



Minutes of the Governors Meeting held in person on Thursday 18th January 2024 (17:30 – 19:45)

Present: Louise Melia (Chair), Martin Lukins (online until 6.25pm), Kate Nester (Headteacher) left at 7.10pm, Lucy Shakesby, Linda Monaghan (joined in person at 6pm), Michelle Heap, Ben Amos (via Teams joined at 6pm), Neil Howiantz, (Mike Sales (Business Manager), Sarah Simmonds (Maths Subject Lead) and Keta Deakin (Clerk).

1/24 **Welcome and Apologies** – Louise welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies were received and accepted from Helen and Sue.
No apologies received from David.

2/24 **Opportunity to declare Pecuniary Interests** – Michelle often teaches as a supply teacher at Hindhayes Infants

Louise explains a change in the agenda as Kate needs to leave early.

3/24 **Presentation from Sarah Simmonds – Maths Subject Lead** – Louise thanks Sarah for coming to the meeting.
Sarah gives everyone present a handout that she will be explaining (see below)



Hindhayes maths ambition.docx



top tips for effective maths teaching and le



NSM Calculation strategies.pdf

Sarah is part of the EDCM project. Started the first year becoming a master of primary maths. She explains the 'I Can Do' way of teaching the children.

It's a motorway approach. Some children keep going, others need to come off at the services and recap and other children need to be on an A road. Go slow to go fast.

Q [When the children come off at the services – is that dealt with in the classroom?](#)

A [Yes – I ask Mrs. Carpenter to do an exercise with them to try and give the children smaller chunks to learn, we don't want to stress the children.](#)

Q. [What about the fast learners?](#)

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....

A We deepen the understanding for those children, it's called 'digging deeper'. We'll ask a reasoning question such as 'is it' or 'convince me'. Children can have a variety of ways to show deeper understanding.

Q Do we have the facility to offer support to them?

A In the classroom

The end of year data for greater depth showed 24% last year, that's a quarter of Hindhayes pupils. Sarahs curriculum has had a significant impact.

Children develop a deeper understanding using different methods (concrete, abstract), then we have the oracy alongside. We go forwards and backwards and learn the language so that the children understand. I have a washing line in my classroom which is where sticky learning goes.

Q They see the poster as ambition

A It's a help tool, it reminds the children of what they've done.

The children love the washing line to remind them.

Q Is this used across the school or just in your classroom?

A Each class has a flavour of what they're learning.

Sarah has done the learning format for year 1 as well.

The working memory holds 5 things at once and we don't want to give the children too much and risk knocking one of the 5 things out.

Hindhayes uses Number Sense which has helped more children to have more knowledge. The programme is based on research as to how children learn and what sticks in their memories. They have presentations that teachers can watch.

You can see exactly what the children know. EYFS children have good confidence in delivery and you can see the confidence in the year one children.

Q It's been spoken about before that some children aren't arriving at Hindhayes at the expected level – is it the same with maths?

A Not so much as the EYFS is based on numbers 1 – 10 and it's easier to start maths learning in nurseries than it is early reading.

Lucy (Drew) and Holly (King) have received training for Early Years. Sarah explains how the EYFS children achieve the skill base to take them into years 1 and 2. Also explains how they teach in the bridging for going over 10. It used to be hard to teach, but now the children are understanding better.

Number sense has become the phonics for maths.

Free training is easily accessible

Resources are being used so it's definitely not a waste of money.

The last page on the handout is for the teachers. It gives them tips on how to get a closer look if the child has a deeper understanding.

There's an end of unit assessment and the teachers make notes to keep track of which child is where and if there are any obstacles.

Q If we visit can we see clearly how the monitoring is done?

A I like staff to staple the end of unit assessment in the childrens books so we can instantly see where the child is.

During the OFSTED visit we were able to show where a PP (Pupil Premium) child had been stuck, what we'd put in place and how that

Signed by Chair.....

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improved their confidence and accuracy. It was compared to another child's book and showed that the PP child was up to the same standard by the end of the year.

Policies for plus, minus, divide and multiply have recently been updated. I would like to start looking at approaches to problem solving, lots of work has been done recently.

Q You've used confidence a lot in regards to the EYFS children – is that the same across the school?

A Lucy and Briony have said sequences are not quite how we want them, so as subject lead I've put the backbone in place and once Lucy and Holly have got used to it they discuss the set up and take the reins. I do the skeleton and they build upon it.

Gov When teaching supply, I can see the level of confidence in the children. Also, the teaching assistants are very confident. We don't run math intervention as it's not needed due to the style of teaching.

Q Is there anything re oracy in maths?

A Key vocabulary is on every teachers plan.

Maths is ahead of the game as when it became the focus, the sentences were put in place. These were put in place before History, Geography etc, it helped us to build oracy in other subjects.

Chair It's a joy to hear your passion and it comes out through the children. Sarah wasn't sure to start with when we asked her to be the maths lead, but has grown into and has done a really good job. Also working with Elmhurst.

Q Do they use Number Sense?

A No, we strongly advocated it and have sent links. The subject lead was keen, she could see the difference as currently they work towards White Rose books, it's quite rigid and hasn't been built on.

They aren't in line with what Hindhayes has been achieving. They're in a challenging position and couldn't put money into it, I can see why they haven't gone ahead with it.

10/24 Finance Update

Mike took the Governors through the latest Finance information, which was based on the Month 6 Report (April to September) and informed everyone that there was a further report which is due to be worked on. There had been a lack of information due to the new Dynamics finance system and some ongoing issues with income being correctly coded to school budgets.

Mike had produced a detailed pack for each Governor about the current figures, some background to the challenges being experienced with falling pupil numbers and increasing costs at a time when all local authorities were facing tough funding decisions. The LA have assured schools that budgets are protected. Mike confirmed that but explained the services that schools buy back such as the Core Offer are being impacted upon as those teams are subject to recruitment freezes etc.

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....

The contents of the packs cascade are included within the minutes and Mike said that he is happy to answer any questions in the meeting and/or outside the meeting if helpful.

Mike also confirmed that he had worked with David Hall, Finance Governor whose own report had been included in the pack and had been previously circulated also.

Q Is 200 the maximum number of pupils Hindhayes can have?

A No, 270 over 9 classes would be the maximum.

Q Is there a prediction for intake next year?

A The population forecast by the LA is for several years to come, the numbers go up and down.

Hindhayes has experienced teachers that have been here a while and that shows in the staffing costs.

Q Capital Expenditure is zero?

A Yes, there is some but the number is very low 0.1%

Hindhayes is benchmarked at 1% on curriculum, this is very low. We don't buy lots of books

Q How has this been done?

A Its' driven by the change in teaching methods.

The problem is that if we try and save money the budget will be reduced as they think we can survive on that amount.

The work Hindhayes has received free of charge (such as the plasterer) is not noted on the budget. This leads to a discussion re budget being reduced even though work costs have risen.

Hindhayes currently has 0% for contingencies, so when something goes wrong, there's no money to fix it. Discussion re pipes for the boiler being repaired.

A meeting with LA didn't get us anywhere.

Hindhayes learning is at an outstanding level, but the building is really bad and morale is very low. We're very concerned about morale is we were to have an inspection.

We did receive a curriculum, which we don't tend to get because of the level we are at, so they were told they need to do something re helping with the inspection. We should all be over the moon at the prospect of an outstanding, but the building is awful and bringing us all down.

Someone is going to come out after February half term and try and kick start morale.

Discussion around temperatures and heating costs. Attendance is down, but LA is just not listening or helping.

Q Do any parents comment on the temperature?

A One comment was received re picking and choosing classes to open, but we can't as it makes children anxious.

You're doing great to be getting the outcomes whilst in this situation. Surely, it's a health and safety issue. Discussion held re getting help with the building.

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....

All teachers are continuing to research and make learning better and better for the children. We want to deliver the very best learning. Hindhayes levels have been achieved whilst having a deficit. LA have admitted that funding is not good anymore and that the building is not taken into account.

The buy back for the core offer was a contentious issue last year. Next years will be decided in April and it sounds like it's going to double.

Q Can we outsource?

A There's not enough time to complete due diligence and find someone

Q What's the core offer?

A Mike explains the core offer to a new governor.

We need to have someone that can work with SIMS and other systems that we use.

Mike explains how the core offer works and what we receive. Hours have been paid for but not used, so this should be taken against next years.

Discussion re the LA problems held. A decision re section 114 will be made by 20th February.

The cuts made will not be palatable. They may not directly impact the school, but services that are cut will have an indirect impact.

The last few pages are a list of the cuts and letters from the LA

Want to highlight the income as we can't be sure exactly what is coming in as it's hard to match up.

Discussion re SEND lead leaving LA and not being replaced.

LA can genuinely see what Hindhayes have been doing and there's nothing they can help with; we've done everything we can.

The quality the school is delivering far outweighs the deficit.

Class size is holding us back.

Mixed stage classes are not good, the parents don't like them and it's very hard to adopt a curriculum to teach 2-year groups in one class, it's takes a special teacher to do it well. Discussion re mixed classes.

Mike Davids review, capital update and Douglonds report have been included in the pack. If you have any questions after you've been through it in more detail, please let me know.

12/24 **Headteacher Report** – When OFSTED visited, they asked us to relaunch the behaviour tracker (copy is given to everyone) (see below) Kate explains the page to everyone. The behaviour tracker has helped the SEN team to help the children who needed it. We are also embedding the practice of informing the parents of behaviour incidents.

ACTION Send the information out with the minutes

Parent View has come back as almost parents think the behaviour at Hindhayes is good.

Often the 'I don't know' box is misleading when looking at the results. As a school we are trying to educate the parents on exactly what bullying is.

Q Is the impact of implementing this being seen across the school?

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....

A Overall, people are more vigilant, their approach to the child is calmer. Some children's behaviour is environmental, not intentional. There are a small minority that are the problem. The lunch supervisors are play trained.

Q Are parents receiving the information positively?

A Yes. Often, they're exhausted by the behaviour, but explanations help.

Hindhayes will continue to track and will revisit in the spring.

ACTION Send Parent View out with the minutes

Need to make people aware of Filtering and Monitoring. The team are doing training to make things clearer.

We are looking at The Key to use for policies, but we have to pay for it. The Safeguard governor can do the same training as the staff for better understanding.

Attendance will be updated on the SEF in time for the next meeting.

4/24 **Minutes of the Last Meeting (November '23) to be agreed** – everyone has read and agreed them so the chair signs a copy

5/24 **Action Points from Previous Meeting** – All have been completed

6/24 **Any Other Urgent Business** – Need to discuss Michelle being unable to hold the position of Vice Chair due to working supply at Hindhayes. This will be carried over to the next meeting.

7/24 **OFSTED/MAT Update** – OFSTED have been mentioned briefly during this meeting. We will discuss next time if anything further comes up

8/24 **Clerk Briefing Update** – Clerking briefing is being held next week, so Keta will email the briefing out.

09/24 **Policies to be agreed** – No questions re the Esafety policy so it's signed off. Mike goes through changes on the Model Pay Policy, there are no questions so it's agreed to sign it off.

11/24 **Property** – This will go to the next meeting as would like Helen to be here.

14/23 **Safeguarding** – Brief overview was included in the Headteachers Report

15/23 **Dates of future meetings -**

Q Is Thursday good for everyone?

A A general yes is given

Next meeting date is Thursday 14th March

Q Do we know any times etc for the governors training day next week?

A Not sure

ACTION Louise to email re clarification on times and which room will be used for the governors training day on 25th January

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....

Hindhayes - Governor Meeting dates		
Dates	Term	Status
Tuesday		
26/09/2023	Term 1	Held
14/11/2023	Term 2	Held
18/01/2024	Term 3	Held
14/03/2024	Term 4	Provisional - To be held
09/05/2024	Term 5	Provisional - To be held
11/07/2024	Term 6	Provisional - To be held

Action Points

Agenda item	Action by	Agreed action	Update for next Mtg
12/24	Keta	Send the information out with the minutes	
12/24	Keta	Send Parent View out with the minutes	
15/23	Lousie	Louise to email re clarification on times and which room will be used for the governors training day on 25 th January	Completed

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....