

Invited:

Lynda Cooper (Chair)
Ewa Ziubryniewicz
Frances Swan
Vic Pooler
Olivia Gentile
Dan Turner
Kelly Yeo
Becky Ames (Clerk)

Apologies:

Jo Carter
Ewa Ziubryniewicz
Frances Swan
Kelly Yeo

Welcome – Lynda Cooper (LC) welcomed all to the meeting, it is to be noted that this meeting is being conducted via Teams online.

Declaration of Business Interests – There were no declarations of Business Interests.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 01.07.2020 – the minutes were approved.

1. COVID-19

Brief reports from Academy Heads (AHs) on what has happened since the return to school. LC asked the AHs for feedback.

VP – reported no significant issues, Hennock School feels calm and the bubbles are working well. Hennock has staggered drop offs, lunch and break times which have helped ease crowding outside of the school. VP informs the Board that they have reviewed and made changes to their Risk Assessment's accordingly as the term has progressed. The merge of years 1,2,3 and years 4,5,6 has also been a success. VP invited **challenge** from LC. LC asked how Hennock have prepared for further lockdowns. VP reported that the AHs have prepared for lockdowns by providing training to all staff members and key stage 2 with Teams. Jo Carter (JC) from the Woodleigh Board added they are also offering parents training on Teams and **asked** whether Hennock parents could be offered the same? VP has said that this is something they will most definitely be looking into, with workshops for parents on their agenda over the next term.

DT – echoed VPs report again agreeing that Bearnese is working well within their Bubbles. DT added that they have Risk Assessment's in place that are also changed accordingly. Attendance in the school has been great. Lunch and break times are staggered and the school is managing even with its limited space. DT is in regular contact with parents via social media weekly to help keep them informed. DT has focused on training staff using IT this term alongside children who are also being taught using various IT methods which are being blended into their regular learning. Bearnese continues to monitor drop off and pick up with the limited pavement space at the school. LC **asked** how attendance is now after such a good start, DT has said with the regular coughs and colds there has been a slight drop but this in accordance with relevant symptoms which can require isolation. JC **asked** whether the Covid tab on the website was up to date, as this is an OFSTED focus. DT advised that it is.

2. Procedural matters

2.1. Safeguarding

DT reports that Bearness continues to manage all safeguarding issues within the school. The school uses excellent reporting methods for any new/existing safeguarding concerns.

VP reports that Hennock continues to manage and monitor all safeguarding issues within the school. The school uses reporting methods for any new/existing safeguarding concerns. VP has also created an electronic method for reporting 'niggles' which replaces a paper version that was previously used. Any new safeguarding reports that are entered on to the system automatically get sent to VP.

JC **asked** the Heads to ensure that they are dating their records with the full year date 2020 rather than just 20 to prevent any date tampering.

2.2. SEND

DT – The Inclusion Hub has visited Bearness to help ensure the SEN and EHCP plans have been reviewed, John Cooch has also visited Bearness and works alongside the inclusion hub All of the PARM (Plan and Review Meetings) meetings have been conducted. LC **commended** Dan on achieving this. DT has said that new EHCPs are getting through the system well, which is now online but it remains around 20weeks to get a plan through. JC advised that Alex Waterman has a written document which can be used to help speed up the process with obtaining EHCPs and that this could be of use to both VP and DT.

VP – All children with EHCP plans are being adequately funded with children getting their required amounts. VP has also had her PARM review with Becky Humphries and John Cooch.

2.3. Sports Premium grant, Pupil Premium grants

LC **challenged** the Heads for clarity on what is happening with grants, JC has said that this agenda item probably needs to be moved to be discussed later on in the year. BA – to move this agenda item for the next meeting. DATE – 16.12.2020

DT bough to the Boards attention, that Sims has to be up to date to ensure that the Census results are accurate so that we do not miss out on any funding.

LC **questioned** the AHs and asked where the sport funding from last year has been spent, JC advised that a large part of the funding was used on the intake on new P.E staff throughout the Link Academy, ensuring that every school now has a dedicated PE teacher for one day a week. This has benefitted the schools hugely.

2.4. Health & Safety/Risk Assessments

VP – LC has seen and discussed the current Risk Assessments and is satisfied with these. VP still has concerns over the side gate at the school and the security that it offers, VP has asked for quotes for a new self-locking gate. VP is looking into different ways in which the gate can be funded. The fire alarm system at Hennock is also due to be updated and this is something that VP is focusing on. JC has said that she will raise this issue at the next Standards and Curriculum meeting and will update the Board.

DT – Bearness has been going through some construction work which is due to be completed ready for the start of the next term. The school has managed well with very little disruption to their daily routines.

Personnel

2.5. Staffing: staff wellbeing and workload (if not covered above)

VP – Feels that all staff at Hennock have been working really well together under the circumstances. Their primary focus this term has been to ensure that they are meeting the children's needs. Teachers have been taking the children out of class for outdoor learning which the children have really enjoyed. It has also helped to ensure that staff work load is manageable.

DT – Staff at Bearness have started very well, DT continues to help staff feel motivated. DT ensures the Board that staff are well supported and are able to have their breaks throughout

the day. DT would like to try and ensure that work load remains manageable and continues to review different ways that the staff can integrate new methods of online learning.

2.6. Parents: parent forum meetings, PTA, areas for concern/complaints

VP – The PTFA has recently had their AGM meeting, and the PTA continues to work alongside the school. VP has suggested that we may be able to recruit a Parent Governor from the PTA, VP to keep the Board updated and LC will support this.

VP – Hopes to have a parent forum meeting soon.

JC – made the Board aware of some advertising to help recruit more Board members via advertising in church, and village newsletters. JC also advised that she has found Parent Forums within the Woodleigh Hub, have been very successful and offered support in helping to set one up with the AHs of the Newton and Teign Board. DT welcomed this support and hopes that this may also help recruit further parent governors.

3. Strategic Governance

3.1. Focused visits last term

Dan Turner (DT) the new Academy Head (AH) for Bearnas Primary School, has yet to have a focus visit but advises that a meeting is scheduled with LC for 15.10.2020, this will be fed back to the N&T Board at the next meeting.

Vic Pooler (VP) has had a focus visit at Hennock from LC on 13.10.2020, and discussed the ASIP plans but this needs further review, before being further discussed. LC to update the Board at the next meeting.

3.2. Focused visits next term will focus on Safeguarding and will be conducted in November 2020. JC has offered to support LC in these.

3.3. Update from S&C, LAT Local Governors Board meeting – LC and JC updated the Board and have fed back all reports from the Newton and Teign Board to the Standards and Curriculum meeting held on 16.09.2020. The minutes have been distributed from The Clerk to the Trust prior to today.

3.4. Governor training – Sarah Clarke is currently holding Governor training meetings which are very helpful, JC mentioned that one matter that was brought to her attention is that currently OFSTED are looking to resume full inspections from January 2021 but currently they are conducting Covid specific inspections which are much shorter. Their primary focus is Safeguarding.

Meeting ended 17.14pm.

Dates of future Local Board meetings

16.12.2020

10.02.2021

21.04.2021

30.06.2021

Close