

LINTON HEIGHTS JUNIOR SCHOOL

LOCAL GOVERNING BODY Meeting minutes

29th January 2025 - 6.00pm.



Governors present:

Gill Powell (GP)
Caroline Webb (Headteacher) (CW)
Daniel Morrish (DM)
Matt McLoughlin (MMc).
Brian Harrison (BH)
Sarah Rosewell (SR)
Julia Calver (JC)
Gabi Chamberlain (GC)
Benj Marriage (BM)
Clare Ball (CB)

Others present:

Lucy Potter (Governance Professional) (LP)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted at the start of the meeting for ES.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Completed declarations of interest form provided by CB to LP.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the LGB held on 4th December 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Action Points from Meeting of 04/12/24	Minute refers	Responsible
1. Sam Barnes to be invited to September LGB to update Governors.	7 (03/07/24)	✓
2. Ed Symons to contact designated member of staff to check in re wellbeing.	14	ES
3. LP to provide GC and MMc with their ID badges	15	✓
4. LP to provide MMc with the AL photo and video consent form	15	✓

5. IDSR ACHIEVEMENT TRACKING

Action

The Headteacher presented the IDSR (Inspection Data Summary Report). This document will be looked at by inspectors when they visit the school and is updated regularly. The data shows we have an increase in SEND and EHCPs. Our pupil numbers were good although now are falling. Some Governors noted they were unable to open the document in the LGB Teams folder. The Headteacher asked LP to email the document to all Governors. The Headteacher continued to note that the attainment in Key Stage 2 shows we were significantly above greater depth in reading for the Year 6 pupils who have just left. The current Year 5's are working below the expected standard but they continue to make good progress which is positive as this year group have been the most affected by being in reception for the first year of Covid. The Governors noted that this will be the case for all school children in Year 5. The Headteacher agreed and also noted that this year group also has a higher number of SEND pupils.

Moving to the absence data, the Headteacher advised that we have lots of evidence to show what we are doing for children who have poor attendance records. It is our ongoing aim to ensure the children are in school more and the situation is improving.

Achievement tracking shows our SATS predictions with some targets being extremely high and very promising. You can see the current Y6s are on track. We are aware the current Y4 and Y5 will not have such high predictions but interventions are in place for these year groups to support them.

LP to email the IDSR to all Governors.

6. MY CONCERN TRENDS

The Headteacher noted there is not a massive trend set out on the graphs showing where we have logged behaviour issues and safeguarding concerns. The Headteacher asked the Governors to note that there is not a spike of neglect. **The Governors asked how are there concerns in August as this is during the school holiday?** The Headteacher advised she would look into this but she was sure there would be a good reason. It may be that it is the entry date rather than the incident date.

We have had a recent spike in behaviour incidents being logged on my concern due to more extreme behaviours. As a result certain students now have a behaviour plan and we have other external agencies assisting us with these students. **The Governors queried whether the behaviour incidents are repeat offenders and SEND children.** The Headteacher responded that yes they are. There are approximately six children across the year groups, more so in Year 4 who are the more challenging to deal with. All staff have worked very hard but the children refuse to cooperate and as a result we have sought external help. The children referred to are not disrupting the learning for others in the classroom as they are outside of the classrooms with the TAs. On the whole behaviour is still really good in school. **The Governors queried if the parents of these children are willing to engage and does this have a pull on the TA's time?** The Headteacher advised that it is a mix across the children and it is difficult for some parents to know what to do for the best. Due to some of the special need issues being cognition and learning these children are not getting the learning they need. This does take up a huge amount of TA time. We are looking into a reduced timetable for one child.

The Governors noted that our school is not equipped to deal with some of the high need children. The Headteacher commented that nationally a lot of schools are in the same situation. There are not enough places for these children to go to receive the appropriate support and learning they require. **The Governors queried whether this is likely to create any staffing issues.** The Headteachers advised this is a concern of hers and in the worst case it could lead to staff leaving if they feel they are not supported properly. The

Headteachers assured the Governors that the school are working very hard in relation to these children, we are speaking to the right people and the Trust are aware of the needs of the children. We also have a specialist teacher visiting us next week to advise further.

The Headteacher noted that some children have far too much screen time at home and become addicted which is another reason they do not wish to come to school and adds to their behavioural issues. GC noted that during a recent meeting she attended it was revealed that just one hour of screentime per day can significantly contribute to the development of ADHD-type symptoms in children. The Headteacher asked GC if she could provide her with a brief report of her findings on the effects of too much screentime in children. The Chair added that screen addiction in children is fast becoming a problem and the effect it can have on brain development.

GC to provide The Headteacher with a report on the effects of too much screentime.

GC

7. ATTENDANCE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY; INCLUSION DATA

The Headteacher presented this summary which had been completed by the previous Headmaster. The school does have concerns regarding EBSA (Emotional Based School Avoidance) as we have a small number of high cases where children are not coming into school which is affecting our attendance data. We have started a new tracking system for some children.

Moving on to fining for school holidays, the previous Headmaster did issue fines. The Headteacher noted that she is not against fining and will show consistency in her decisions

8. ICFP (INTEGRATED CURRICULUM FINANCIAL PLANNING) REVIEW/FINANCE UPDATE

The Headteacher presented a brief update in terms of finance. This item is on the agenda because at this stage in the year the initial budget process should have started with the Trust and the Headteacher would need to discuss the ICFP with the Governors including class sizes for next year. There has been a delay with budgetary information so this is not available yet. We do know that the budget will be extremely tight next year. We are very hopeful to be able to maintain 8 classes although as the numbers coming to the infant school fall, this might need looking at in the future.

The governors asked how this year's budget was looking given the money being saved on leadership.

Unfortunately there had been some miscommunication between us and the Trust meaning that we currently have a deficit. The Headteacher has been assured by the Trust this will not happen again due to a new module in the finance system being put in place.

The Headteacher was pleased to advise that we have received £5,000.00 from the Co-op.

The Governors asked what will this be spent on? The Headteacher advised we are looking to buy some fold up dining tables with stools attached so that the children with home packed lunches can sit at tables instead of just benches. We have also secured a £10,000.00 bid from the Living Sport Trust.

9. REVIEW KEY RISKS

The Headteacher presented the risk report which had been completed by the previous Headmaster. The Trust ask us to choose three areas which we feel are the biggest risk to our school. The Headteacher will review these soon but as the report stands the three risks

are (1) financial worries, (2) concerns over inability to recruit for vacancies and (3) concerns about the cost of repairs in maintaining a 50 year old building. The Headteacher advised that when she reviews this document the financial risk will most likely remain. She will change the risk of being unable to recruit as we have not recently had problems recruiting staff. The Headteacher noted she may well change this risk to the impact of the pupils with high needs behavioural issues. The last risk regarding the building definitely needs to stay. There will soon be pressure to put money aside as the school is looking very run down and needs investment. There is no current plan in place for major repairs. The interior doors are original 1970s and some do not shut properly. Fences need replacing and the toilets need attention. The front foyer needs looking at and improving. The Headteacher advised that she recently approached Jon Culpin for advice as to how we budget for such works when there isn't enough money to budget for the same. Jon Culpin advised that we have to apply for separate funding through the Trust.

10. AOB

The Headteacher advised she is currently updating the SDP (School Development Plan) which she advised will be sent to all Governors shortly. The Headteacher has removed reference to bringing new staff up to speed because this has now been done and is not an issue. She has also taken out references to appraisals and will look at this moving forward but the teachers and TAs have already had their targets set. Ther four main priorities we will focus on are (1) Maths, (2) English, (3) Behaviour/Wellbeing, EBSA/Mental Health and (4) SEND and disadvantaged pupils

The Headteacher to email SDP to all Governors/include with next meeting documents if part of the agenda.

CW

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 19th March 2025, 18:00 - LHJS - Mobile.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:23.

Signed as an accurate recordDate