

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS' LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 28TH JANUARY, 2016 AT 7 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:	Stephen Uden (SU)	Parent Governor (Chair)
	Julia Mortimore (JAM)	Headteacher
	Keith Astill (KA)	Foundation Governor
	Rajan Bhandari (RB)	Parent Governor (SEN Governor)
	Jeanette Clifford (JC)	Foundation Governor
	Marc Edens (MCE)	Staff Governor
	Patricia Ray (PR)	Parent Governor
	Karen Sadler (KS)	Parent Governor
	Maureen Sims (MSS)	Deputy Headteacher: Student Progress & Inclusion
	Bruce Steiner (BS)	Appointed Governor

IN ATTENDANCE:	Jo Hale (JOH)	SENCO
	Peter Norman (PN)	Parent Governor
	Helen Sutherland (HLS)	Clerk to the Governors

1. APOLOGIES	Patricia Ray (PR)	Parent Governor
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2. DECLARATION OF BUSINESS INTERESTS

There were no declarations.

3. DECLARATION OF AOB

There were no declarations.

4. SEN REVIEW

The SEN Review paper from JOH was circulated in advance of the meeting.

JOH highlighted the following:

- SEN remains an exciting and challenging part of the work at St Bart's
- There are currently 176 students on St Bart's SEN register
- The new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice is in its second year
- Key areas of focus include:
 - o SEN focus meetings
 - o Access arrangements
 - o Observations in class
- St Bart's SEN staff work with the SEN team at the local authority
- The percentage of SEN students at St Bart's is lower than at other West Berkshire schools. However, Trinity and Kennet have a specific focus in this area. JOH noted that SEN support at St Bart's is in the classroom at individual level, rather than in a unit.
- 11 students currently have Education, Health & Care (EHC) plans in place, six of whom have an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. It remains challenging working with the local authority on EHC plans.
- Parents are happy with the open dialogue that an EHC plan gives.
- Interventions have developed as they were not meeting the needs of students

- 2015 exam results were excellent
- Half of SEN students gained 5A*-C grades
- There are bespoke mentoring programmes in place across the KS4 curriculum
- The use of assistive technology is being developed as part of accepted practice for access arrangements.
- Presently, SEN students are very reliant on human support. The use of assistive technology helps to prepare students for post-16 life by giving more independence.
- There were good presentations on SEN provision at the Year 7 and Sixth Form open evenings which were very well received. Teaching assistants and SEN students spoke to prospective parents.
- The SEN part of the website is being developed and already includes details of the local offer through a link. Further support & advice, with guidance on how parents can help and information on interventions and support will be enhanced.
- The SEN staff will continue to raise awareness of the support available, ensure regular monitoring and embracing assistive technology.

Governors raised a number of questions, including:

Does funding cover the cost of delivering the SEN programme with increasing capacity?

JOH explained that they will make the budget fit, especially with regard to using technology and freeing up staff. The School will make the budget work in the best possible way. MSS noted that there is very little top up funding available.

Are there opportunities for networking?

JOH replied that there are SEN cluster meetings and that she attends these meetings. In addition, services are bought in so that good practice can be shared. Advice and good practice are picked up from a variety of sources.

How many students have access arrangements?

JOH reported that there are 109 students between Year 10 and Year 14 with access arrangements.

Is there anything in the pipeline from the government that will affect this area?

MSS responded that there seems to be a period of relative calm currently!

How expensive is assistive technology?

JOH noted that, for example, reading pens are approximately £180. However, as with most initiatives there are a wide range of items / costs available.

RB reported briefly on his SEN link visit that took place in the Summer term 2015:

- Inclusion – SEN students are included in the classroom, not alienated.
- There is a good comfort level with staff.
- It is clear that EHC plans create a great deal of work.

Governors thanked JOH for her report.

JOH left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6TH OCTOBER, 2015

The Minutes were agreed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Summer Bullying Figures

MSS confirmed that there were no reports of bullying during the Summer Term 2015.

Year 11, 12 & 13 destinations report from Adviza

This report was circulated in advance of the meeting. MSS noted that very few students are not participating in further learning. SU acknowledged that a good number have started apprenticeships. MSS reported that Adviza are unlikely to provide this data next year due to budget cuts.

7. HOUSE PLANS

MSS explained that the House Conference had taken place today. House Plans are currently being reviewed and MSS will report back. There is more confidence about the plans as targets are more measurable.

ACTION: MSS

8. EXAM RESULTS ACTION PLAN

This is dealt with by the People & Performance Committee.

ACTION: HLS to remove from the L&A Annual Work Plan

9. STUDENT VOICE REPORT

MSS reported that there is a lot of work on-going including:

- Brilliant Berkshire including restorative practice
- Students have been interviewed by Meridien and there are some Youtube videos of interviews
- Students have presented plans with regard to LSCB and visibility. There has been very positive feedback.

ACTION: MSS/HLS to circulate links to the Youtube videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zly8cyyRvpA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1MIWZV5qrY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLWOSY5BoQY>

- Future plans include a community event; it is possible to bid for money to pull in wider community support
- An Emotional Health Academy is being established locally. It involves psychology graduates and schools can buy in the services
- Sixth Formers are developing initiatives to promote the schemes that are available which includes a mentoring programme.

10. PUPIL PREMIUM

MSS' update and plan was circulated in advance of the meeting. The following were highlighted:

- The impact of each strategy is colour coded
- The Boxhall assessment tool is being discontinued as it is not having the intended effect
- The Hardship Fund is having a low impact, possibly due to low promotion and the impact has plateaued.
- Reintegration support – it is too early in the term to assess the impact
- The additional opportunity for study after school seems to have had a very positive effect

- New staff have been recruited for study support in the mornings which takes place in the Library which sees an average of 20 students a day.

Governors expressed concern about the term “disadvantaged students”. It is felt that it has negative connotations and some object to the label. Despite the phrase being an official term, Governors asked if the language in the public version of MSS’ report could be reconsidered.

ACTION: MSS

Department for Education guidance “Supporting the attainment of disadvantaged pupils” was circulated to Governors for information. MSS intends to track St Bart’s initiatives against the building blocks detailed in the guidance in future.

Governors asked if an independent review of St Bart’s strategies to support disadvantaged/Pupil Premium students has been considered. JAM and MSS explained that it has been but any review needs to be appropriate and for there to be confidence in those carrying out the review.

Pupil Premium attendance figures were circulated in advance for information.

11. COMMUNITY LINKS

Building Communities is now called Brilliant Berkshire.

An update was provided under Item 9. In addition, MSS reported that other schools have undertaken enterprise projects. One particular project is to sell products to schools to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (eg postcards). There will be a number of stalls in the Kennet Centre on 6th February as a result of this initiative.;

It is planned that a defibrillator will be installed at St Bart’s. Training will be provided to staff and members of the wider community.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

The reports were circulated in advance.

Attention was drawn to:

- Additional overview data with other West Berkshire schools
- Images guidance – students are made aware through PDP, police talks, assemblies etc.
- Physical Intervention reports – all three reports relate to the same date.

13. SINGLE CENTRAL RECORDS CHECK

JC, as Safeguarding Governor, undertakes a check each term. JC tabled a report outlining her findings.

14. GOVERNANCE

Contribution Agreements

KS has taken SU’s contribution agreement and created her own. Once agreed, it will be shared with the Committee and then those for individual members will be agreed.

15. POLICIES

The following policies were agreed:

Behaviour Management

Child Protection (Safeguarding) pending confirmation of the whistleblowing clause and consistency of terms and some further updates regarding witchcraft etc.

ACTION: HLS to liaise with MSS and Karen Pollard and prepare for FGB

16. AOB

Careers

A report was circulated for information. Governors found it positive and useful.

Attendance Review Report

A report was circulated for information. Governors found it helpful. It was noted that PA refers to Persistent Absence.

Child Sexual Exploitation

MSS notified the Committee that National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day is on 18th March and the School may run some linked activities.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

These minutes are subject to final approval by the Learning & Achievement Committee at its next meeting.

SignedDate

Chair