

**THORNDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL
& THORNDOWN PRE-SCHOOL**

**Learning and Development Committee Meeting
Thursday 4th May 2023 (6.00 to 7.15 p.m.)
Minutes**

Learning and Development Committee Membership			
Chris Snape	Head	Nick Drury	ND
Heather Wood	HW	Rob Jagger	RJ
Katie Humphrey	KH	Peter Smith	PS
Emily Broadhurst	EB	Duncan Woodall	DW
Jane Ainscow	JA		

Item		Action	Lead
1.	Welcome / Apologies / Declarations of Interest		
1.1	Governors present: Peter Smith, Katie Humphrey, Emily Broadhurst, Chris Snape, Rob Jagger and Heather Wood.		
1.2	Apologies for absence: Jane Ainscow, Nick Drury and Duncan Woodall.		
1.3	Frank Newton was present also present as an observer.		
1.4	Declaration of interest: RJ spouse works in school.		
1.5	Peter Smith acting as chair in JA absence.		
2.	Minutes and action points from the meeting held on 9 th March 2023		
2.1	The minutes from the meeting held on the 9 th March 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.		
2.2	There were no action points.		
3.	Head's Report		
3.1	Absence and attendance: the report was circulated prior to the meeting. The data is still in line with national. The Friday family breakfast addressing lateness is a success. The LA attendance officer is attending a meeting in a few weeks. There are open lines of communication between school and families. It is hoped that this will soon have a positive impact.		
3.2	Assessment: Current assessment did not highlight gaps in knowledge and how this could inform future teaching. CS looking at different assessment options. CHALLENGE: RJ sought clarity on which assessment were completed in school, which CS confirmed he was discussing end of term assessment. CHALLENGE: RJ asked if teachers were aware of where their pupils were at assessment wise, which CS confirmed they did from lesson but this won't highlight whether information has been retained and won't identify patterns. PS raised that using NFER data provides a useful comparison to other local schools. EB raised that	CHALLENGE CHALLENGE	

04.05.23 L&D Minutes

.....(CHAIR)

3.3	<p>the assessment tool helps in regards to teacher work load. CS explained how the assessment is marked and inputted and how this affect current teacher workload. CS explained what the different companies investigated offer and recommended Pixel, who offer online inputting and assessment whilst offering teaching and management support. CHALLENGE: RJ asked how the assessment would evaluate our curriculum and its impact. CS confirmed the assessment is only in maths, reading and grammar and explained how pupils are assessed. CHALLENGE: KH asked who the current assessment provider was, which CS stated it was NFER. CHALLENGE: KH asked there was analysis of data completed in house, which CS confirmed there was, but that Pixel would provide a greater depth. CS confirmed the cost and that it was an annual price. CS wants to continue with O-track as well, but this could be phased out eventually, which will be a cost saving in the future. CHALLENGE: RJ asked if reviews from other school had been positive, which CS confirmed. EB raised that pixel covers every year group, when other companies don't have assessment for KS1. CHALLENGE: HW asked if CS was looking into using the same assessment company throughout the whole school, which CS confirmed, it would be currently be used in years 2-6, and then be reviewed for year 1. CHALLENGE: HW requested that the committee receive some feedback regarding the implementation of the new company, and suggested that it should be covered in a governor visit.</p> <p>OPAL: CS have begun looking into OPAL (outdoor play and learning) which provides outdoor provisions, which builds creative play into all year groups. It focuses on how the school can use the grounds to inform learning and play more widely. CS had visited a school, along with the Families Worker and Business Manager to see how it is being implemented. The company provide all the risk assessment, compliance and support. It will be funded by sports premium and CS is intending to bring this into school for next year. The governors agreed that this sounded like a good scheme and supported the decision to go ahead.</p>	<p>CHALLENGE</p> <p>CHALLENGE</p> <p>CHALLENGE</p> <p>CHALLENGE</p> <p>CHALLENGE</p> <p>CHALLENGE</p>	
4.	Chair's Report		
	Nothing to report as the chair was absent.		
5.	Governor Visit Reports		
5.1	<p>EYFS: HW completed this visit and shared her report prior to the meeting and gave a brief update on this visit to the committee. HW informed the committee that the next visit will be focused on the assessment of EYFS. HW wished to highlight the balance ability work and how the balance work had help develop skills and HW was pleased to hear that the funding for this had been agreed for another year. There was a discussion regarding how the pre-school is being involved in the school and engaging the wider community. There was a discussion that pre-school will be included in the EYFS</p>		

	visit and how the governors could support pre-school. HW also attended the EYFS as a voluntary visit to share music with the children.		
5.2	There was a discussion regarding how governor visits into school should be recorded. It was suggested that governors could record informal visits as it would demonstrate governors being part of the wider school community. It was agreed that governor visits, of any kind, will be emailed to the clerk to create a governor visit log.		
5.3	Phonics: PS and FN completed the visit and this had been circulated prior to the meeting. PS ran through the highlight of the report, which highlighted the Thorndown phonics scheme which was purpose made to what was appropriate for the school. The governors were pleased to see the hard work that had gone into the phonic scheme. Others school have shown interested in visiting the school to see how it was created. CHALLENGE: HW asked if we could copyright it, which CS is looking into it. The follow up on this will be once the data is in. CHALLENGE: HW wish to confirm the report is explicit that governors are happy with the choice of creating own scheme, which CS confirmed that Ofsted were happy with the scheme.	CHALLENGE CHALLENGE	
6.	Policies		
6.1	Pupils going home late protocol: There had been minor updates on this policy. DECISION: The committee agreed this policy.	DECISION	
6.2	Prevent action plan: This is an LA policy which is adopted. DECISION: The committee agreed this policy. CHALLENGE: HW asked how the school check that people have completed training, which CS confirmed that training is covered and that the prevent leads are highlighted on the posters around the school. CHALLENGE: HW asked if Prevent is including in the lettings the school has, which CS stated that as they tend to be smaller regular groups it is not as relevant, however, it will be reviewed in the letting policy.	DECISION CHALLENGE CHALLENGE	
7.	Any other business		
7.1	HW asked if there was any transition work going on for the year 6 alongside the secondary school. CS confirmed the SendCo and Families Worker have worked with cluster schools and have created a set of events between schools and have targeted those who would benefit. These are being supported by the mental health team, who are also running sessions for parents. There has been no additional support from the local secondary school		
8.	Summary of impact and standards		
8.1	The committee agreed that this meeting had impacted on standards by:		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governors have had a detailed discussion regarding the proposed assessment packaging and the benefits it provides.• Governor visits highlighted the achievements of the school and that follow up is planned alongside other governor involvement.		
--	---	--	--

The meeting closed at 18:54

L&D Action Points - None