

The Link Academy Trust

Moorland Hub Meeting 2 Minutes: Wednesday 21st April 2021 5.30pm via Teams

Invited:

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| Dominic Course | Chair and Trustee |
| Sarah Clarke | Academy Trust School Improvement Lead (ATSIL) |
| Becky Ames | Clerk |

Academy Heads:

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| Des Stokes | Widecombe in-the-Moor Primary School |
| Sam McCarthy-Patmore | Illington CofE Primary School |

Governors:

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| Henock Primary School | Lynda Cooper, Chair |
| | Kyle Brook, Parent Governor |
| | Peter Reed, Community Governor |
| Barnes Primary School | Ewa Ziubrynowicz, Parent Governor |
| | Jo Carter, Community Governor |
| Widecombe Primary School | Rob Steemson, Community Governor |
| | Caroline Rolls, Staff Governor |
| | Evie Edworthy, Parent Governor |
| Moretonhampstead Primary School | Shaun Elliott, Parent Governor |
| | Vivienne Hodges, Community Governor |
| Illington Primary School | Dr Carmel Skinner, Parent Governor |
| | Dr Paul Brassley, Community Governor |

Governors are asked to notify the Chair or Clerk at least 7 working days prior to the meeting of any other items they wish to place on the agenda.

Apologies – Ewa Ziubrynowicz, Shaun Elliott & Rob Steemson

Declaration of Business Interests – Carmel Brady is an Educational Psychologist and works with Babcock.

Welcome – Dominic Course (DC) welcomes everyone to the meeting

DC introduces himself and welcomes the new Governors to the meeting.

Sarah Clarke (SC) – A Q&A session with Sarah Clarke the Academy School Improvement Lead

The following supporting documents were provided:

'The Role of the Governor,'
'Annual Cycle of Focus Visits,'
'Communication Model.'

SC asked whether any Board members had any questions about the supporting documents that were circulated. There were no questions asked. SC made it clear that all Governors could contact her if they had any questions about their future roles within the Moorland Hub. SC advised the Moorland Hub that the next Working Party is on 19th May and invited all Governors to attend this.

1.Strategic Governance

1.1 Focused visits this term (SEND, BLENDED LEARNING RESPONSES) – A brief report on the main findings from each school to be fed back to the Hub from the Governor responsible.

- Bearnes Primary School
- Hennock Primary School

Lynda Cooper (LC) introduced herself to the Board as The Chair of the Newton & Teign Board. LC discussed her reports on SEND and BLENDED LEARNING, and reassured the Board that she had no major concerns with either school.

BLENDED LEARNING - LC addressed one general issue which was the service and response time that they currently provide all schools with. This is an ongoing concern which is being addressed. The Academy Heads (AH's) advised that handwriting/writing remains a weak area but this is being addressed and is a reflection of the impact of Covid and online learning.

SEND – LC fed back to the Moorland Hub that the AH's were able to talk very confidently about SEND with the Governors. LC advised that both schools would like to know how the Inclusion Hub will be supporting the schools in the future. The Link Academy Trust has recently expanded and the Governors and Head teachers would like to see that the Inclusion Hub is still maintained. The Inclusion Hub provides valuable support to all schools within the Link Academy. LC also **challenged** the Heads regarding the Gifted and Talented area of SEN and would like to know what provision is put in place for children that are in this part. DC stressed that it is really important to not lose focus on this area within SEN also.

There are still worrying issues with the 0-25s team, Dan Turner (DT) the Head of Bearnes stressed that this is detrimentally impacting children within his school and the ability to obtain the correct support and funding for each child.

JC added that after a discussion with Alex Waterman the Link Academy Safeguarding Lead that the concerns with the 0-25 team will be escalated to Trustee level.

DC asked what the 0-25 team is as he had not heard of them, LC explained that the group is the Devon County Council Team that provides support and funding for SEN and vulnerable children.

Caroline Rolls (CR) explained that Blended Learning isn't just about remote learning, blended learning is the introduction of schools using more IT within their curriculum. DC advised that there is a trust wide policy being developed about blended learning that will be soon fed out to all schools.

Sam McCarthy Patmore (SMP) addressed her findings with the 0-25 Team of recent. She advised the 0-25 team is under a huge amount of pressure whilst the Pandemic continues but has found that they have still been trying their best.

- Widecombe-In-The-Moor Primary School

Evie Edworthy (EE) discussed her report on SEND, starting with saying that the teachers have been brilliant in identifying the children that require extra support or further challenge. EE would like to see how Widecombe compares to other schools within the Link Academy with regards to the level of SEN children. Both Des Stokes (DS) and EE would like further support/advise in identifying what thresholds need to be met in order to add a child to their

SEN register. DS would like further training from the Inclusion Hub to help address this issue. They suspect that their SEN register may reduce slightly after further clarification. EE would like to know whether the role of SENco is exclusive to the Academy Head and addressed concerns with the AH's existing work load and the lack of training they have had. SC said it is school dependant but that most AH's chose to take on this role and the role is very well supported by both the Inclusion Hub and Mrs Alex Waterman who is the Academy Safeguarding Lead. DS has felt well supported by both Becky Humphreys and Alex Waterman, but expressed that it is very much learning on the job which is why it is perhaps taking more time.

SC and DC have said that this issue can be addressed at the next Standards and Curriculum Committee meeting. DC would like to help and identify any needs that DS has and support where possible.

SMP has similar issues to DS and asked whether in the future there could be a SENco meeting that runs alongside or in a similar way to the current AH meetings. SC suggested perhaps an induction into SENco may be useful. DC would like this addressed urgently. LC has suggested that how resourcing the Inclusion Hub could really help with these issues.

- Moretonhampstead

Vivienne Hodges (VH) discussed her SEND report for Moretonhampstead, she expressed the school has an average number of SEN children. During lockdown the school encouraged all SEND children to attend school. VH expressed there was a general lack in home schooling work being completed across the school and paper packs were sent out to all children that asked for them.

VH mentioned that at Moretonhampstead the needs of children are identified quickly by Teaching Assistants and Teachers. VH advised that the school follows a provision map once a need is identified. SEN funding is spent efficiently on the children. However due to Covid they have struggled without the use of their Volunteers and subsequently the increase in work load has had an impact on all staff. DC asked SC whether they are able to allow volunteers back in to schools, SC advised against this under the Governments current Road Map. The school continues to work alongside external agencies such as MAST. There is a focus within the school at the moment on children's Behaviour. The school are also looking to set up a LEGO therapy group.

- Ilstington Church of England Primary School

Carmel Brady (CB) advised the Board that SMP has quickly come up to speed with her new SENco role and has a wealth of skills already. CB advised it is unusual for an AH to have a SENco role and also feels that the extra role impacts her other responsibilities. CB identified in her report that it was not possible to capture an accurate picture on the data figures due to the impact Covid has had on the school. CB suggested that in order to get a better picture of SEND, it may be useful to ask the parents of the schools to advise also, this could be done in the next cycle visit.

DC asked SC with a similar pattern of issues being raised, how to we ensure that these issues are addressed at Trustee level. SC identified the trail in which information is fed back. The minutes of this meeting will be taken to the next Standards and Curriculum Meeting via the Chairs of the Local Board. This is then taken to the Full Board of Trustees.

1.2 Focused visits next term, to be discussed (TEACHING & LEARNING.)

SC advised the Board that we have moved away from the focus visit format due to Covid, SC is hopeful that we may be able to allow Governors back in to school in the Autumn term so they can complete the walk and learn meetings with the AH's. SC made clear to the Moorland Hub that there will be no SAT visits this term. Currently across the Trust they are trying to keep a good graph on Data but it has been challenging under the circumstances. The data picture is currently being collated by Andy Keay and will be given to the Boards as soon as they are ready.

The Focus Visits for next term will be; Well-being and emotional recovery, ASIP Review, Recovery Curriculum, Final Data Picture. These visits will again need to be done remotely. DC asked whether we can provide Governors with some additional training to ensure they are able to complete their reports. SC agreed that this would be provided and suggested the Working Party meetings are really useful for this.

CB asked whether there would be a generic list of questions that Governors will be provided with when going in to school. SC has said that there are visit notes provided for the Governors with a variety of tick box questions but the type of set questions needed are provided in the Working Board Party. **JC has said that the current list of questions needs updating, and she is happy to start this job and present it at the next Working Party meeting.**

1.3 Individual Academy Risk Registers – An introduction from Dominic Course.

DC explained that each AH has or is working on a Risk Register for their individual school. DC stressed that these registers really need to focus on the bigger picture for example, looking at pupil numbers and the impact that it has on teaching and facilities. SMP explained they have been looking at various areas of their Risk Register and has found the document to be very useful. DC asked when these documents need completed. DS has completed his but explained it is a working document that is constantly reviewed. DC would like these documents presented at the next meeting if possible but this would need to be further discussed. DC said it is important for Governors to see the Risk Register and explained to the Board how and why it is used.

1.4 Update from S&C.

The next S&C meeting is due to take place on 28.04.2021 and issues raised from this meeting will be passed on to the Committee then. **Becky Ames has been asked to feedback the reports from each of the schools to the Standards & Curriculum Committee.**

1.5 Governor training.

DC made the Hub aware of the upcoming Safeguarding Training, which has been fed back to the Moorland Hub via The Clerk Becky Ames. SC advised that Sue Howard and The Clerk Rachel Hill help to organise additional Governor Training. JC also advised that the Babcock emails that are provided via the Clerk Becky Ames. These courses can be booked by emailing Sue Howard.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 10.02.2021 – for approval Newton & Teign Board only.

The minutes were approved prior to this meeting.

Dates of future Local Board meetings.

30.06.2021

Close