

# Lindale CE Primary School

## MINUTES OF GOVERNORS PASTORAL AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Lindale CE Primary School

**Present** Sarah Coleman, Lisa Jefferson, Claire Phillips and Jenny Leahy

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Emma Roy

### **2 Attendance and punctuality**

Current attendance for the year from September is 94%. This is below our target of 97%. This has been caused by 3 pupils from 2 families. Other agencies are involved with both families and an attendance plan is part of the support in place for these children. There has also been an increase in families asking for holidays in term time. The Headteacher is unable to authorise these unless there is an exceptional circumstance or the reason given is falls within some very limited reasons eg. parent in the armed forces, religious observance. Governors asked what affect this lower attendance would have on school. The answer is that the specific cases mentioned are 'exceptional' and would be presented as such should the school be inspected. However, our attendance will appear on our 'data dashboard' and so we need to do everything we can to increase this figure by the end of the school year. Governors will continue to monitor termly. Sarah will continue to remind parents of the detrimental effect of children missing school.

There continue to be a few children who are not very punctual in the mornings. Following support from the Education Welfare Officer for SLRP whose services we used last year, one child's punctuality is greatly improved. The remaining children often arrive around 9am. This means that they miss the first 10 minutes of the school day. Sarah has spoken to 3 other parents during the course of last term, but will speak to them again and monitor the situation with a view to attendance plans if the situation doesn't improve.

### **3 Behaviour**

Governors asked about the traffic light system. Sarah reported that it had been re-visited in January, with expectations of 'green' behaviour being reinforced. Staff had felt that the additional playtime on Friday had become somewhat of an expectation rather than a 'reward'. As a result, the children are now in no doubt that that additional time is there for those who work hard all week, listen well and do not disturb others. The house point system has now been extended to the whole school including Foundation Stage and Year 1. This works very well to motivate the children in all areas of school life. Our school council have undertaken training in their roles and how to hold meetings along with children from Allithwaite School. They have now put together their action plan for the year. Ann Morris has re-introduced Sports leaders, where the older children take it in turns to lead activities at lunchtime for

the younger children. This is going well and they recently met with Mrs Morris to review the first term.

There are 2 children who have specific plans for emotional and behaviour difficulties. One of these children now spends 2 days each week at the Pupil Referral Unit in Barrow. Susan Lishman, who supports the child in school, also supports him there on Mondays. As well as ensuring continuity for the child regarding expectations, it is excellent staff development for Mrs Lishman. I have told the PRU that this may have to be a temporary arrangement since we then to make alternative arrangements for other aspects of Mrs Lishman's work.

#### **4 Safeguarding**

There have been no safeguarding issues to report. Governors raised the issue of parking on the bends near school, particularly now that there are builders vehicles often parked during the day. Sarah will raise this with parents through the newsletter and monitor the situation.

The new safeguarding guidance includes that staff need to declare if they live in the same house as anyone with certain convictions. Taking the advice of our Safety Consultant, we have issued the required forms and there are no issues to report. Sarah has attended a half day training on working with other agencies to implement the new thresholds for 'Early help' and supporting families. This was helpful in establishing the school's role in this and how to get additional help for children.

#### **5 SEN**

We continue to have one child with a Statement. Statements have now been phased out and are being replaced with Education Health Care Plans. We have one child whom we have asked for an EHCP assessment. The school now has to find the first £6000 for each child, before the LA will put in any additional support. This situation is extremely difficult for small schools and this has been taken up with the government by the LA. The new Cumbria SEN handbook outlines that if a school has more than 2% of the school population with statements, an additional £3000 per child per year is paid to the school. We were in the position last summer where we had 2 children with statements. At present it seems that the data is taken from the January census, at which point we only had 1 Statement. Sarah is continuing to pursue this with the LA.

#### **6 Website**

The website is now regularly updated by all staff. Nearly all documents that are required are now on the website. Sarah is continuing to work on this and update policies. Teachers are now also putting more photos and links on class pages and are showing the children who will in turn hopefully show their parents. We have recently paid Simon Hughes to tidy up a few pages, update external links and provide an hours training for Wendy. Governors pointed out that there is a 'governor' section of the website that is password protected. Governors need to decide whether they would like to use this area for reports, minutes, links etc.

#### **7 Community links including links with Pre-School and raising awareness of school in the community**

Links with Pre-school continue to be strong. They have recently been inspected by Ofsted, with a 'good' outcome and a glowing report. Fliss Ward (Teaching Assistant apprentice) is employed by Pre-school for 3 mornings, school for 1 morning and 4 afternoons and attends college for one day. 2 Toddler taster sessions were held by

our Reception class staff in November and December. More are planned for later this term when we hope that Pre-school children will come either with parents or with Pre-school staff to get a taste of school. Governors suggested that 'Prom Art' might be a way of publicising school along with investigating Bay Radio 'School of the week'. It was noted that taking part in the schools tent at the Westmorland County show had been an excellent way of making ourselves known. Sarah will ensure that we are booked in again for this year.

#### **8 Links with St Pauls Church**

Links with St Paul's church and the clergy team are also strong. There Nativity play performed in the church by KS1 was well supported. We are arranging an Easter celebration and craft event in church for the last day of the Spring Term.

#### **9 Church School ethos**

This term we are looking at the Christian value of 'Peace'. As well as a values display in the hall, each class has a reflective area on the theme. When the weather improves, staff are keen to look at the possibility of outdoor reflective spaces. Sarah and Jenny are meeting next week to look at the audit of distinctiveness of a Church School. Sarah has been continuing with the course on Christian leadership :Making a difference. This course covers all areas of leadership as well as looking at Collective Worship and children's spirituality. As an outcome of the course so far, we have re-arranged aspects of Collective worship including introducing some new routines, songs and prayers. Feedback from the children and staff is very positive. All staff attended a half day training on Church school distinctiveness led by Penny Hollander together with staff from Levens and Storth Schools. As part of that session, an action plan was developed by all staff.

#### **10 Pastoral issues – confidential**

#### **11 Any Other Business**

None.