



CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Curriculum and Standards Committee held on 2 February 2017 at Truro College.

Members Present: Dr J Blunden (Chief Executive), Mr R Crossland (Chair), Mrs A Firth, Mr D Walrond, Mr D Williams and Mrs E Winser

Also Present: Mrs L Garbett (Headteacher, Mithian), Mr R Gill (Headteacher, Nancledra), Mr C Gould (Headteacher, Chacewater), Mrs S Harper (Deputy Headteacher, St Ives), Miss J Harvey (Headteacher, St Dennis), Mr R Larter (Headteacher, Pendeen), Mr J Walden (Headteacher, Roche), Mr C Wilson (Headteacher, Blackwater) and Mrs A Winter (Company Secretary)

Apologies: Ms H Argall (Cornwall Teaching School Lead), Mr A Stittle (Senior Management Team Development Post).

Item	Decision	Action
17/01	<p>Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2016 were APPROVED and signed as a correct record.</p>	
17/02	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>02.01 Safeguarding (Minute 16/22.02) The Chief Executive reported that despite efforts to arrange a date with the Local Authority's Safeguarding Lead, a meeting had not yet taken place. Data had been collated to illustrate the issues. The TPAT Chair agreed to raise concerns with Cornwall Council's CEO.</p> <p>02.02 National/Regional Policy Update (Minute 16/23)</p> <p>(a) National Funding Formula The Chief Executive reported that funding concerns had been raised with Nick Gibb, Minister for School Standards, and Derek Thomas MP, during their recent visit. The calculation of high needs, a low take-up rate for free school meals and other support in some schools and the implications of the new national funding formula were also discussed by the Committee. Although most TPAT schools were likely to gain under the new formula, St Ives was expecting to receive reduced funding. Final allocations would be confirmed prior to introduction in 2018/19.</p>	EW to request meeting

	<p>(b) RAISEonline The alternative data management options to replace RAISEonline (when it was withdrawn) were being explored.</p> <p>02.03 Joint INSET Day (Minute 16/24) Another joint INSET Day had been arranged for all staff on 30 October 2017.</p> <p>02.04 Trust Development Plan for 2016/17 (Minute 16/27) Directors noted that the Trust Development Plan for 2016/17 had been adopted by the Board.</p> <p>02.05 School Admissions (Minute 16/28) The Headteacher reported that George Eustice MP, would be visiting Blackwater School on 3 February 2017, which would provide an opportunity to discuss the potential expansion of the school and the barriers to development created by the current PFI contract.</p>	
17/03	<p>Report on School Priorities for 2016/17 - Mathematics</p> <p>Chris Gould (Maths Lead) provided an update on recent initiatives and actions to promote and strengthen maths across Trust schools. A wide range of initiatives included reviewing maths plans; undertaking lesson observations; developing subject knowledge of subject leaders, teachers and teaching assistants; emphasis on mastery; focus on girls; governor development sessions; moderation day to scrutinize Yr2 and Yr6 books and ensure consistency across the Trust.</p> <p>During discussion, the Committee considered how the Maths Lead initiatives complemented Maths Hub activities, the steps to increase parental involvement and provide basic arithmetic sessions for parents as well as the emphasis on Ofsted preparation and the importance on articulating the vision for maths throughout all schools.</p> <p>Members of the Committee welcomed the wide range of activities and supported the ongoing focus on maths provision.</p>	
17/04	<p>Review of School Mid-Year Forecasts for 2016/17</p> <p>The Chief Executive presented the attainment forecasts based on teacher assessments and professional judgement benchmarked against national and Cornwall averages. Committee members noted that this was the first year of the new National Age Related Expectations (NARE) and that the mid-year forecast were based on cautious, early predictions and in many cases, a small cohort size was a factor.</p> <p>Whilst Key Stage 2 (Year 6) data was robust and above national averages, Key Stage 1 (Year 2) data was in line with benchmarks. However, 'on entry' scores (a new assessment after six weeks at school) were slightly below the Cornwall averages and the proportion of pupils expected to achieve a Good Level of Development (GLD) was below the national average. Early Years was therefore being closely monitored and prioritised in school action plans.</p>	

	<p>Members noted that Key Stage 4 (Year 11) assessment reforms and the introduction of a new GCSE grading structure this year meant that comparisons with previous years were not possible. However, the school's basic target (Grade 5 English and Maths) was above the national predicted figure and school achievement was on track.</p>	
<p>17/05</p>	<p>School Improvement</p> <p>05.01 Hub Activities and Implementation of Development Plan</p> <p>The Chief Executive summarized the ongoing school improvement strategies and work of the Hub Leads. Each hub was able to compare and discuss data, develop priorities and action plans as well as support and moderate books and lesson observations. Colleagues visited each school within the hub once a term and hub leads continued to monitor School and Headteacher Improvement Partnership (SHIP) visits.</p> <p>In response to questions, Hub Leads explained the particular emphasis within their hub this term and the key focus for each school. Following the Regional School Commissioner's (RSC) Education Specialist visit to Mithian School in March 2016, there had been particular attention on maths. End of year predictions for 2016/17 were looking positive. The RSC's visit had been productive and useful and it was hoped that the RSC might return to deliver a development session focusing on maths, which could be opened up to staff throughout the Trust.</p> <p>Another area of focus throughout TPAT schools was the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Data had been shared and the key challenges for each school identified. The joint moderation of assessments was under discussion and a termly newsletter to disseminate information was being produced by the EYFS Lead.</p> <p>The Committee was pleased to see the positive progress being made and encouraged schools to continue to share expertise, work co-operatively and supported the development of peer-to-peer support within the Trust.</p> <p>05.02 Update on Secondary Phase Key Performance Measures</p> <p>Siobhan Harper (Deputy Head, St Ives) explained the changes to the GCSE grading structure that was being phased in during 2016/17 and 2017/18. The current A* - G grading would be replaced with a numerical, 1 – 9 system and a new Progress 8 measure was also being introduced. She also summarized the way the St Ives curriculum had been adapted to ensure students' subject options would encompass the EBacc. The Government's definition of a 'good pass' would be set at grade 5 (equivalent to a top C). Target grades for students had therefore been raised to grade 5.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the challenges arising from the transition to the new grading structure and asked about the targeting of resources and implications for students. The School was continuing to prepare for the changes although at this stage there was still significant uncertainty about aspects of the reforms.</p>	

<p>17/06</p>	<p>School Improvement Monitoring of Sponsored Schools</p> <p>06.01 Pendeen</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the Operational and Development Plan for 2016/17 and Richard Larter (Headteacher) summarized ongoing school improvement activities. He also reported on the two intensive visit days by Sue Smith (Improvement Partner). Her report indicated that significant progress had been made across a range of areas (including teaching and learning, leadership and governance). Her visit had also enabled some immediate 'quick fixes' to be identified. In response to questions the Headteacher confirmed that action points arising from the visits had not raised anything unexpected and that all actions had been addressed. The School Improvement Plan was being reviewed in order to focus on long term developments over the coming three years. There was much greater confidence that positive progress was being made at the School.</p> <p>06.02 St Dennis</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the School Improvement Plan for 2016/17 and Jo Harvey (Headteacher) provided an update on developments and the feedback from visits by Sue Smith. The feedback had been favourable, indicating good progress. The School Improvement Plan had been reviewed and actions addressed to ensure readiness for an Ofsted inspection (which was likely in the very near future). The Committee noted that end of year predictions were positive, particularly in the context of high numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).</p>	
<p>17/07</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>07.01 Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) Bids</p> <p>Directors asked to be notified of the outcome of the CIF bids for capital improvements as soon as they were available.</p>	<p>JB/ Business Manager to notify Directors</p>
<p>17/08</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The Committee would next meet at 4.00pm on Tuesday 23 May 2017 at Truro College.</p>	<p>ALL to note</p>