

St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Post – Ofsted Parents/Carers Meeting 1st May 2019

Questions from the floor:

Q What is the PP Grant?

CL explained that PP is Pupil Premium. Pupil Premium is additional money assigned to children that have been disadvantaged in some way.

Q Is the meeting being minuted?

A *CL: Yes*

Q Can you expand on the SEND Review? What will it look like?

A *A school with recounted expertise in this field will be our partner in reviewing our SEND provision.*

Q How quickly would you expect to see improvements?

A *As quickly as possible – we expect Ofsted to return within 6 months and there will be many improvements before then. The action plan will show the targets to be achieved by July 2020 alongside milestone targets to enable monitoring.*

Q What does the HT selection process look like?

CL: The new head will need experience and must be able to turn around quickly. There will be an interim Head in place in September – one of the deputies from our support partners. We will concentrate on using them for improvement.

SF: The time is not right for recruitment. There should be sustainable leadership going forward. We will need much more information before recruitment can begin.

Q Can you share the progress on the website?

A *CL; Yes. We can put the Action plan on the Website and will post updates relating to the plan and any other information that may come up.*

Q Why is the HT leaving? It looks like she's taking the blame.

CL: Explained that this was Nicky's decision and had not been required by the Governors or Ofsted. Also the Ofsted report was not her fault.

Q Can you share with us which schools will be supporting?

A *Brookfield and Oliver Tomkins, Oliver Tomkins being a Church school*

Q How can we prevent this happening again?

A *CL/SF: Working with other schools, not just during the recovery period but as good practice from now on*

Q The timing of the Inspection does not reflect the changes over 18 months.

A *The timing was unfortunate, Nicky has made so many improvements, with both parents and pupils loving the school.*

Q Did the supporting schools go through the same process?

A *SF: Brookfield has been outward looking, isolation has been our problem. Oliver Tomkin has been through many changes and has a changed mindset. They know how to take a school on a journey and can transform a school's culture. It is their deputy who will be with us in September as interim head.*

We will benchmark against similar school demography - Brookfield. The areas of expertise in the management of the two schools were listed. Lead moderators for Maths and Writing were particularly noted as these address the priorities of our Ofsted report

Q Are our children behind from where they should be, the report says we are in the bottom 20% and bottom 5%?

A *CL: explained that the 20% and 5% refer to the progress of children not their attainment. She explained that there were small groups of children who had not made the progress expected and not that their attainment was at odds with the national average. We had been improving training but need external support for acceleration.*

Q Has the Ofsted Framework/Assessment changed over time?

A *CL: Ofsted criteria have changed three times, with a completely different approach now.*

SF: replied that we had missed updates.

PJ: reiterated that Ofsted's reviews of many schools nationally have 'tumbled'. There is a recognition that schools were initially encouraged to 'go it alone', but it was now seen as important that schools should not be isolated.

Q Will there be changes made to the type of homework set?

A *CL: it will certainly be one of the things to look at.*

Q Will the school continue to work with the same values?

A *CL: The values and ethos of the school will remain. We did challenge some aspects of the report, particularly emphasising some of our strengths.*

SF: The school will still retain its own personality.

Q How quickly can KS2 children be turned around?

CL: A full benchmark will be achieved in the next few weeks during term 6. With accurate assessment, children will be targeted correctly. We will be able to communicate more accurately the strategy for accelerating outcomes for children once baseline information is secured

Q How will our children be protected from the pressure?

A ** It is not about making our children do more; rather it is tweaking what happens to get a correct assessment.*

CL: The children are not going to be asked to do any more assessments than they already do, benchmarking will be done by looking at the books with the teachers.

** answered by the deputy head from Oliver Tomkins*

Q What will be communicated to the children regarding changes, to children?

A *CL: Some changes have already been made, the behavior policy for example.*

NM: The children are really 'up' for change and have recognised the benefits. Year 5 and 6 teachers have already discussed the report with their classes.

Q Will we get fresh assessments for our children so that we have a clear view of their progress?

A *CL: these will be reflected in the annual report*

Q Will we know more regularly?

A *NM: Parents already have updates in the Autumn and Spring terms.*

SF: We are looking at ongoing, informative assessment.

CL: We will be looking at comments from parents, children and staff in order to know how to shape the future.

Q Is there a budget for training?

A *CL: The Governors are committed to providing budget. The staff are committed to their roles and do not accept that their expectations are low.*

Q Is there an on-line system for assessment? Parent Consultation/ communication?

A *CL: It is certainly something that may be considered.*

SF: suggested adding it to the Action Plan.

Q The problems have not been highlighted to all Parents. How can we be reassured that this doesn't happen again?

A *CL: We want parents to come in and talk to us. We are open and available to speak about parent concerns. We would much rather know about issues so that we can try and resolve them, than have parents worried at home*

Q What support will there be for Staff?

A *NM: highlighted that there is a pastoral service for staff already in place.*

Q How can we as Parents support (the staff)?

A *various parents replied with their ideas – STEM ambassadors, help with the Reception Outdoor Area etc.*

Q What is the role of the Diocese in this?

A *PJ: The diocese has been involved in the discussions. A Church of England school has been enlisted for support. There will be a Task Group, where aspects will be championed as appropriate.*

Q Was the Diocese not aware of the situation over the years?

A *PJ: This is a much more complicated picture. The Diocese used to have responsibility for 'Church distinctiveness'. The Regional School's Commission had responsibility for standards. In truth the diocese has not been pro-active enough. In truth the Trustees (of DOBAC) are working more*

proactively on standards and are sharing responsibility and committed to doing so moving forward.

Q (To Ms Mills) Why don't you want to lead the school forward?

A *NM: Declined to answer her reasons for resignation, citing personal circumstances.*

Q How will you move the school forward particularly in Maths and Literacy?

A *SF: The benchmark will be in place during the summer term. In this school we will expect a high benchmark by 2020. Results will be reported in December 2019 and Spring 2020.*

Q Where does the Baseline Assessment come from and how?

A *CL: Children are tracked from Reception. Their KS1 assessment informs the targets from then on.*

Q How can Parents not here tonight be aware of the proceedings?

A *CL: Come into school, I will be happy to meet with any parent and answer their questions.*

SF: suggested a newsletter with the relevant questions and answers.

Abbreviations: DBAT Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust
 DOBAC Diocese of Bristol Academies Company
 KS1 Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)
 KS2 Key Stage 2 (Years 3 -6)
 PP Pupil Premium
 RSC Regional Schools Commission
 SEND Special Educational Needs and Disability
 STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

SF = Sarah Foulkes Commissioner for Primary Education,
 Swindon Borough Council

PJ = Paul Jacobs Vice Chair of DOBAC

CL = Clare Lindley Chair of Governors

NM = Nicky Mills Head teacher