

ST MATTHEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
Teaching, Learning and Outcomes Committee – Meeting Held at The School
Thursday 20th June 2024 at 17.30hrs

PRESENT: J Parkin (Meeting Chair)

K Kehir

N Perry

C Jagger

A Vedi

S Richardson

R Herbane (Non-Committee member)

T Davies

Headteacher

MINUTES: R Herbane

1. Apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declaration of direct or indirect pecuniary interests relevant to any of the agenda items.

No declarations received.

3. Minutes of the TLOC Meeting held on 8th February 2024.

Passed as being an accurate reflection of the meeting.

4. Matters arising and agreed actions update.

A new Science Link Governor is required, which should be agreed at the July or September Full Governing Body meeting. Due to staff workloads, a Science Link Governor meeting might be more appropriate in September.

5. Initial Outcomes of Key Stage One Phonics Check.

Year 1 – 75% of the children passed the phonics tests. This is the same as the 2023 national average and the Headteacher was pleased with these positive results. This compares with a 71% pass rate in 2023. Pupil Premium children (14) also had an improvement in results. For context, the pre-pandemic results were around 84%. The Headteacher added that the results may be worse next year as there are some children with major SEND requirements that will go into Year 1 next school year.

National averages have dropped and the school takes a cautious approach to giving a GLOD (Good Level of Development) assessment in these tests. New national average data will be published in January and available via *Analyse School Performance* reports.

Year 2 – 84% of the children passed the phonics tests, in comparison with 90% in 2023. This cohort have a high number of children with reading challenges.

Year 3- There is no formal testing, but informal sessions are available. These are catch-up sessions that require additional resources from the school.

The Headteacher emphasised that Phonics is just one element of literacy and reading. The Chair thanked the Headteacher and team for the delivery and implementation of *Monster Phonics*.

A Governor asked if there is an individual or overall approach to supporting Pupil Premium children. The Headteacher said that this forms part of the assessment of the child's overall learning needs and alternative strategies can be put in place to support additional needs, for example small groups. There is an increasing use of Teaching Assistants and volunteers to help with phonics.

6. Link Governor Reports

a) Key Stage Two Statutory Assessment Tests Observation

The report was shared with the committee by R Herbane. This was summarised as:

- 1) Tests were delivered and handled in a compliant manner.
- 2) The children seemed to be happy and focussed in the test environment.

b) SEND and Pupil Premium Link Governor Visit

N Perry had already reported to the Full Governing Body. He added that the support needs are significant and this has placed additional pressure on staff. The School has been applying for a lots of EHCPs but there is a backlog in processing these applications at the Local Authority. Some schools have been waiting for over 20 weeks for confirmation of EHCP funding. In many cases the delays are due to the availability (or lack thereof) of Educational Psychologists that need to provide additional information for the EHCP application.

There are currently 18 children at the School with EHCPs, but this is likely to increase to 28 or 29 in the near future.

A Governor asked why these numbers are so high. The Headteacher explained that the School has a good reputation and that the nearby Special Schools are full. High Needs funding is in deficit and even the construction of a new Special School outside Cambridge is unlikely to reduce the need for High Needs provision at St. Matthews.

A Governor raised a concern that the pressure on teachers could lead to high staff turnover. The Headteacher confirmed that staff turnover at the School is low. Being a three-form entry, there are better support mechanisms for teachers than in a smaller primary school.

c) Mathematics

C Jagger confirmed that after the Mathematics Link Governor meeting, the provision of teaching was in good shape.

d) Early Years Foundation

J Parkin reported on his visit. On a walk around the School he examined childrens' work books for progress and spent some time walking around that part of the school. Feedback from the children is that they enjoy the outdoors area, but would like some monkey bars. He also noticed drainage issue in the outdoor area.

7. Achievement Team Meetings.

The Headteacher ran through an example of a completed (and anonymised) team meeting. The aim is to have these meetings every 4-5 weeks, but they have only been running these meetings for a couple of terms so far.

8. Behaviour and Mental Health - update.

As Sarah Barrett has changed roles, the Headteacher has been looking into different ways of replacing this role. He has decided to create a SLT position (1 day release) with responsibility for Mental Health and Behaviour Management

The school has adopted the STEPS approach, now known as *Cambridge Therapeutic Thinking*. The new SLT role will be advertised internally and the successful candidate will attend a three-day training course at *Cambridge Therapeutic Thinking*.

9. Dates of future meetings and agreed agenda items.

The next TLOC meeting is normally held in November, when data becomes available.

The meeting date will be confirmed at Full Governing Body on 4th July

10. Any Other Business.

Nothing was raised at this point.

The meeting ending at 1857hrs.