

Minutes – Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 5:30 pm via Teams

Invited:

- Vacancy - Chair
- Vacancy - Vice Chair -
- Dan Turner – Academy Head Bearnès
- Peter Reed – Community Governor Bearnès
- Ewa Ziubryniewicz – Parent Governor Bearnès
- Jo Carter – Co opted Governor Bearnès
- Chris Martin – Academy Head Hennock
- Lynda Cooper – Community Governor Hennock
- Olivia Gentile – Staff Governor Hennock
- Sam McCarthy-Patmore – Academy Head Ilsington
- Dr Paul Brassley – Community Governor Ilsington
- Mr Oliver Heathman – Parent Governor Ilsington
- Rosie Stamp – Foundation Governor Ilsington
- Alex Waterman – Academy Head Moretonhampstead
- James Gething – Parent Governor Moretonhampstead
- Vivienne Hodges – Community Governor Moretonhampstead
- Kate Wellings – Associate Governor Moretonhampstead
- Anthony Arnold – Academy Head Widecombe
- Caroline Rolls – Staff Governor Widecombe
- Chloe Schwab – Parent Governor Widecombe
- Robert Steemson – Community Governor Widecombe

Vacancy – Staff Governor at Bearnès
Vacancy – Staff Governor at Ilsington
Vacancy – Parent Governor at Moretonhampstead

Clerk: Penny Young

Governors are asked to notify the Chair or Clerk at least 5 working days prior to the meeting of any other items they wish to place on the agenda.

Items highlighted in green are standing items.

Present: Lynda Cooper, Paul Brassley, Oliver Heathman, Rosie Stamp, Alex Waterman, Anthony Arnold, Caroline Rolls, Rob Steemson, Charlotte Roe (Governance Professional) and Penny Young (Clerk)

Welcome

Thank you to Lynda Cooper for being Chair for 2022-23. Thank you and goodbye to Jo Carter leaving date: 31.12.2022.

Lynda Cooper agreed to act as Chair for this meeting.

Apologies – Dan Turner, Sam McCarthy-Patmore, Jo Carter, Chloe Schwab, Kate Wellings, Olivia Gentile, Peter Reed, Ewa Ziubryniewicz and Chris Martin

Declaration of Business Interests - None

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 6th July 2022 - all approved.

2. School Updates

Short report, prepared in advance from Academy Heads and Staff Governors on what has been happening at school, to include:

- Children's wellbeing & engagement.
 - Has engagement actually led to learning and progress?
 - What is going well and what isn't?

- Attendance.
- Suspensions and permanent exclusions - to be monitored by Local Boards with close reference to the Behaviour Policy.
- Feedback from parent forum meetings/parents' evenings.
- Staffing arrangements.
- Self-Evaluation Form – update

Reports received from Hennock and Ilsington.

Ilsington

RS and OH did an overview on Ilsington. RS – great term, offsite visits (Bear Trail and Eden Project). Transition events to SDCC and Link PE comp. Art week, DT week, developing the 4Rs, widely understood and link to curriculum. Good feel from that. OH – done OPD which has been useful. Pupil numbers good, having strong thriving Preschool numbers really helps. Challenges of SEND and supporting that and increasing number of children from EYFS with some level of need. LC questioned SEND. Did SMP give any sense of what may help? OH proactive getting children assessed. Making sure all provisions are covered. RS – AH decided to move one child from YR back down to Preschool. Must have been challenging for her. RS Safeguarding – did a quick audit. Ilsington has a great new administrator, looked at SCR, looked at files, did a check around school that posters etc were up. Quite a sensitive case around a homeless family in school. Lots of support at school, there is a Social Worker. Great support from church, HITS etc. Behaviour all good. LC asked about staff wellbeing – RS: new teacher started this term, Middlecott a happy class now. OPD: whilst some teachers find it nerve wracking, it helps build confidence. Teachers are happy, young and energetic and children seem to work well with them. SMP carries lots of responsibility. RS – as part of our focus we will talk to staff and just check. LC thanked them for going in to visit so often.

Widcombe

RS –CS and RS visited a couple of weeks ago. Good chat with AH and walked around the school to see all the classes. Not written anything up yet but all ticking along nicely. AA – struggling with attendance, lots of illness but no strepA or scarlet fever. Children missing odd bits of teaching are struggling with teaching fluency. New admin has been chasing people up and getting children in for half days. Really well engaged with the learning, lots of trips and the Friends have helped fund these. Vision to try and get all children into the Theatre to see a show (Demon Dentist and Hansel and Gretel). Other trips too. Had some close monitoring visits, deep dives in reading, maths, history. Wellbeing strong but on the lookout for Ofsted! Behaviour excellent, couple of niggles more to do with SEND, being catered for. No major issues. Parents evenings were great, would like to have Becky Humphreys on hand a bit more. Few issues with TAs (struggling to recruit). Managed to recruit a couple of TAs but lost one today. Recruitment back on in January. A parent keen to take this on. She will also do the kitchen. OH asked about this as other schools struggling with same issues. Two new children with EHCPs, taken in 8 new children. Lots of interest for next year. Lots of new children, home schooled, alternative provision etc. Challenging. RS – any new Ukranian families? Ilsington have 3. LC asked how integration going? RS – maintaining their Ukrainian education alongside this. In general the kids have loved it For the school it has been really positive but SMP and parents needs to balance the learning. LC– this was raised at a previous S&C meeting so there is Trust level oversight of teaching provision to ensure we are fulfilling our obligations; hope that feeds down to SMP. LC asked about wellbeing. AA – RS asked that. Moving from Torbay to Devon is interesting. Lots of new systems. Really positive. CR – clear direction and that is good.

Moretonhampstead

No govs present. AW: busy term, good term. Had 1 gov visit and JG in yesterday with a Trustee for Ofsted inspection. Childrens' wellbeing good, attendance ok, lots of sickness. No suspensions and exclusions. Parents ok, Ofsted report will come out in Jan, but that was all positive. No major issues, very glad it's done. The Trust has created a couple of days where Heads worked with subject leads with experts across the Trust. It was great and really got us ready for Ofsted. Trust really pushing forward to support staff. Interesting listening to other schools talking about TAs, remote locations and people not interested in driving for £9.50 per hr. Using parents. Staff now getting a free lunch from January. This thinking outside the box is really beneficial especially when staff are on low incomes. LC asked how AW was. Really good, really positive Ofsted. Learnt bits I will feed back to Heads when my feet touch the ground. LC – challenges around SEND and individual children. Has that resolved or support? AW – I think that the Ofsted inspector was grilling me on the support from DCC and I was critical and open about how slow the SEND situation was. I have a child who has been waiting for an EHCP for a year and only just seen Educational Psychologist. Getting Social Worker is really tricky. Asking about the impact on school. I was open and frank. Regarding the dysregulated children at Moreton, managed to get things in place that is working with the help of IHH. Found alternative provision for short periods of time. Trust support that. Challenging to find the right staff. That appeared to come across well in Ofsted. RH was on site for a few weeks, but she is based “loosely” at Bearnas. She is pinpointing her time to help those schools. She has links with 0-25 which she can push too. LC – Running Deer have opened a learning space in Moretonhampstead and will forward on details.

Bearnas

LC – concerns about Bearnas. JC and LC were helping and I think we need a plan to provide ongoing Governor support to school and other LBGs. There is a particular vulnerability as Bearnas has high need and worried DT feels unsupported. Like some help from Trustees and EIT about how we help this situation.

Hennock

LC went in to see CM and did ASIP review and Safeguarding too. Settling in well. Children's wellbeing and engagement high. Lots of activities and trips that have been part funded by PTFA. Helping the kids get that sense of community again. Attendance was good and then dropped recently. Specific illness not concerns about children not attending. CM trying to unpick some legacies around holidays booked in over Covid. The attendance letter helped with this. No suspensions or exclusions. Behaviour fine again, everything tracked and managed. Feedback from parents positive. Had Parent meetings earlier in term. Staffing patchy – a number of TA vacancies that weren't recruited fully before summer. Now filled. Positive report. Focussed visits - safeguarding is robust. AW has been in and Babcock review. DCC coming at the start of next year. Checked in with staff and around school and the safeguarding alerts are helpful from that point of view.

3. Strategic Governance

3.1 Focused visits for this half term (safeguarding and data) with a brief report on the main findings from each school (these should be uploaded to Sharepoint or emailed to the Clerk and Chair)

See above

3.2 Focused visits coming up (SEND/Pupil Premium), including overview of questions

Will check the prompt questions are available – LC TO DO. I understand that Sarah Clarke has stepped away from this role but we can come back to Charlotte with questions. LC asked if there were questions to go through? Charlotte – will find out exactly what she is looking for next S&C. This is still work in progress. In the meantime stick with last years questions and when we can we will find out what Kate actually wants from the governors. LC will put the SEND ones in.

3.3 **Curriculum update** – update from Academy Heads on the curriculum being delivered

AA – really useful curriculum days sequence progression. Looking back at rolling programme, covering gaps, covering what we need to cover, threads going through. Looking at other subjects when we have science and history going in the right direction. LC – why science and history? SW – History lead subject to push on through. Science – core subject. We were the guinea pig model. We did it for the 2 days for the Heads and then again for those due an Ofsted. Also managed to do Geography too. Maths next term. Ofsted needs to know that the threads run through. Big push on curriculum. LC – whole school approach from YR up to Y6, how would this work? AW – golden thread in history might be the word 'power' for example. How the word builds up through the years. LC – fascinating. AW – for us at Moreton where we have changed the structure, had to go back 4 years in time and what they have missed during Covid and change in year group structure. If you had year group that missed space, how have we filled that gap? We have to have a plan in place so every bit of curriculum is covered. The depth of it is amazing. LC – what can governance take from this? Is there a point we can go in and follow that thread through? Rolling programme can sometimes mean you are teaching one programme before another one.

3.4 **ASIP update** – Academy Heads

- Are there any areas for concern?
- Do we have clear evidence of effective achievement?

AA no concerns. When you finish a term go back with staff and see how it has changed. Looking back will be useful.

3.5 Update from Standards and Curriculum and Local Board Working Party meetings

Charlotte – Nothing to be passed down. I will email PY if anything needs to come down. LC really helpful if we can some feedback from Trustees. We send info up, can we have reports back down? Something to feedback. CR – when we meet can work this out. Local Board working parties – still happening. Being planned but the Away Days are taking priority. LC – mentioned the Away Days. PB, LC, RStA, OH and PY attended. Looking at structure and how can we improve. Minutes all sent out to governors.

3.6 **Governor training** - Governors reminded they **must attend** L2 Safeguarding/ and online Cyber training + Certificate to evidence. Charlotte will check that Sue is chasing all for L2.

4. Procedural matters (if not covered above)

4.1 Safeguarding

- Report on any updates relating to Safeguarding
- Safeguarding Audit: **Have governors met with Academy Heads to run through the Safeguarding Audit? Reminder governors are required to check the SCR. Please also complete a governor visit report to evidence this.** Post Audit - Action Plans to be uploaded to SharePoint if possible

Not done at Moreton (in part because of Ofsted), Widecombe or Bearnas currently. OH – how exposed Ilington is. Quite surprised no cameras etc. All female staff, issues with parents stepping over the line with their engagements with SMP. This stuck out to me that nothing has happened but the whole school is exposed. CCTV would be useful. LC - is this just an observation? A parent was interacting with SMP and SMP tried to move back into the school and parent put foot in door. CCTV quite a visual deterrent. LC seems so obvious. Hennock have in past had fractious relationship with neighbours and staff leaving the school at night are potentially vulnerable. Risk register for the Trust, action to go back to Trustees to see if being covered. Charlotte – I know the CEO and DCEO are looking at security and I will take it back and raise that.

4.2 SEND - Report on any updates relating to SEND / S&CC (SENDCo workload observation
LC – passed repeatedly to S&C, ongoing issue with schools. Pressure to support SEN children, work through the paperwork is high and rising. I don't know if there has been anything from S&C about this? CR – I don't remember anything being discussed. LC – I will write a summary and maybe this could be escalated.

4.3 Sports Premium grant, Pupil Premium grants Nothing to raise here.

4.4 Health & Safety/Risk Assessments

Ilington, Widecombe and Bearnas had DCC H&S reports.

4.5 Governance:

- Vacancies/plans to fill – Governor recruitment currently on hold. Bearnas is the issue as PR abroad for a year. Hennock is only me. Ongoing conversation about restructure of governance about how we reshape. This will be discussed at the Away Days. The other schools are quite well placed and level of engagement.
- Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair. *All governors asked to seriously consider self-nomination*
Please do speak later if you want to.

5. Personnel (if not covered above)

5.1 Staffing: staff wellbeing and workload, including feedback and observations on term from Staff Governors
CR – Trust point of view, more clarity on what we focus on. Previously in curriculum hubs, all manage or lead 2/3 subjects. Overwhelming attending so many meetings. Curriculum days really focussed. Got an idea of where it's going. Had a positive impact because staff haven't had to attend as many meetings. Still have some hubs where we support one another on Teams. People overwhelmed and lacking clarity. Having the opportunity to go out with Heads and spend a day from school and day to day things and focus on a subject. Really valuable. Staff wellbeing really good. Term felt very positive. I noticed the ASIP overview went up on our noticeboard and we know we are working on those things and where we are with them. If you have a focus and direction you know what you are doing for each of those priorities. Just really being aware of staff and issues people might be facing. We feel like we are in a positive place. Really reassuring. Thank you to AA, clarity and direction from him. LC – do you feel ready for Ofsted? AA – not keen on having it this week with parties and shows etc. Really nice it snowed today, had snowball fight, built snowmen – whole school. Had Christmas lunch too.

5.2 Parents: parent forum meetings, PTFA, areas for concern/complaints

OH – parents able to get back into school which is great. PTFA events etc. which have been very well supported. Great attendance for a Love your School day, Harvest Festival etc.

LC thanked AW for attending so soon after Ofsted and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and new year.

Close

Next meeting: Wednesday 8th February, 1730

Dates for the academic year 2022/2023

29th March 2023

28th June 2023