particular the contribution by 'Hand to Mouth'. Children are also learning from and about RE through 'Godly Play'. Next steps for RE will be the implementation of the 'Understanding Christianity' unit.

Science The recent funding bid was unfortunately unsuccessful however the school has been placed on the waiting list. Clare Holt has been engaged to provide CPD for the science co-ordinator and staff with a view to raising the status of science throughout school (including outdoors work investigating the natural world).

EYFS The Early Excellence assessment tool is proving very effective.

Behaviour Mrs Arif highlighted the work of the Peer Mediators and how well this particular cohort of Mediators is operating this year.

Clubs and extra curricular A list of all activities on offer at lunchtime and after school was distributed. Mrs Mason gave details of the success of organised sporting activities which have given more structure to break times.

Governors are very welcome to come into school to run or support a club.

C15/16 Policies

Assessment & marking Minor changes (book bands updated etc); **approved** subject to type correction.

Reading Policy **approved. Governors asked about the impact of the improved reading diary?** Yes these have provoked much better response and feedback from the majority of parents, however some still need to be engaged with reading with their child. Parents' sessions to promote reading are helping with this and the reading lunchtime club is very popular. All classes share a book together every Friday.

5.20pm Mrs Mason left the meeting

Admissions Sentence added to make clear that in-year admissions will be approved by the Governing Body, policy **approved**.

C16/16 Any other business

None.

C17/16 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday 21 March at 4.15pm.**

Meeting closed at 5.25pm

Signed as a correct record..... Date:.....