

Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

The Local Governing Board of

Bearwood Primary & Nursery School

Minutes of Local Governing Board Meeting
Held at the School on Thursday, 14th July 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Mrs Ann Harris (Chair)

Mr Simon Hart

Mrs Laura Bennett (Headteacher)

Mrs Helen Johnson

Mrs Rebecca Bridger

Miss Shania Mansbridge

In Attendance:

Mrs Patricia Rushton (Clerk)

<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>1.1 It was noted that Mrs Harris would be arriving late to the meeting as she did not pick up the message that the meeting would be held over Zoom rather than in person at the school.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs Best.</p> <p>1.3 Miss Mansbridge was welcomed to her first Governing Board meeting. Miss Mansbridge's term of office commences on 1st September 2022.</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>2.1 No declarations of interest were made for this meeting.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>3.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th May 2022 were an accurate record.</p>	
<p>4. Matters Arising</p> <p>4.1 <u>Notes of Visit (Minute 4.1)</u>: It was confirmed that the zip file of past Notes of Visit had been sent to Mrs Johnson.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Examples of Knowledge Progression (Minute 5.39)</u>: Mrs Bennett confirmed that information about the curriculum is on the school website.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Health and Safety Audit (Minute 6.3)</u>: Mrs Johnson confirmed that she had spoken to the School Business Manager to discuss the Health and Safety Audit.</p> <p>4.4 <u>Meeting with Miss Prince (Minute 6.4)</u>: Mr Hart advised that he had met with Miss Prince. Mr Hart advised that he had not yet had an opportunity to do a Science learning walk.</p> <p>4.5 <u>School Budget Meeting (Minute 6.5)</u>: Mrs Johnson confirmed that she had met with the School Business Manager regarding the budget.</p>	

<p>4.6 <u>French Subject Lead Visit (Minute 6.6)</u>: Mrs Johnson confirmed that she had made a visit to look at French and had the opportunity look at books and talk to the children.</p> <p>4.7 <u>Sports Premium and Pupil Premium (Minute 6.7)</u>: Mrs Bennett confirmed that Mrs Best had visited to discuss the Sports Premium and Pupil Premium.</p> <p>4.8 <u>Joint Curriculum Visit (Minute 6.8)</u>: Governors were advised that this visit had taken place.</p> <p>4.9 <u>Review of Progression Maps (Minute 6.9)</u>: Mrs Bennett confirmed that the progression maps had been reviewed by Mrs Harris.</p> <p>4.10 <u>Governor Induction Training (Minute 6.10)</u>: Mrs Johnson confirmed that she had attended the Hamwic Induction Training.</p> <p>4.11 <u>Local Governing Board Training (Minute 6.11)</u>: Mrs Rushton confirmed that the training session for the whole Board had been arranged as a face-to-face event.</p> <p>4.12 <u>Headteacher Mid-Year Review (Minute 7.1)</u>: Mrs Bennett confirmed that Mrs Harris had undertaken her mid-year review.</p> <p>4.13 <u>New Governor Induction</u>: Miss Mansbridge confirmed that she had signed up for Governor Hub and was able to access all documentation.</p>	
<p>5. Headteacher's Report</p> <p>5.1 Mrs Bennett's report was sent to Governors prior to the meeting and Governors were invited to raise questions.</p> <p>5.2 <i>It was noted that there were two appeals for Reception for September 2022, and it was questioned whether the current numbers are at capacity.</i> Mrs Bennett advised that the school has admitted 30 of the 89 children who have applied. A further Ukrainian child has applied today but has since accepted a place at another school. Mrs Bennett explained that the two children going to appeal are currently attending our Nursery.</p> <p>5.3 <i>It was further questioned as to what would happen if they win the appeal.</i> Mrs Bennett advised that they are unlikely to win at appeal due to Infant Class Size Legislation which prohibits infant class sizes in excess of 30 children, with the exception of Looked After Children, Ukrainian refugees or having an EHCP if the school can meet the needs of the child. Mrs Bennett advised that currently the school has 31 children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and this is because the school has a Ukrainian child, a child with an EHCP and a Looked After Child.</p> <p>5.4 <i>It was questioned whether now that a pupil has been offered specialist provision, it is mandatory for them to accept.</i> Mrs Bennett explained that the LA have gone to consultation so the family have looked at Longspee and Nigel Bowes today. Both schools have offered places. The child has come back to Bearwood and said that he does not want to leave Bearwood. Governors were advised that the offering at Nigel Bowes was more in line with the provision at Bearwood so it is hoped that parents accept to give a September start.</p> <p>5.5 <i>It was further questioned how the school will continue to provide for this pupil.</i> Mrs Bennett advised that the school is working as usual. It was explained that the pupil</p>	

had to be restrained today and it is probable that he is in crisis as he knows he is leaving Bearwood. This pupil will finish early on Friday and from a staff point of view this may be an emotional time as staff know that have done such a good job for him. Mrs Bennett advised Governors that Bearwood does not meet his needs which was supported by the EHCP outcome by professionals.

- 5.6 *It was questioned whether the number of pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) were increasing and whether this is due to Ukrainian children joining the school.* Mrs Bennett advised that the number of pupils with EAL are increasing and the school now has 22 children, with two of these being Ukrainian. There is the possibility of a further two Ukrainian children joining us.
- 5.7 *It was further questioned, if the school received any extra support or funding to cope with both the language barriers and the potential trauma.* Mrs Bennett advised that the school receives EAL funding as part of GAG, so next year will receive an additional £7,200. Mrs Bennett explained that as the school is mostly White British it has a responsibility to educate the pupils about EAL. Governors were advised that some funding will go towards dual language text books and pocket pads. The pocket pads are especially helpful as it will translate the language. The school has seen a real shift in EAL children accessing the curriculum since the school has purchased these devices.
- 5.8 *A Governor asked for an explanation of pupil conferencing and how this helps with Greater Depth Writing.* Mrs Bennett advised that pupil conferencing gives the teacher the opportunity to work 1:1 with a child to go through their work and identify areas where they are doing really well, as well as feeding back to the child how they can improve their work further. The teacher may then model and give them an example to work to. It is expected that the child would then apply this to their future work. A review is undertaken after two weeks.
- 5.9 Mrs Bennett advised that for a child to be assessed as working at Greater Depth in Year 6 they need to have a natural flair for writing. Sometimes identifying areas for improvement can be achieved by the children critiquing writing in small groups. Mrs Bennett advised that she is looking to see if pupil conferencing can be rolled out across the school.
- 5.10 *It was further questioned whether pupil conferencing was for all children.* Mrs Bennett advised that it was mainly for children who were on the cusp or those that need to secure Greater Depth and would be discussed as part of the accountability meetings.
- 5.11 *It was noted that attendance was low in Year 1 and questioned why this was the case.* Mrs Bennett advised that the low attendance was due to the high level of Covid cases and then the year group experiencing chicken pox and a sickness bug. This has made it difficult for the school to raise attendance levels in Year 1.
- 5.12 *It was noted that in EYFS, girls are out-performing boys, but in Year 2 boys are out-performing girls. It was questioned as to why this might be.* Mrs Bennett advised that this is cohort specific. This is managed by choosing texts appropriate for the cohort. The school also does gap analysis to identify areas that the children need to work on.

<p>5.13 <i>It was noted that the attainment tables do not total 100% and questioned whether the difference between Expected and Greater Depth combined were those children that were working below Expected. It was further questioned as to how many children this represented.</i> Mrs Bennett drew attention to page 2 of her report which gives the numbers for each class so it can be seen how many passed when using percentages. As an example, Mrs Bennett drew attention to KS1 Reading where 68% of children are at Age Related Expectations (ARE), meaning that 32% of children are working at below ARE. Mrs Bennett also explained that 13% of all the children are working at Greater Depth. Looking at SEN, she advised that this relates to the percentage of SEN children working at ARE.</p>	<p>Mrs Bennett</p>
<p>5.14 It was noted that the data for boys and girls at KS2 has been switched. Mrs Bennett advised that this would be rectified and the data will be reviewed at our meeting in September. Action: Mrs Bennett.</p>	
<p>5.15 <i>Mrs Bennett was asked to tell Governors about the impact of the pandemic on the children in KS1.</i> Mrs Bennett advised that the children in KS1 have been most affected by the pandemic as these children needed to have face to face learning. Mrs Bennett explained that the recent Hamwic summary showed the school to have really strong KS2 results and this demonstrated the high quality of provision during the lockdowns. Mrs Bennett advised that the high quality of delivery has been rewarded with the school achieving above both national and local averages. It was commented that the school had done really well so should be pleased.</p>	
<p>5.16 Mrs Bennett advised that the school had started using Little Wandle and the progress from this programme has been phenomenal. Mrs Bennett explained that when the Year 1 children did their phonics check in June 77% of them had passed (six had not passed). The school continued to work on phonics and when all six children were re-tested, it could be seen that all the children had made progress and three of them were achieving the pass mark, giving 90% of children going into Year 2 having passed their phonics.</p>	
<p>5.17 <i>It was questioned whether Mrs Bennett had noticed what impact the lockdowns had on those children that were in Year 1 at the point of the first lockdown (children are now in Year 3).</i> Mrs Bennett advised that generally this year group is of lower ability and some children are showing difficulties with their social and emotional development rather than academic. Governors were advised that those children who did not pass their phonics in Year 2 have now passed and many of the children are now making up lost ground. The current Year 3 teacher will be taking these children into Year 4 and this will help the children as the teacher already knows the children well. Governors were advised that interventions have been put in place where needed and these have been working and the children have been catching up.</p>	
<p>5.18 Mrs Bennett advised that in EYFS 77% of the children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD). Of the Pupil Premium children only one out of five achieved GLD. It was explained that of the five children that did meet the requirements for GLD, 3 were cuspy and will get it by the end of Year 1. Governors were assured that staff look at each child to see who is falling behind and who is making progress. It is expected that all children will make at least expected progress from their starting points.</p>	

- 15.1 *With regard to times tables, it was noted that the 'top table in last year's results were equivalent to the bottom tables this year'. This was considered to be very positive.* Mrs Bennett advised that times tables have not had as much focus due to the demands across the curriculum and not having a maths lead for the last half a year. The Maths Action Plan shows written times tables progression starting in Year 2 so as to ensure that these are secure by the end of Year 4. Additionally, the school has just found out that the Year 2 teacher was not teaching times tables until the children had learnt how to multiply; this has been addressed. It is expected that next year the school will start to see results. Governors were assured that the children's times tables continue to be tracked when in Years 5 and 6.
- 5.19 *It was noted that Phonics were above the BCP average and the National average. It was thought that the Reading results were disappointing and it was questioned how this can be explained.* Mrs Bennett explained that the children's Reading scores/ progress was largely dependent on the children's opportunity to read at home. It was considered that the Phonics scores were good as the school was using Little Wandle, but this did not achieve the fluency needed for reading. Mrs Bennett explained that one child joined the school in SATs week and as they did not do the SATs tests this impacted negatively on the results.
- 5.20 Mrs Bennett advised that the Year 2 TA will go up with the class when they move to Year 3 as she knows the children well.
- 5.21 *It was questioned how Mrs Bennett felt about the KS2 results and whether she was pleased?* Mrs Bennett advised that she thinks about the children that did not get ARE, but given the pandemic the children have done really well. Mrs Bennett advised that she was delighted with the Greater Depth as the school has been trying to get over 20% for Maths and to get it this year was amazing. Mrs Bennett advised that she was looking forward to next year. Governors were informed that the school is appealing two papers, so expects to get a further two Greater Depth Readers. Each child is worth 4%.
- 5.22 Mrs Bennett advised that Hamwic are pleased with the school's results and the results reflected the school's offer during the pandemic. Governors were advised that the Year 6 teacher had done a great job and had a successful year. Mrs Bennett advised that KS1 results were disappointing, but these children were hit harder by the pandemic.
- 5.23 *It was noted that the staff seem to have lost a large number of days due to staff absence, but the school had only used 12 days' supply. It was questioned whether this has had a significant disruption to the organisation of classes.* Mrs Bennett advised that the school was fortunate to have skilled HLTAs and have been able to use these for cover as this is less disruptive for the children. Governors were informed that where supply is required, the school uses recruited supply as these are people who know the children and are the best we can get for the class that day.
- 5.24 *It was questioned whether only one child had signed up for wraparound care with the new provider and what will happen.* Mrs Bennett advised that the provision is located down the road from the school and the school is offering this as their service. When the wraparound care was run by the school, we had three/four children

signed up. Mrs Bennett explained that the school's provision was not viable due to the staff costs and these staff can now be used for interventions.

- 5.25 Mrs Bennett advised that attendance has become a big issue so will be a focus next year.
- 5.26 *It was noted that the school now has eight EAL children and questioned whether these were recent admissions to the school.* Mrs Bennett advised that two of these children are Ukrainian and one is Syrian. It was explained that the new criteria for Pupil Premium means that these children, as refugees, automatically qualify.
- 5.27 Mrs Bennett advised that the attendance of Year 3 is not as good as the school would like, but parents are taking the opportunity to take their children away. Hamwic have questioned the high levels of absence, but once the leavers are accounted for, this is less of an issue. Governors were further advised that the school recently had 10 cases of Covid which will impact on attendance. As no supply cover was available Mrs Bennett and Mrs Guarguaglini have been teaching.
- 5.28 *It was noted that the school had offered a drop-in session for attendance and it was questioned what take up the school had.* Mrs Bennett explained that the school is trying to change tack. Previously, parents have been fined for school absence, but now the school is changing so that the children want to come to school. The school is providing existing opportunities both in school time and after school and is organising events that parents want to engage in. It was further explained that the new Assistant Headteacher will award children on improved attendance rather than 100% attendance. The school will also give a Best Class of the Week Award.
- 5.29 Mrs Bennett advised that she will commence her Ofsted training for 10 days at the end of September and then shadow an inspection in October, with her first Ofsted inspection being undertaken in November. Governors were advised that Chris Bulmer, the Standards Officer at Hamwic, has said that she wished she had undertaken her Ofsted training whilst working as a Headteacher. Mrs Bennett felt that this training would benefit the school and give a clear direction as to where the school is going.
- 5.30 *It was questioned as to the backfill in place when Mrs Bennett is on a course or inspecting schools.* Mrs Bennett advised that this was the rationale behind recruiting an Assistant Headteacher. Currently, Mrs Guarguaglini teaches one day per week and the Assistant Headteacher will be teaching three days per week. Governors were advised that Mrs Bennett does not intend continuing the work she has been doing supporting other Hamwic schools and will instead focus on Ofsted. Mrs Bennett advised that Hamwic have had 10 schools inspected this year.
- 5.31 Mrs Bennett advised that she had discussed the next steps for the school with Chris Bulmer and this will include the further development of phonics and the curriculum. The main focus next year will be on staff, getting back to pedagogy and what good teaching and learning looks like.
- 5.32 *It was questioned how many new staff the school will have next year.* Governors were advised that Miss Mansbridge has joined us early as Staff Governor and is currently working with Mrs Guarguaglini in Year 4 and will take these children to Year 5 full-time; this has been a good appointment. Additionally, Mr James will be joining in Year 3, Mr Rockstar in Year 4 and a new Assistant Headteacher for three

