TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES - 4th March 2021

Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes – Part 1					
Date/Time		Location			
4 th March 2021 at 16:30		Video Conference			
Attendees	Initials	Attendees	Initials		
Abi Dent	AD/Chair	Juliet Hillier	JH		
Nicola Holmes	NH	Stephen Moakes	s SM		
Denise Woodgate	DW				

	without Apologies	
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In Attendance	Initials	Reason
Bruce Benton	BB	Clerk

Minutes to	
All Governors	

Ref	Minute, Action or Decision	Owner	Date Due
1	Apologies		
	There were no apologies as all members of the committee		
	were in attendance.		
2	Declaration of Business Interests		
	There were no additional declarations of interests.		
3	Minutes of the previous meeting on 5th November 2020		
	The minutes were agreed by all as a true and accurate		
	record. Signing of the minutes will take place at the earliest		
	opportunity by the Chair.		
4	Matters Arising:		
a	Opportunities for More Able Pupils - Review report		
	DW asked that this item is deferred to the Autumn Term.		
b	Pathway to Tiverton discussion with C Harrower -		
	Update		
	DW reported that she had spoken with Claudette Harrower		
	who advised that there had been no further updates on the	DW	ASAP
	provision of a walking & cycling path. The foliage has been		
	cut back and the potholes have been filled in.		
C	Medicines in School - check status of medicines		
	SM reported that a virtual check had been done by DW		
	performing a walk around the school and taking		
	photographs. SM had produced a governor visit report that		
	had been circulated to governors ahead of the meeting.		
	Action complete.		
d	Pupil Targets - Benchmark against local schools		
	DW advised that she is not party to the targets of other		
	schools but had consulted Brad Murray who reported that		

Signed

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	using the national percentages from 2019 as a benchmark,	T
	the Bolham targets are close to those being set by other	
	schools, depending to a degree on different cohorts.	
	Action complete.	
e	Marking of online homework - Is there a shared	
	approach?	
	JH stated that the teaching staff had done a lot of training	
	together with Microsoft Teams (MT) and are now proficient	
	in using it for setting and marking work, providing online	
	feedback to children and to communicate with parents. AD	
	said that this matter from the last meeting was raised prior to	
	the use of MT when different methods of online work was	
	being used across the school and now that everyone is using MT, the approach is consistent across the whole of the	
	school. JH added that some skills that had been learnt could	
	be adopted when working in school. Action complete.	
f	Homework Policy – Apply updates and Approve	
	AD asked for this item to be carried forward to the next	
	meeting.	
g	Send Policy to be updated and Approved by FGB	
	Action complete.	
5	Allocate a Governor the Inclusion & SEN role	
	NH was assigned the responsibility for Inclusion & SEN	
	within the committee.	
6	End of Year 2020 Comparative Data	
	The report had been circulated to governors ahead of the	
	meeting. DW explained the format of the report which	
	differed from the information usually provided to the Action	
	Evaluation Group.	
	The report is based on assessments using the newly	
	introduced Early Adopter Checkpoints for EYFS pupils, book band attainments and Rising Stars tests for the KS1 &	
	KS2 pupils. The report, broken down by year group and sub-	
	groups for SEN, PP & EAL children, shows the percentages	
	of pupils achieving ARE or attaining the required level in	
	September (week 3) and December.	
	Maths - EYFS Early Adopter Check points used +	
	Rising Stars Maths test was used whole school data.	
	Reading - EYFS Early Adopter Check points used +	
	Reading assessment for Years 1 and 2 was based on book	
	band attainment Rising Stars Comprehension test was used	
	for data in years 3-6.	
	Writing - EYFS Early Adopter Check points used + Pupils	
	were assessed at the end of the term based on a number of	
	pieces of writing. No formal on entry assessment was made	
	for years 1-6	
	Phonics - Year 1 pupils were also screened using routine	
	assessments. Pupils in Year 2 were assessed using the Year	
	1 Phonics screening test during the second half of the	
	Autumn Term and the results were reported to the DFE.	

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DW highlighted that the results indicated low levels of attainment in September as the children were 'rusty' after a long time away from school. The weaknesses were identified, and the curriculum and teaching were tailored over the next 6 weeks ahead of the December tests. DW explained that percentages shown in the report looked lower than they usually are, when based on judgements, staff knowledge etc but the report was test based data. NH asked if DW is concerned that the children will have gone backwards again having been out of school since October. DW advised that the children will be tested on returning to school. Lessons learnt from the first lockdown have been put into practice and the teaching has been closely aligned to the curriculum to ensure full coverage of subjects that would have been done in school so if the children have been keeping up with the work set, they should be able to sit the test paper again. JH is confident the phonics results will be maintained as online sessions have been regularly performed. DW added that Reading assessments have continued online for EYFS and Class 1 to maintain book band progress.

NH asked if all pupils were engaging with the work being set. DW said she had communicated with everyone, especially in the first few weeks. The majority of pupils are engaging and DW had phoned families not engaging and offered support. DW added that there had been some fabulous work been done by parents, sending in photographs and videos of the work with models and paintings etc. If children are struggling with some aspects of learning, then alternative work is being provided to give them a boost. JH said she was impressed that the majority of the online homework is being completed and that the one-to-one online learning has suited some children.

NH asked why the Year 5 percentages were low, especially in Maths. DW advised that the Year 5 cohort are a small cohort and had a number of identified and unidentified SEN needs. Lots of intervention work and referrals has been provided to help the cohort since they were EYFS. AD added that the cohort had suffered some disruption as they have progressed through the school due to the turnover of staff. AD asked how many of the cohort had been in school during lockdown. DW advised that 4 or 5 have been in school on a regular basis and that the cohort has had catch up learning sessions with Mr Dickinson in the Autumn Term and are having 4 hours of catch up learning each week this term with maths, guided reading and writing. AD asked if more intervention work would be in place when the children return to school. DW said that 2 hours of catch up work each week with Mr Dickinson is scheduled.

DW advised that additional catch up learning is planned on return to school for those pupils identified in December.

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	Catch up learning for Year 6 pupils will commence in the		
	Summer Term,		
	AD asked if the Year 6 children will be prepared for		
	transition to Secondary education. DW advised that the		
	Year 6 are a strong cohort academically and well-rounded		
	socially as a group and have engaged well with the online		
	working. The majority of the group will be moving to		
	Tiverton High School and will receive the transition		
	package.		
7	Remote Education - Update and Achievements		
	The topic had been discussed in length during the previous		
	item, however, DW reported that the poor broadband limited		
	the creativity of the teachers. DW added that she had spoken		
	to South-West Grid for Learning about the DfE scheme for		
	improved broadband but it is not in place yet.		
8	Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) - Update		
	DW reported that the parents have been consulted, the		
	policy has been approved and the scheme is in place. Double		
	lessons are scheduled to take place in the Summer term.		
	AD asked if the 'Open Minds' sessions currently being		
	used to support the oldest pupils develop resilience and		
	manage their mental health can be incorporated as part		
	of the RSE curriculum. DW said it could potentially be		
	included. AD asked if the sessions were suitable for the		
	current Year 5 cohort. DW thought it would probably not		
	be suitable.		
9	Policies:		
	Policies had been circulated in advance of the meeting.		
a	Marking for Learning Policy		
	JH reported that all of the teaching staff had reviewed the		
	existing policy and adapted it to what is now taking place in		
	school in terms of what is marked and how it is marked. JH		
	added that Ofsted are keen to see evidence that the policy		
	matches up to what is actually being done in the children's		
	books. JH recommended the policy was approved and all		
	governors agreed. Signing off will take place at the earliest		
	opportunity by the Chair.		
b	Exclusion Policy		
	SM stated that he understands the policy correlates to the		
	processes involved with both temporary and permanent		
	exclusions and was pleased that it had rarely been used at		
	Bolham. SM recommended the policy was approved.		
	All governors approved the unchanged policy. Signing off		
	will take place at the earliest opportunity by the Chair.		
c	Food & Nutrition Policy		
	AD asked if there are plans for Year 6 pupils to have		
	practical cookery lessons before they leave at the end of		
	the Summer term as its part of the curriculum. DW said	DW	ASAP
	she would have to check at what stage of the year the		
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	AD said that the reference to Devon Norse needed to be changed to Ventrus. AD questioned the use of 'consumer' in the policy as it referred to children. After a discussion it was agreed to leave the reference as consumer as the policy also includes the staff. Subject to the one change for Ventrus, AD recommended the policy was approved. All governors approved the unchanged policy. Signing off will take place at the earliest opportunity by the Chair.	
d	Governor Visits Policy	
u	SM stated that although visits into school have been curtailed due to Covid-19 this should be a temporary issue and the policy reflects how visits should take place. SM recommended the policy was approved. All governors approved the unchanged policy. Signing off will take place at the earliest opportunity by the Chair.	
e	Primary Maths Calculation Policy (TCLP) DW proposed that this policy was adopted but it would be reviewed in September as part of the School Development Plan. All governors approved the unchanged policy. Signing off will take place at the earliest opportunity by the Chair.	
f	Schools Complaints Procedure AD had reviewed the policy and recommended it was approved. All governors approved the unchanged policy. Signing off will take place at the earliest opportunity by the Chair.	
g	Freedom of Information Act Policy AD had reviewed the policy and recommended it was approved. All governors approved the unchanged policy. Signing off will take place at the earliest opportunity by the Chair.	
h	Medicines in School Policy SM had reviewed the policy and recommended the policy was approved. All governors approved the policy. The policy will be taken to the FGB for final approval.	
10	DW advised the committee that she was planning that the residential visits would next take place in 2022 as DCC have advised that no educational trips take place. AD asked if there is scope to be flexible if the guidance changes. DW said that if the guidance did change then arrangements could be made for the second half of the Summer term. SM suggested some fun days on the school field and DW said that Mr Boxer is providing some music events and the Year 5 & 6 pupils would be performing their normal end of term show.	
	Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 17 th June 2021 at 4:30 P.M. The meeting closed at 17:20	

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