



**Minutes of Cromwell Primary Academy Local Governing Committee
held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 4pm**

Present Governors: Hannah Connor-James HoS
Rebecca Berton CoG
Angela Moore AM
David Sykes DS
Jacqui Harris JH

Attendees: Yasmin Ahmed-Asif YAA
Simon Eardley SE

Clerk: Whitney Whitham

Apologies: Angela Moore AM

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence
	<p>The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate. Apologies for absence received in advance from Angela Moore.</p> <p>The CoG welcomed the committee and introduced YAA who was present to observe the committee meeting and is a parent of a pupil at Cromwell Academy.</p> <p>CoG confirmed a resignation was received from RW with effect from 17/05/2023 due to personal circumstances. RW was thanked for all his work on behalf of the school and stated he will be happy to review this in 6 months' time.</p>
2.	Declaration of interest & LGC Vote
	<p>The CoG asked the LGC to raise any new declarations – there were none. YAA confirmed she would complete a declaration of interest if interested in the Parent Governor vacancy as and is voted in at the next meeting.</p>
3.	Approval of minutes 19TH April 2023
	<p>The minutes were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings and signed off by the CoG.</p>
4.	Matters arising (not elsewhere on the agenda)
	<p>CoG confirmed Pupil premium meeting rescheduled for June 2023 with CoG & Carla Parker.</p> <p>ACTION: CoG confirmed recruitment of an additional Governor is required following RW resignation. Preferred areas of responsibility should be considered for the new Governor.</p>
5.	To ensure accountability for the Educational Performance of the School
	<p>Receive updated Head's Report to Governors May 2023</p> <p>HoS explained that on this occasion the report was condensed due to the close proximity of previous LGB meeting. Since April, we have one additional child on role which has adjusted the data percentages.</p> <p>Academic progress:</p> <p>HoS explained this had not been included in previous LGB report but Cromwell are now using Arbor to create an overview of two year groups where there is a statutory duty to report on attainment and outcomes for this year. We're working on a slightly new model under recommendation from Simon Eardley, ACES Director of Primary Education, to achieve more of a prediction model using previous data and taking into account support and interventions. There were no changes in spring</p>



term data for Year 2 or Year 6. Year 6 outcomes could be better but are not of surprise – attainment is in line with or better than what their previous data would have predicted.

The slight discrepancies you may have noticed within the report are due to children leaving or joining Cromwell Academy. We've had a lot of children transferring in with high needs or English as an additional language (EAL).

We are at capacity in most year groups and oversubscribed in many.

1. Attendance

HoS shared that the upward trend has continued from previous report to 94% which is above national average and confirmed that persistent absence has decreased to 17.2%.

The CoG congratulated the HoS on the schools positive data regarding absence & persistent absence and inquired whether the HoS could pinpoint what may have attributed to these improvements.

HoS suggested autumn absence can be alarming due to seasonal illness however the absence data has averaged out across the academic year. In addition, the school has followed a robust protocol system to address attendance issues. We will take on board SE's advice on acting promptly. I have previously mentioned my concerns on fracturing relationships, particularly with reception parents, so I have been conscious of maintaining a positive balance between relationships and tactfully emphasising this initiative through newsletters, highlighting it's a national requirement, and it can impact on the outcome of inspections if not acted on.

2. Pupil Progress

CoG confirmed the report will be completed ahead of next LGB meeting.

HoS confirmed Lauren Blyth, Deputy Headteacher, has completed keeping in touch days whilst on Maternity Leave which has been gratefully received. LB is returns next week at 3 days per week (60%) and is ready to push forward with School Development Plan priorities.

CoG raised the Year 6 data statistic in the report of 3.1% for combined greater depth and asked if we can move beyond this figure.

DS explained that one is on maths and one is regarding writing. The pupil in question is marginal in maths and writing and performance under pressure is of concern however, we hope the scale score will adjust. Measures are being implemented with writing for example 'bounce back' since Christmas 2022. We have invited the child but unfortunately, they have not attended. We are aware of some family concerns. We still have room to improve with writing as there is over a month before the final deadline which is end of June 2023.

HoS added that pupil progress is now focused on combined, and we have a new report we can use to pick this up.

The CoG acknowledged the school is addressing concerns and is confident in their approach and referred to the 'at or above target' regarding KS1 outcome which is 90% and 86%.

HoS explained targets on Arbor are not quite correct at the moment. We're still working on updating target setting as not all the data is currently on there, so I am also making my own calculations based on historic data.

CoG requested confirmation that Cromwell does not have combined for KS2 and has no pupils at greater depth.

HoS explained there are different children in different subjects which we will reassess at the end of summer term.

CoG questioned how is GLD is doing.

HoS advised there was concern about a baseline of 20 which increased to 40 and we were predicting around 55%.

CoG responded that it's not unusual at the moment but is pleased to hear there is progress.

JH asked whether the scores at or above 10% are SEND.

HoS confirmed that is correct and they have been identified through the pupil progress meetings. We have a higher number than average proportion of SEND and high needs and EHCPs which impacts progress.

CoG agreed it is an important point because we need to understand what progress actually is for that individual child.



3. Staffing

CoG raised a question around the some long term staff absence which has caused some difficulties for the school and SLT.

HoS confirmed Cromwell Academy is still using an agency to fulfil the duties required as the member of staff has not returned to work yet. **We are managing but we have difficulties in holidays where maintenance work has been arranged however, there is no one available to open/lock up the site.** We are hopeful that the member of staff will return in the next term.

SE added that we are struggling with this across the trust and explained that the unsociable hours required by the role could be an impact.

4. Admissions

CoG was pleased to see the numbers of first choices for September and congratulated the HoS and the team on the reputation being built for the school. The hard work involved has not gone unnoticed and it's delightful to see the impact it's had.

5. SDP

HoS Highlights:

- Personal development & Extracurricular activities – some of the wider creative opportunities and dreams we've had for the school have not come into fruition for various reasons which are still on the SDP. We're looking at how we can move forward with this.
- Increasing the schools offer for extracurricular activities – this is rated amber because we have already increased from this year and we will continue to improve as 'covid catch up' becomes less of a need. We're continuing with our sporting representation, particularly through HSSP which has had some activities specifically aimed at SEND which went down extremely well.

CoG asked how the 11 before 11 initiative is going.

HoS confirmed it has started and been agreed by staff. Most points have been built into enhancing the curriculum but some are stand alone such as the Year 6 residential. We cannot backfill this but will apply this going forward however, it's not fully embedded yet. We have a great foundation with the 'Cromwell Way', behaviour, school values, and our main focus is reviving and embedding a recognition system alongside the behaviour approach which will focus on doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do, not because of who's watching. We want it to become intrinsic with something like a Headteachers 'Honours List' by the time they finish school so that the pupils are recognised as trustworthy and capable of taking on additional responsibilities which they aspire to. Work on this is happening next half term. We also have the Arts apprenticeship.

CoG asked how Early Years is going.

HoS confirmed progress has accelerated due to our very strong practitioner who is eager to take on training and confident in raising concerns. The team is being managed very well and our practitioner has aspirations for everyone in EYFS to be consistently highly trained. **We're keen on looking at becoming a lead school but to do this we need other schools or practitioners on board.**

CoG added the school could look at the wider community in terms of this.

HoS responded unfortunately there are currently no Froebel trained schools locally, however we have planned to visit some further afield. There are elements that tie in very well with the Cromwell Way and how to prepare students for later life and become global citizens.

CoG asked whether the DT initiative has commenced.

HoS confirmed it has begun and the parents have been amazing with helping build projects. We'd like to look at organising an after school wood work club.



	<p>CoG asked whether the HoS has started to think about priorities for next year's SDP yet and whether we could receive feedback for the next meeting.</p> <p>HoS confirmed the current SDP is for a 2-year timescale but there may be some amendments.</p>
6.	Outstanding Governor Safeguarding Training
	ACTION: Clerk to send safeguarding dates to YAA.
8.	Governor Hub
	<p>Clerk confirmed registration links have all been sent.</p> <p>It was agreed Governor Hub would be used for all future communication of meetings and minutes.</p>
9.	AOB
	<p>CoG questioned whether the additional budget mentioned at previous meeting has been utilised yet.</p> <p>HoS confirmed some building maintenance is required which may absorb a lot of this. We are still looking into the VR option with the available budget.</p> <p>SE suggested it may be worth contacting local businesses/charities for financial support.</p> <p>CoG suggested HoS contact the ACES Director of Finance regarding the Friends of Hinchbrooke charity.</p> <p>CoG raised that the DfE are communicating that all schools need to have a staff wellbeing coordinator in place and asked whether Cromwell has any plans for next academic year?</p> <p>HoS confirmed the Trust are recruiting mental health first aiders.</p>
10.	Date of next meetings
	<p>JH prefers no Wednesdays.</p> <p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>1. Monday 17th July 2023 2pm</p> <p>ACTION: CoG and HoS to discuss 2023 – 2024 LGB meeting schedule.</p>