



Minutes of Cromwell Academy Local Governing Committee

held on Wednesday 8 June 2022

8.30 a.m. via Zoom

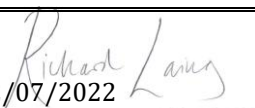
Present

Governors: Richard Laing, (RL), Chair of Governors
Angela Moore (AM), Parent Governor
Roger Worgan (RW), Co-opted Governor
Hannah Connor-James (HCJ), Headteacher & Governor
David Sykes (DS), Staff Governor

In attendance: Lauren Blyth (LB), Deputy Headteacher/SEND Lead

Clerk: Debbie Warner

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| 1. | Apologies for absence |
| | Apologies were received and accepted from Rebecca Bierton. |
| 2. | Declaration of interest |
| | There were none. |
| 3. | Minutes of meeting 27 April 2022 |
| | The minutes of meeting of 27 April 2022 were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings and signed off by the Chair. |
| 4. | SEND update (LB) |
| | <p>LB provided SEND update: Comparison of national figures with Cromwell Academy show pupils with an EHCP has increased to 3.7%, continuing a trend of increases since 2017. Percentage of pupils with SEND but no EHCP has increased slightly from 12.1% to 12.2%, again indicating an increasing trend. Most common type of need for EHCP is Autistic Spectrum Disorders and speech language and communication is most common in SEN support.</p> <p>LB updated governors with national picture of primary type of need: Cromwell Academy currently has 5.1% of children with an EHCP and 12.1% with a SEN support. This shows that numbers for EHCPs has doubled since 2020 and could increase further in September 2022.</p> <p>LB informed governors of where the impact of Covid has been most noticeable and the school has been working with parents to provide strategies at home.</p> <p>LB informed governors that EHCP at Cromwell Academy is higher than the national average and are in line, nationally, for SEND support. A Link Therapist works with Cromwell Academy and is effective at signposting specific needs for children. Pupil progress meetings take place regularly to help identify children and their individual needs. This is in discussion with SLT and Pupil Premium Lead to ensure all children are considered in the discussion. Some strategies can be put in place immediately – e.g. task planners, timers, certain tests but some children need more specialist intervention.</p> <p>Analysis of Pupil voice showed no worrying trends.</p> <p>Learning walks are taking place half termly.</p> <p>Training continues based around individuals and/or school needs.</p> <p>Wellbeing champions work continues – including helping our children who have come from Ukraine.</p> <p>Medical needs register continues to be updated and medication checked.</p> <p>Coffee morning to be offered July 2022 for parents in a format of “what has gone well?” and “Anything that could be better?”</p> <p>Staff meetings held to ensure that teachers/TAs are up to date with Annual Review changes.</p> <p>Handover meeting taking place today for LB to share information needed in her absence as LB is going on maternity leave</p> <p>A new Director of SEND has been appointed for September to replace REB.</p> <p>SENDCo from Godmanchester Community is available for advice.</p> |

Signed: 
Date: 12/07/2022

Questioning/challenge:

- A governor asked how the children from Afghanistan and Ukraine have settled in.
- LB thought it was going well and some of these children have been able to make use of a mentor.
- A governor enquired of their awareness of sensitive issues and information that it provided in the News.
- HC-J said there is a need to be careful and work closely with parents to prevent any unnecessary anxiety for the children concerned. Therefore, whole school assemblies are not appropriate to address these issues and have been dealt with on a class by class basis.
- A governor asked what percentage of children are borderline mainstream school
- HC-J advised governors that there are a couple of children who are in this situation and discussions with parents are taking place. However, spaces in schools with special provision are very limited in this area. There is also one child who is in alternative provision. There is likely to be an additional child joining in September.
- A governor asked if the school is allowed to refuse a place for a child who would be better served in a school with more appropriate specialist support.
- HC-J informed governors that the school cannot refuse any child on this basis despite any recommendation being made to the Local Authority.

5. Headteacher's Report

HC-J provided a verbal update to governors. SATs have now taken place with results available on 5 July 2022. KS1 SATs have also been administered and results are being analysed. Phonics checks are currently taken place and multiplication is taking place next week.

Creativity is back in full force in the summer term with a brass overture programme, partly funded by the trust, and this is being funded for a year. VR experience software is in hand. The school is trying to accomplish a programme "11 before 11": 11 experiences children should have the opportunity to do before leaving primary school is – theatre visit, train/underground ride, residential trip etc and these have been built into the curriculum. HC-J advised governors that unfortunately Y6 residential has been cancelled due to staffing issues at the residential site. The school is trying to find an alternative and, although one has been identified, transport is an issue. A communication has gone to parents to see if they could assist with transport.

HC-J advised that the Year 1 project discussed at the last meeting, which had the support of governors, is now taking place.

Action: Headteacher to report on Year 1 progress at next meeting

Consideration of being an early years provision is under review. NOR continues to increase and reception intake is at 27 currently. Discussion on the higher than average mobility in the school also took place. HC-J was pleased to advise that attendance is improving and is currently at 94.8%.

HC-J noted that the last Pupil Premium review emphasised that CP may not have sufficient time to conduct all the Pupil Premium work. HC-J advised governors that one morning a week is allocated for this. The Chair noted that RW is the new link governor for Pupil Premium and recommended that RW liaises with REB for a handover.

Action: RW to liaise with REB on Pupil Premium Link Governor role.

The Chair noted that AM is booked in to do SCR check as her role as safeguarding Link Governor.

Action: AM to write report for the next governors meeting regarding SCR check.

AM to liaise with HC-J on Local Authority Safeguarding audit.

Questioning/challenge:

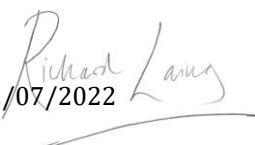
- A governor asked whether staffing level are affected after Covid.
HC-J was pleased to report that staffing is stable. However, there has been an issue with recruiting the right calibre of staff and this may be the case when trying to recruit a TA in the near future.

Signed:

Date: 12/07/2022



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| 5. | AOB |
| | There was none. |
| 5. | AOB |
| | Tuesday 12 July 2022, 8.30 a.m. |

Signed: 
Date: 12/07/2022