



**Morley Memorial Primary School
Learning Committee
Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 1pm
Venue: School**

Governors in attendance: Shareta Passingham (Committee Chair – SP); Nikki Brown (Head Teacher - NB); Nicky Odgers (NO); Melissa Ward (MW); Ruth Kershner (RK)

Also attending: Jen Hefti (Clerk – JH)

The meeting was quorate.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Rose Hague (RH).

2. Notice of any other business

None.

3. Declarations of interest

NO declared her position as adviser to The Key for School Governors.

4. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Actions:

LC1011-02 – RAISE data – taken to Full Governing Body (FGB) – COMPLETE.

All other actions complete.

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Inclusion visit report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were noted:

- Regular meetings with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) are proving useful.
- Progress could be seen and previous discussions were built upon.

Learning Committee final minutes 022017 (1).docx

Page 1 of 7

Initial: _____

Date: _____

- There is a continuing need to ask about pressure points.
- The deployment and recruitment of Teaching Assistants (TAs) was discussed.
- The committee discussed TA absence and its potential impact on the interventions delivered. It was noted that the Sickness Absence Management procedure was being rigorously applied.
- A committee member queried whether there had been any progress regarding allocating contact time between teaching staff and TAs. NB advised that this is being investigated with one potential solution being that Teachers & TAs will not attend all assemblies.
- There had been an increase in the number of pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL). Support is sought where appropriate from the Local Authority (LA) CREDS service.
- There are continuing issues with the provision of, and access to, central services especially with regards to the granting of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- RK will perform a further visit next term.

7. Pupil voice – Teaching & Learning at Morley

Eight pupils from Years 2 – 6 joined the meeting.

A committee member asked what the best thing about learning at Morley was.

- A pupil advised that teachers make learning fun and provide guidance which is helpful.
- A pupil noted that learning is fun and there is an element of choice and freedom.

A committee member queried whether there were lots of opportunities for choice.

- A pupil advised that they are able to choose the level at which they work in some instances.

A committee member asked what pupils would like to change or see more of.

- A pupil advised that they would like more Maths as they missed their Maths lessons in the school holidays!
- A pupil advised that they would like more History and reading time.
- A pupil advised that they would like lessons to be extended to allow time to explore subjects in greater depth. They would also like more Science.

A committee member asked what pupils had particularly enjoyed recently.

- A pupil advised that they enjoyed making the erupting volcanoes.
- A pupil advised that they enjoyed the Pop Art project which allowed them choice and freedom.

A committee member asked how the pupils like to learn.

- A pupil advised that they enjoy when the teacher ‘gets it wrong’ and pupils are given the opportunity to correct their work and do some teaching.
- A pupil noted that grouping was helpful as pupils are able to help each other and access support from their peers.

A committee member queried where pupils had noted progress in their learning during their time at school and how this had come about.

- A pupil advised that their Maths had improved.

- Another noted that some things do not change. Other pupils noted that their Maths and handwriting had improved with support from their teachers.

A committee member asked how pupils know where they need to improve.

- A pupil advised that they are given targets which they can refer to. A pupil noted that they are advised to look at their targets each morning and review their progress towards them at the end of each term.
- A pupil advised that they can practice at home and also access additional challenge tasks in class.

A committee member asked what pupils do if they are finding something difficult.

- A pupil advised that they can ask their teacher for help.
- Another advised that they can practice their skills at home.

Year 5 pupils talked to the committee about the Shakespeare project. They worked on Romeo & Juliet and The Tempest each day, culminating in performances of the plays. External providers assisted with the project. The pupils agreed that the experience had been fun.

The committee thanked the pupils for their input. The pupils left the meeting.

8. School Council

Members of the school council from Year 6 joined the meeting, with the purpose of informing the committee of the new style school council, the different roles and how it is organised.

A committee member asked whether Year 6 pupils have special roles in the school council. A pupil advised that they take the roles of Recorder, Reporter and Chair.

The committee was advised that groups were formed made up of 15-20 Years 3-6 pupils. Each group had a Recorder, Reporter and Chair. The pupils formulated the questions to ask each group. The Chair led the meeting, the Recorder took notes of the responses and the Reporter fed back to NB. World Book Day, the art competition and strategies to help the school were discussed.

A committee member asked whether pupils can see any differences to school life as a result of the meetings. A pupil advised that this was the case and noted that they are allowed ketchup once a week at lunch time now.

A committee member asked whether this approach was different to the new system. A pupil advised that more pupils are involved now and that they are more engaged. The School Council will meet once each half term. Pupils enjoy the process.

The committee member thanked the School Council representatives for their input. The pupils left the meeting.

NB advised the committee of the following:

- MW & RM had organised the school council meetings.
- All Year 6 pupils have a role rather than the same pupils being re-elected, due to personality etc.

- Pupils that may have not put themselves forward for election are doing well under the new system.
- It is positive that the pupils can see that things change as a result of their meetings.
- The School Council provides genuine pupil voice and inclusion.
- The School Council will be rolled out to the whole school from September.

9. How does Morley use trips/ visitors/ volunteers

Karl Brown (KB – Upper Key Stage 2 Phase Leader) joined the meeting at 2pm.

A report detailing the use of trips/visitors/volunteers had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A committee member noted that Parentpay was useful in terms of recovering funds for trips and were there reasons for any shortfall. KB advised that the cost, notice period and nature of trip/visit can be factors.

A committee member queried whether less time is taken up with following up late payments. KB advised that it is more difficult to control as no physical cash is exchanged however it is a benefit to class teachers.

A committee member challenged that whilst some trips were useful in terms of learning, some were purely for fun. MW advised that staff have to list the learning outcomes for a proposed trip in order to get permission from KB. KB advised that there is a list of trips that have been evaluated and found to be effective in terms of learning. Parents are also consulted as appropriate.

A committee member queried whether staff liaise with the on-site educational team where available, and does this have an impact of learning. KB advised that this depends on the nature of the trip but that an expert voice and a different perspective are useful.

A committee member queried what the main benefit of trips is. KB advised that they provide experiences that pupils cannot have in the classroom and bring subjects to life. It was noted that effective writing stems from experiences. Children in receipt of Pupil Premium may have more limited access to such experiences, so subsidising school trips for these pupils has a positive impact.

A committee member queried whether the required staff numbers and volunteers were easy to achieve. KB advised that volunteer levels vary. TAs are very good regardless whether attendance on a trip takes them over their contracted hours. Relationships with volunteers are developed over time and often people who have helped previously are approached.

It was noted that regular volunteers have induction and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. It was noted that this has raised the profile of volunteers in school.

The committee thanked KB for his input. KB left the meeting at 2.20pm.

5. Summary of progress over the Autumn term

Progress reports were circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were noted:

- There has been an increase in all subject in the number of pupils achieving Age Related Expectations (ARE).

Learning Committee final minutes 022017 (1).docx

Page 4 of 7

Initial: _____

Date: _____

- The School Development Plan (SDP) targets for pupils achieving ARE are 85% for Reading and Maths, and 80% for Writing.
- The School Development Plan (SDP) targets for pupils achieving above ARE are 15% for Writing and 30% for Reading and Maths.
- There is a target regarding addressing the gender difference in achievement in the SDP.
- Staff are now more confident with regards to the expectations of the new assessment requirements and moderation has assisted with this.
- Clear targets have been set via the SDP.

Reading

The following points were noted:

- Staff are reflecting on the comparison between results in the standardised test and teacher assessment so there will be fewer variables in the future.
- A committee member challenged whether the SDP targets are too low given that 85% of pupils had already achieved ARE. NB advised that the percentage is for ARE at the end of the Autumn term rather than the expected level at the end of the year.

Writing

The following points were noted:

- Staff are considering where to allocate targeted support.
- Senior Leadership Team (SLT) time is being used strategically to support this.
- Staff are able to see how their data compares to others in school.
- Target Tracker is now being used to track progress and identify where further support is needed.

Maths

The following points were noted:

- School is currently on track to achieve the Maths target.
- The gender gap is closing.
- Gender difference was discussed at a recent staff meeting. It was found that girls outperform at ARE but not at Greater Depth. Girls' perception of, and confidence in, Maths was discussed.
- A committee member queried whether staff had looked at gender differences in other subjects. NB advised that Maths is being investigated initially as this is an SDP priority.

Pupil Premium (PP)

The following points were noted:

- Years 1 and 4 PP pupils perform against the trend.
- These pupils have less or no SEN compared with PP pupils in other year groups.
- There may be value therefore in performing a case study of PP pupils with no SEN and other contextual factors to analyse their progress.

Attendance – PP pupils compared to non PP

The following points were noted:

- A committee member queried whether there were any clear issues. NB advised that it is difficult to identify trends as the cohort is small. The attendance gap is closing.
- Pupils value good attendance.

10. Policies

Exclusion of pupils

The policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. The committee was advised that there had been no changes to the policy. The LA had advised that the approach had not changed.

The committee approved the policy for use by the school.

Behaviour policy

The policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. The committee was advised that the policy now references the use of behaviour logs.

The committee approved the policy for use by the school.

Tackling Bullying

The policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. The committee noted the change of name. ***A committee member queried where cyber bullying is addressed.*** It was noted that the policy refers to the different ways that bullying takes place and that it is addressed within the Acceptable Use policy.

L2302-01 – ACTION: NB to add E-Safety links to school website

The committee approved the policy for use by the school.

Home School Agreement

The committee noted that it is no longer a statutory requirement to publish a Home School Agreement. The committee will return to this at a later date.

11. Any other business.

None tabled.

With no further business the meeting closed at 3pm.

Future meeting dates

8.6.17 – 7pm

All decisions pay due regard to the school's equality policy and the Equality Act 2010

Actions

Ref	Minutes area	Action	Owner	Status/deadline
L2302-01	Policies	NB to add E-Safety links to school website	NB	Open

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Initial: _____

Date: _____