

**MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE OF ST MATTHEW'S GOVERNING BODY, HELD AT SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2014 AT 5.30 P.M.**

**Present:** Carole Mills (Chair), Jill Tuffnell, Emily Barratt, Sam Wilkes-Read, Tony Davies, Anne Maskell

**1. Apologies for absence**

**ACTION**

Apologies for absence were received from Neil Perry.

**2. Declaration of pecuniary interests**

Governors had no additional interests to declare.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

It was felt that deployment of volunteers in school might be a useful agenda item for a future meeting – Kate Spencer-Allen could be invited to attend as she is currently reviewing how this operates at present. We have recently had former pupils coming into school to help with tutoring, and Caroline Bailey reports this has worked very well in numeracy. Carole said that she has just undertaken a link governor visit for numeracy with Caroline and will write this up for the next meeting. Jill said that she plans to do an art visit school with Lowri Chatfield.

There has been some initial progress data on catch-up programmes after one term, but the data will get progressively more useful so we will review this again in the summer term's meeting.

Now that Rifat has resigned from the governing body there is a vacancy for a link governor for literacy.

**4. Reports from governor visits**

**Music**

The report from Jill's meeting with Emily Barratt on 13<sup>th</sup> January had been distributed with the agenda. Emily briefed Jill on the result of her recent audit/review of music teaching across the school, including a focus on staff skills and confidence in teaching the subject. Emily is currently trialling a new music scheme 'Charanga' which may be a better option to the current scheme of 'Music Express' as it gives more support to non-specialist teachers. It covers all key areas and gives a particular stress on performance. There is felt to be considerable expertise in the parent body in this area, and the directory of parental skills which Sam is planning to put together should be particularly helpful in this area. Jill's report concluded with Emily's aspirations, both in the short- and long-term for the development of music at St Matthew's.

Tony said that he had had a meeting with Cambridgeshire Music to look at ways in which

they could support music teaching in school. Singfest- a school singing festival in which a large number of schools take part, leading to major performances, is based on a model that has run very successfully in London and it was suggested that they could consider helping to fund something similar in Cambridge. Carole said that it would be useful to investigate forging links with Rebecca Lewis, who is curriculum leader for music at Parkside and who is very well regarded and enthusiastic about her subject. New parent governor Mark Tinkler has had a hand in helping to form the Cambridge Music Trust charity to develop music education in the city. A fund-raising concert for music in the school is being held at St Matthew's on 9<sup>th</sup> May. This will feature performances from the school recorder players, the Year Five whole class guitar tuition players and the school choir, accompanied by the Mawson Road Community Orchestra.

## SEN

Lucy's report of her discussion with Sarah Barratt on 25<sup>th</sup> February had also been distributed with the agenda. She looked at the current situation and funding, and how SEN provision at St Matthew's is now organized, with a new intervention and monitoring scheme. There is significant concern regarding the impact of cuts to LA services. It is hoped to have a SEN focus at the next meeting to look at the new SEN code of practice and to invite Lucy, Sarah Barratt and Lindsey Lord.

Governors felt it would be useful to have a breakdown of the different categories of special needs within the current cohort. Tony said that we are increasingly seeing more children with multiple special needs and more children at the lower end of the school on the autistic spectrum.

## **5. Summary report from lesson observation cycle, Autumn 2013**

In this cycle of observations teachers were able to nominate the curriculum area in which they would be observed. In the next round observations will be focused on specific subject areas, with all teachers being observed delivering a literacy and a numeracy lesson, and one other subject area before the end of the year. The aim is to provide a supportive process for developing and improving teachers' classroom practice. Feedback from these observations is tight and focussed and generally felt to be constructive. Governors asked what extra input is given to assist teachers in moving their practice from good to outstanding. Tony said that individual teachers received feedback, advice and, where appropriate, individualised training and support. Any whole school issues are identified and targeted training planned in these areas as part of the school development plan. The most frequent development point to arise from the current cycle is intervening to move children on. When the second round of observations has been completed we will be able to see if the profile changes.

## **6. National Curriculum planning update**

The new National Curriculum has been published and curriculum leaders are currently assessing how our current curriculum meets statutory requirements. It is hoped to have summaries to the Senior Leadership Team after Easter to give an overview of where we are at present and identify what we need to keep and where there are any gaps. Planning time will be organized in the summer term in readiness for the start of the new academic year. Resourcing needs are not too clear at the moment, but it is felt that much is already in place. Consultation on assessment is currently being undertaken, with National Curriculum Levels being discontinued – although Tony said that he gathers from

other schools that most will carry on using them. Carole said that there has also been consultation meetings with publishers, collating examples of good practice, which she has attended.

## **7. Date of next meeting and agenda items**

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30 p.m.

Agenda items to include:

SEN and the implications of the new Code of Practice.

Catch-up programmes.

NC planning update.

Database

Numeracy (or possibly defer this until the autumn meeting)