



Yewstock School

Full Governing Board Meeting

Monday 14th of March 2022

Meeting started at 5.03pm

Clive Padgett, Peter Bush, Phil Ryall, Mark Hughes, Lucy Ross

Also present – Chris Chadwick

Clerk

Vanessa Burton

Apologies

Linda Caride, Sue Lauterwasser, Mandy Morgan, Seonaid Walton, Jeanette Rogers & Pete Lagden

Safeguarding Update – CC

CC informed the board that the purpose of her presentation was to give an overview of Safeguarding practices at Yewstock. Her presentation is summarised as follows;

- Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Yewstock.
- Relevant to those on the FP&E Committee as they must ensure that premises and environments are safe for the pupils and that appropriate staff are employed.
- Safeguarding is embedded in school policies, procedures and in how the school conducts itself out in the community.

Policies

- Governors must be familiar with all statutory policies relating to Safeguarding.
- Safeguarding updates are sent out at the start of each academic year.
- Safeguarding training is the very first thing undertaken by new staff before even setting foot in a classroom
- There are 15 policies relating to Safeguarding and they have also been uploaded onto My Concern.
- All Safeguarding policies are reviewed yearly.
- Regular reminders and updates are given at Staff briefings and meetings.

Training

- All staff receive comprehensive Safeguarding training each academic year.
- Prevent training is held every 3 years with new staff completing this at the start of their employment.
- A lot of training has been completed online due to the pandemic.
- The school also subscribes to Creative Education which all Governors have access to – this provides some excellent Safeguarding training.

Curriculum

- Safeguarding elements are incorporated into the curriculum such as for PSHE and PE and subject leaders are asked to think about how Safeguarding relates to their subjects.

Communication

- It is important to maintain a consistent approach between home and school and keep lines of communication open.
- Communication in school between other staff and outside agencies such as social workers and therapists is also important.
- Trust must be established with pupils so that they are more inclined to open up and share their concerns or worries.
- Staff must check in with each other, particularly if they have been involved with a Safeguarding case as they can be stressful and upsetting.
- Staff must be vigilant and look for things they wouldn't expect.
- Safeguarding information is distributed about school on signs and posters and also gives details of the DSL's and LADO

Resources

- There are a lot of training resources available and this can be found on the school system which can be accessed by all staff.
- There is a Safeguarding notice board up in both staff rooms, detailing information about updates.
- CC conducts termly Safeguarding walks around both school sites and monitors Safeguarding content and resources on the school website.
- Deidre Fitzpatrick has been booked again in July to consult on the school's Safeguarding practices. All recommendations from her last visit have been implemented.

DSL's are as follows;

Chris Chadwick – DSL

Clive Padgett – DDSL

Oliver Turner – DDSL (College)

Jules Daulby – DDSL

Tom Maher – DDSL (Stour Connect)

Minutes of the last meeting

No outstanding actions

Agreed as a true copy and signed off

Report from FP&E Committee

- The committee received detailed information from Bryan Trim (The School Business Manager) on a range of projects.
- The LA's Decarbonisation Fund will supply Yewstock School with solar panels for the roof which should help with future energy costs.

- The committee agreed to a layout for the new Nurture Base provision. The cost will come out of the school's current surplus funding and DC will fund some additional items. This project will hopefully be complete by September.
- The recent Outturn showed a carry forward (most of which will be spent on the Nurture Base).
- The school's current energy bill was lower than expected but this may be due to a milder winter and the installation of a new more efficient heating system.
- BT has received quotes for staff absence insurance and the current insurer had offered a quote which included TA's as well as teachers
- The Governor Skills Matrix was discussed and identified as a useful document for Governors.
- All policies were ratified and it was agreed they could go forward to FGB for adoption.

Report from Curriculum Committee

- The committee had received a subject leader report submitted by Aimee Brown on RE. Her report detailed the statutory amount of hours that RE must be taught. She also gave an overview on some recent training she had attended which looked at both the intent and implementation of RE. She will follow this up with a further course on Impact. AB has carried out an audit of all RE resources and has ordered more. The meaningfulness of RE to SEN pupils was discussed and RE accreditation.
- The Curriculum policies were looked at and it was agreed that they could go through to FGB.

Arts Mark Award

CP informed the board that one of the School Development Plans priorities is to work on achieving the Arts Mark award. CP went on to say that this was chosen because Naomi Haydon is a very good Art teacher and it will be a great vehicle to really enrich our Curriculum offer. However, Covid has made things difficult. Going forward with NH's leadership it is planned that events will take place including a whole school production. CP informed the board that NH had entered some of the pupil's art work into a competition with 2 pupils having been chosen to have their work exhibited in the National Gallery. One of the actions is for a link Governor to be appointed to monitor the progress of this award but it was agreed that the committee as a whole would take on this responsibility with NH reporting to them on a regular basis. CP confirmed that the board had read through the Statement of Commitment and asked for it to be agreed

All board members agreed.

Head teacher's Report to Governors

CP explained that the is Head teacher's report had been modified to upgrade the data dashboard making the information presented more meaningful. He went on to say that the picture on the front was of class Ade who had been down to the Exchange to help with donations of aid for Ukraine. They had impressed staff and organisers so much that they were invited back to help load the lorries.

- Attendance – There is currently 159 pupils on roll and attendance since September has stood at 88.9%. Before lockdown it was 92%. There are a number of pupils with complex medical needs who have had to shield. However, despite this the national attendance average for SEN schools is 75% and for Mainstream it is 89%, so Yewstock is not falling short.

There have been a few pupils with long term absence but our FSM and LAC pupils attendance is at 92%. CP went on to say that his aspirational target for attendance is 94%. CP went on to say that until this week absences from Covid had not impacted the school but there has now been a significant spike in cases with 15 pupils and 12 staff members having tested positive. **LR asked what was the schools current Covid policy?** CP said he was following government guidance with anyone with a positive result having to isolate for 5 days and returning after 2 consecutive negative lateral flows. If pupils were unable to test then they would have to isolate for 10 days. **MH asked, apart from it being good for the pupils, what was the impact on increasing attendance? Did this mean more funding?** CP said there wouldn't be increased funding but that it is something that Ofsted look at and want to know what has been done to support learning and ensure children were not left behind in learning. He went on to say that fortnightly attendance meetings were held and that an individual approach to attendance was taken.

- Behaviour –CP said that there was a very clear behaviour policy in school and that incidents were recorded on SIMS in a similar way as reporting on My Concern. CP highlighted the graphs in his report detailing the different incident rates by group and said that the data shows a drop in RPI incidents since the implementation of effective behaviour support (Dorset Steps Team). This year there had been only 3 incidents. **MH asked what would restrictive handling look like.** CP explained this. He went on to say that 10-15 years ago this would have happened frequently through the day. **MH asked if there was historic data regarding behaviour?** CP Said yes and that this enabled him to see patterns and trends especially after SIMS is used more effectively. CC added that before SIMS all incident reports were in paper format.
- CP indicated the graph showing data from My Concern and explained what could be ascertained including pointers to things such as gaps in staff training. He went on to say that sometimes reports on SIMS and My Concern may overlap due to a behaviour being caused by a Safeguarding issue.
- Staffing – CP said that 2 new TA's had just been appointed following successful interviews earlier today but that there were still some gaps, currently being filled by staff from TP. The Senior TA Team had been reformed and is working really well across the school. GV, a former TA will be joining the school again to work in the LRC. Unfortunately, the Janitor role has not yet been filled. However, the advert and hours is going to be re-formatted to make it more attractive to those who have child care commitments.
- Covid – The whole school Risk Assessment has been updated again. All secondary pupils and staff are continuing to wear masks in shared spaces. In person assemblies are on hold for the time being. Any classes with an outbreak are fogged at the end of the day and Lateral Flow testing is continuing.

- Staff Training & Development – CP informed the board that every term there is always a Safeguarding focus.
- Governor Curriculum Monitoring – CP said that Yewstock was now in an Ofsted timescale for inspection. He went on to say that Covid had made it difficult for monitoring and learning walks to take place in school but **requested that all Governors now complete their monitoring by the summer half term.** He went on to urge all Governors to be really proactive in making contact with subject leaders to arrange meetings.
- Assessment – The new assessment system is being embedded and work has started on uploading English, Maths and Entry Level data. CD is doing a great job on work around this.
- GDPR – No incidents to report
- Budget – CP informed the board that the budget allocated for the next financial year will not be significantly higher or lower than last year. The budget will be set being mindful of existing costs and planned rises.

CP concluded his Head teachers report.

Governor Development Plan

CP asked that all Governors look at the plan which will be included as a standing agenda item in subsequent FGB Meetings. Going forward the plan will be reviewed and updated at Full Governor meetings

Policies

Finance, Personnell & Environment

Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones
 First Aid
 Lettings Policy
 Performance & Development Review

Curriculum

Enterprise
 Remote Teaching & Learning

VB said that PB had raised that the First Aid Policy did not contain anything regarding Allergies and the use of Epi pens. VB has spoken to the first Aid Lead and this will be amended and brought back to Governors at the next meeting.

All Adopted with the exception of First Aid

AOB

None

What Difference has been made to our children

PB said that the information presented and detailed statistics shown demonstrate how well looked after our children are.

Meeting closed at 6.48pm

Signed as a true copy..... Date.....