

Minutes of Thorpe Primary School Local Governing Body.		
Date: 19.01.22	Time: 5.00pm	Online

Present	
Kate Trethewey	Lisa Lloyd
Colin Hammond	Jo Fillmore
Manoj Subudhi	Tracey Cheung
Anne Clayton	In attendance
	N. Manders-Jones (Clerk)
	Extended S.L.T. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Anderson • Paula Jeremaes • Natalie Oxe • Sophie Halmshaw • Charlie Knudsen • Pauline Martin • Rhian Neville • Helen Charlton

Item No.	Item
1	<p>Welcome and apologies for absence.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Seetal Swan and Trevor Pearce.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Kathryn Bothwell as the new staff Governor.</p> <p>The Chair of Governors invited the staff members and Governors to introduce themselves and overview their Responsibilities.</p> <p>Staff were asked if they had any questions they wished to ask the Governors</p> <p>Q. What is the trust looking for in the new C.E.O., and how much independence Will the schools retain?</p> <p>A. It is expected that very little will change, and the schools will continue to run as independent as possible. The Chair said further updates on the appointment of the C.E.O. would be available later in the term.</p> <p>The Chair of Governors explained that it was the intention to grow the trust to achieve greater financial stability and to increase the number of schools in the trust to around ten schools. In addition to a new C.E.O., the trust will employ a full-time marketing manager,</p>

	<p>Action Chair to attend a staff meeting to share information and trust updates</p> <p>The Governors thanked the staff for their attendance at the meeting.</p>																																		
2	<p>Declaration of interests</p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>																																		
4	<p>Minutes of the last meeting (held on November 9th 2021) The minutes were reviewed and agreed on as an accurate record.</p> <p>Action Chair to sign a hard copy and deliver it to school.</p>																																		
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5.0

Natalie Oxa delivered the Autumn term standards and achievement report previously shared on Governor Hub. Noting

- Every year group met with S.L.T. to discuss data outcomes, and action plans were developed to address issues.
- Outcomes across all cohorts are strongest in maths
- Writing seems to have been the most affected by restrictions due to the difficulty of teaching it remotely,
- Year two has been the cohort most affected by Covid restrictions.

Reading

- Strong progress last term in most year groups
- Attainment increased at expected and greater depth in most year groups
- Cohorts average 1.5 to 2 terms behind

Development Focus

- Y1 P.S.C. (phonics screening check) and Y2 P.S.C. retake
- KS1 and KS2 SATs (currently 32% and 80%)

Writing

- Mixed progress last term in most year groups
- Attainment increases at expected and greater depth in most year groups
- Cohorts average two terms to a year behind

Development Focus

- C.P.D. for teaching and assessing writing with a greater emphasis on oracy (Talk for Writing)
- KS1 and KS2 SATs (currently 44% and 47%)

Maths

- Strong progress last term in all year groups
- Attainment increase at expected and greater depth in all year groups apart from one
- Cohorts average 1 ½ terms behind.

Development Focus

- KS1 and KS2 SATs (currently 54% and 64%)
- Improving mental maths across school
- Preparation for the Y4 Multiplication Tables Check (M.T.C.)

Q Has the use of seesaw and iPad's impacted writing.

A. iPad use focuses on reading and maths. There are no specific programmes used for Writing. Pupils self-isolating often do not complete writing tasks as parents find it hard to support to the required standards.

Q. Is there any information about what will SATS look like this year?

A. SATS will take place as normal; thresholds may be amended. League tables will not be published.

Q Have the iPad made a difference in the way that children learn?

A. Yes, the pupils are more engaged and are motivated to contribute. iPads Support self-directed learning beyond the schools and support home learning.

Q. Has the use of iPads increased teacher workload?

A. Sometimes the communication with parents and giving feedback to pupils can create more work, The pupil I.T. skills have improved through

	the use of iPads. Seesaw can give an insight into child life beyond the school.
6.0	<p>Paula Jeremaes gave the Governors an update on the Behaviour and Ethos policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour policy is based on Paul Dix approach, "when adults changes, everything changes," which is rooted in consistent, calm adult behaviour, routines, and scripts for interventions and restorative follow-up. • The S.L.T. have reminded all staff and new staff of the key elements of the policy. • The focus is on equity, not equality. • Behaviour is taught explicitly throughout the school through clarity of language and responses and systems of recognition. • Behavioural data is monitored and shared with staff, and appropriate support is developed. A high number of incidents in EYFS was noted • Intervention is broadened through the pastoral and pupil premium team using such techniques as Lego and friendship groups • Lanyards have been produced to support interventions, providing scripts for positive phrasing. • Additional training is planned for the therapeutic STEPS behavioural support programme. All PKAT schools staff will be trained in the STEPS behavioural approach. <p>Q Is this approach used by the whole staff, including volunteers?</p> <p>A.Yes, there is an action plan to roll it out across staff. Covid restrictions have impacted some routines. It is not easy to find time to provide training for non-teachers.</p> <p>The school will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to embed the 'Paul Dix' approach • Support new staff with implementation of Behaviour and • Ethos policy • Reject Racism workshops in Y6 with Equal teach • Teachers & support staff training for the Therapeutic approach • Emotion Coaching training / Mental Health training.
7.0	<p>Governor self-evaluation and action plan.</p> <p>The Chair of Governors explained that the document had been shared on the governor hub ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>Action Chair and Head to R.A.G. rate actions for discussion at the next meeting</p> <p>Action Governor self-evaluation action plan to be an agenda item at the next meeting in March.</p>
8.0	<p>Governor section</p> <p>The Governors discussed terms of office, which are due to terminate on March 30th 2022.</p> <p>Whilst it was recognised that some Governors might not be able to complete their full term of office, it was agreed that all existing PKAT Governors would be happy to serve another term of office if the trustees</p>

	<p>agreed.</p> <p>Action Clerk to inform Emma Stephens-Dunn.</p>
9.0	<p>Heads update.</p> <p>The Headteacher explained that there had been a significant rise in cases of Covid recently, with 42 cases since January 4th.</p> <p>The school has sent a letter to parents to encourage more testing.</p> <p>Q. Given rising cases, do primary schools have access to lateral flow tests?</p> <p>A. Not for pupils, but schools do have access for staff members.</p> <p>Pupil numbers based on projections of local birth rates point to a two-form entry school in the future. The Governors should be aware of the implications for the budget.</p> <p>The school has no site manager in place at the moment due to long term sickness absence. Catherine Langham is line managing cleaning staff. The school has arranged some casual site management cover.</p> <p>Q. Is the trust able to support the school through its difficulties with site management.</p> <p>A.. Yes, the school has used a site officer from Ravensthorpe. The PFI system in J.H.S prevents the high school from providing cover.</p> <p>The Headteacher confirmed that the Chair of Governors and Headteacher checked the single central record before Christmas</p> <p>The Headteacher confirmed that the payroll is signed off every month and that the budget is shared and discussed with S.L.T. every month.</p>
10	<p>Safeguarding Update</p> <p>Emma Anderson delivered a safeguarding update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linzi Mastrocristino is the new designated safeguarding lead and is providing effective and efficient support for Shamim Akhter and the school safeguarding team. • There are three pupils on the child protection register, all from the same family. • One child is looked after in Y6 and meets or exceeds all of their targets. • Several pupils are receiving support for vulnerabilities through Early help assessments. The support aims to prevent social care involvement at a later date. • Five referrals were made to social care involving 11 pupils in the autumn term. • The school monitors the category of concerns recorded on my concern. • There were a total of 98 concerns recorded during the autumn term. • 69% of the concerns involved pupil premium pupils. • 42% of concerns raised involved SEND pupils. • Peer on peer abuse concerns represents the biggest category of concern reported.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health concerns are also prevalent, many interventions are used in school, but there is little support from outside agencies for mental health concerns. • Pupils accessing age-inappropriate online material is also a focus of support. • The proportionality of ethnicity concerns does not match the school demographic. • Thirty-eight pupils are classified as vulnerable pupils. Many vulnerable pupils are also pupil premium. Attendance is an issue for this particular group. • Teaching assistants challenge absences on day one for vulnerable pupils. <p>Training completed during the autumn term included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping children safe in education knowledge check • Designated safeguarding lead training and updates. • Safer recruitment. • Domestic abuse. • Peer on peer. <p>Q. How do the categories of concerns compare with other Pkat schools.</p> <p>A. local Schools use my concern in different ways, making comparison difficult. Meetings have been arranged for later this term to discuss this issue.</p> <p>Q. Do the staff have the capacity to support mental health and peer on peer abuse concerns.</p> <p>A. The school is lucky to have Linzi Mastrocristino and the pupil premium staff for support. The schools' provision is good.</p>
11	<p>School Budget Monitoring</p> <p>The current budget revenue balance to carry forward is £8457, but there is some work to complete to gauge an up to date predicted outturn figure.</p> <p>The most recent C.F.R. Summary puts our carry forward from 21-22 at - £2030. The difference has been brought about by staffing changes and overtime costs during Autumn term 2021 and Spring Term 2022. Spending on overtime is above budget partly due to staff absences and partly due to covid.</p> <p>The school has three classes swimming across the academic year, each for around 12 weeks, at the cost of around £11k. There is some other swimming that has been organised for year three, but the Sports Premium Grant is funding this.</p>
11.1	<p>Governors discussed the Afterschool club as the low number of pupils attending means it is not viable; Governors agreed that more time should be given as parents return to work. It was hoped that afterschool provision would positively impact future pupil numbers.</p> <p>Action review wraparound care to be discussed at the next meeting.</p>

	<p>Q. Could the school develop flexible pricing for after school care? A. this is something the school could consider although it is thought the provision is the cheapest in the city.</p> <p>Q Could the school direct school parents who are consistently late picking up to use after school provision? A Notices could be placed on classroom doors.</p>
11.2	<p>Nursery costs</p> <p>Following discussion, Governors agreed to increase costs to £4 to stay for lunch phased in as £3.50 in the summer term and £4.00 in September. Addition 4-hour sessions, including lunch, to be £17 in the summer term and £18th in September.</p> <p>Q. Are nursery numbers skewed by Covid? A. it is not thought that Covid has had a significant impact.</p> <p>Q Will the low birth-rate impact the nursery intake? A. About 30 pupils join the school from the nursery, most nurseries are in the catchment and join our school.</p>
12	<p>A.O.B</p> <p>Action Senco to be invited to the next LGB meeting.</p> <p>The Chair requested that the governor prepare written questions on the Headteachers report in advance of the next meeting</p> <p>Action Clerk to provide an interactive document.</p>
13	<p>Date of the next meeting – March 1st 2022 5 .00 pm</p>