



Minutes of the meeting of the Curriculum Committee at 8am on Tuesday 3rd March 2020

Present: Sarah Awuye (head), Jo Reeder (deputy head), Juliette Ash (chair), Claudia Canepa (governor), Katharine Wilson (governor and clerk).

1 Declarations of interest

None.

2 Apologies and minutes

Apologies were received from Emma Compton-Burnett and Elizabeth Baigent. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and will be uploaded to the website.

3 Matters arising not on the agenda

Priorities for coming meetings were discussed; the April meeting will include feedback from the upcoming governor day.

4 SDIP for curricom:

Safeguarding

A member of the public took photos of Year 5s doing their Bikeability training in local roads; as they were in a public place the police took no action, but parents were informed and children will be reminded about keeping safe.

There are signs about Coronavirus and hand gel is provided; children are encouraged to wash hands more.

A mid-year realignment of SDIP discussion areas linked to the new priorities and the Governor visit day occurred. JA will circulate the new master agenda to the Curriculum committee. As a result Impact of writing policy and EYFS were reassigned to different meetings.

5 Policies for review: Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

Teaching about relationships in their various forms will be statutory from September 2020; teaching about sex is not statutory unless it forms part of the science curriculum. The school can choose whether or not to include teaching about sex at all at primary level. It is mandatory at senior level. Staff shared a draft version of the policy with governors.

Will the curriculum be included in the policy?

No, but curriculum and resources will be included on the website. Staff are currently considering changing their current provider of resources.

Is sex education currently delivered in science lessons?

Animal reproduction is taught in science, but human reproduction is delivered in PHSE in year 6, which parents can withdraw children from (very few do). Year 5 are taught about hygiene, Year 6 about loving relationships and reproduction.

What consultations will be provided during the policy development?

A revised version of the draft policy will be sent to FGB before consultation. A meeting will then be offered to all parents (those unable to attend can make appointments) and the policy will be emailed to them, giving opportunities for feedback. After this, pupil consultations will take place, probably through talking to selected children about emotions, bodies, families, friends, what they have been taught, if they would prefer to be taught differently etc.

When will the policy be implemented?

From September 2020.

How is stigmatisation avoided?

Children will be taught sensitively about different relationships, families and support structures; the emphasis is on factual knowledge of different models and their legal status, not promotion of any particular lifestyle. Staff will also use information parents give as appropriate. Staff are always aware of the differing circumstances of children's home lives, and might talk about 'whoever's at home' to include grandparents, carers etc.

How is the possibility of hidden bias in teachers dealt with?

Through training; teachers cannot give opinions and must deliver the curriculum, but will be trained to frame the material.

After a broad discussion the committee agreed that sex education should be delivered to year 6 and through PHSE, rather than science, so that parents retain the choice to withdraw children. The statutory relationship education will also be delivered through PHSE and is compulsory for all.

SA left the meeting at 9am.

Is there other material on sex and relationships available in school?

Yes, there is material on human anatomy and relationships in the library; 'The place to be' has material on emotions.

Christian vision- SIAMS

JR shared with governors how the school was implementing the changes recommended after the last SIAMS report (2018). The Christian vision and new motto are in place, and values are taught through assemblies and collective worship. The current focus is on spirituality as it is seen and felt in school, how to make children aware of awe, wonder and mystery in their everyday lives. Plans include Nature school, and having children plan collective worship.

How are reflection spaces used in school?

Reflection spaces are key to ongoing plans, but geographically challenging. Ashley Charles, St Margaret's children's worker, will be working with BeSpace to provide whole school spaces and activities. The emphasis will be on developing children holistically, although BeSpace is a Christian charity. The old library site may be developed as a reflection space, and there will be reflection books, initially for the whole school, for children to contribute 'speech bubbles' to after collective worship.

Is the nurture shed used?

The nurture shed will be a music room. It is hoped that links can be made between music and spirituality, and Elizabeth Baigent has agreed to help in developing these, and in co-ordinating spirituality more generally. Governors welcomed the fact that both Magdalen College School and The Dragon are offering musical enrichment opportunities to the children.

JA mentioned that other schools (E.g: Wolvercote primary school) use temporary modular classrooms for peripatetic teaching such as music and that in theory, if more space was required generally, a modular generic class room could be installed in the side return behind the car park in the dead ground (where the container currently sits) but the committee noted that there could be difficulties over funding, planning permission etc.

Other plans include getting children more involved in charity and community events. Governors noted that parents are keen to be more involved with their children, and staff stressed that while parents are not currently invited to assemblies, the celebration events/WOW days are more child centred and help children share their learning with parents.

Governors welcomed JR's work in installing a tab on the website with 'church events' so that parents could see how their children are involved with religion, including visits to places of worship (e.g: a synagogue).

6 AOB

JR noted that in line with government regulations there will now be a designated teacher (head teacher) for looked after and previously looked after children.

7 DONM - Tuesday 21st April.

The meeting finished at 9.40.