

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Brayford/Umberleigh LGB

Date of meeting: 10th June 2022, 1.00pm, Umberleigh Academy

Attended by: Penny Wignall (attending virtually), Melanie Marcolini, Corrine Smith, Helen Cooke, Jenny Geen, Katie Locke, Verity Goss (clerk).



Brief overview of discussion

Procedural items

Welcome and apologies

PW welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of business interests

None declared.

Sign off previous minutes

Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising brought forward by Chair

Covered later in the agenda.

Correspondence

None received.

Monitoring and Accountability

Summer curriculum Update KS1/KS2

CS stated that the topic being covered by Reception was 'Once Upon a Time', KS2 at both schools were looking at 'Invasions'. Umberleigh Y1 and 2 had the topic 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers', Brayford Y1 and 2 had the topic 'Memory Box'. There had been a change here due to what had been covered last year during Covid – this year's topics had been adjusted slightly to accommodate.

The previous half term had been very short, and staff had had to work hard to fit everything in. Both schools had been swimming this term. CS

felt that the number of children able to swim was much lower than it had been pre Covid, as parents had not been taking them. A short amount of school sessions was not enough to give all children confidence – there was a divide between children whose parents took them swimming and those who didn't. School had an obligation to ensure children could swim 25m by the end of Y6 – if not on track to get there during normal school sessions there would be some top up sessions. Local governors discussed how swimming was provided. Was there any funding available for swimming sessions? CS stated there was not, the school was not able to use the sports grant as swimming was part of the curriculum. The schools were using South Molton pool – Brayford had had two sessions cancelled due to staffing issues at the pool.

Y6 children had attended the residential at the Ultimate Adventure Centre. Y3 and Y4 at Brayford had enjoyed the Wild Side residential – had rebooked for next year, with better timing. CS stated that the schools were fortunate to have staff willing to accompany the children on residential – it was a good experience for the children, but not mandatory to provide.

Other trips – Umberleigh Infants going to Exmoor Zoo, Brayford had linked with The National Trust for additional forest school activities. Additional activities were planned for Jubilee week so children understood what the Jubilee was about – there was a tea party, and all children were also receiving a book.

Both schools had been involved with the Beaford Arts project this year – Brayford was on the second year of the project, Umberleigh was on the first year. Beaford Arts had taken up a lot of time out of the curriculum – CS explained how for areas such as computing, design and technology there would be some time blocked out to ensure they were covered well.

Y4 times tables tests had not happened yet – would take place the next week. Children had done some practise tests, and did not appear stressed by it – they were used to using Times Tables Rockstars, which has a similar activity. Children enjoyed Times Tables Rockstars. What happened to the results from the times tables tests? CS was not sure how the data would be used. Children working below the expected standard for Y4 were exempt from taking the test – this applied to two children in each school. Predictions were that all children taking the test should pass. Children all knew their times table, but staff were aware that the structure of the test meant that it would be easy to press the wrong key or make a silly mistake.

Results of the KS2 SATs would be made available on 5th July. How did children feel about taking them? CS reported that children had been very relaxed – she felt this was the most important thing. Children were expected to do their best, but the emphasis was that there was not reason to be stressed about it. CS was impressed by children's attitude to the tests – they had taken them seriously but were not worried, and

had shown a mature attitude. Children had gathered together for breakfast each day as a treat – this had gone well. At the next LGB meeting CS would be able to share SATs papers so local governors were aware of the questions children were being asked. CS did not think that the questions were overly difficult, but there had been a lot to do in the time given – there was not a lot of thinking time.

Predictions for assessments had been taken from teacher assessments and practise tests, and gave a rough idea of what children would achieve. Brayford (7 children) – expected 4 at expected standard and 3 working towards in reading, 3 expected and 4 working towards in maths, and 3 expected and 4 working towards in writing. Was the aim for all children to be at the expected standard? CS stated it was – but KS1 results and additional needs were taken into account. Out of this cohort three had been at working towards expected standard at KS1. At Umberleigh there had only been one child in Y6.

Y2 had completed the KS1 SATs, which were less formal. These were marked in school, and acted as an added piece of information for teacher assessments. There were 3 children in Y2 at Brayford, and 7 children in Y2 in Umberleigh. At Umberleigh it was expected that 3 would achieve expected standard in reading, one in maths, one in writing, others working towards. This cohort had started with lower attainment, and also had been in Reception when Covid started – this had been their first full year of education. The catch up grant had been used with this cohort. Will the catch up money continue? CS stated it would not, but the school would continue to have an intervention list. There had been some difficulty with the level of maturity of the children due to the amount of time they had not been in school. CS believed the cohort would continue to progress as they have more time.

Phonics screen had taken place the previous week – pass mark had not yet been released, but in previous years is had been 32. Based on this, 4 out of 6 children would have passed at Brayford, and 8 out of 11 children had passed at Umberleigh. Was there a common reason for the children that had not passed, such as the alien word? CS stated the children who had not passed had just not got there yet.

Update on SATs

Discussed in above item.

Monitoring standards

Children who had not taken the statutory test had also taken tests – intervention groups had been modified to reflect how children had done in these. Results across both schools were looking promising. Spelling was still showing as a difficulty, and would be included on the improvement plan for next year. Due to the different sized cohorts it was difficult to pick up patterns and trends. How did the schools focus on

spelling? CS explained that Umberleigh was using the spelling part of Read Write Inc and Brayford was using decision spelling to teach children how to make spelling choices. This was using sounds learnt in KS1, and building on the sounds to make choices about which should be used. A specific time was needed to work on it, like there was time for phonics in KS1.

Umberleigh would have Y2 and Y6 external moderation this year – schools were moderated every four years. Moderators came in to discuss the teacher judgements. Y6 was not too difficult a task as there was just writing to be moderated. Y2 were moderated in writing, maths and reading – there was a lot of preparation. Staff did not know in advance which children’s work would be selected. CS explained how the moderation session took place.

School specific SIP Updates: SIP and Progress at Umberleigh

- SIP and Progress at Brayford
- Catch up need assessment

Covered earlier in the meeting.

Safeguarding Report

CS stated that she had reviewed the use of CPOMS – it had been a challenge getting non teaching staff logging in and recording, but it was in place now. Local governors discussed how safeguarding was fed back to the safeguarding trustee. MM would talk to Ian Thomas about this.

Health and Safety Report

Reports for both schools received – CS reported no major concerns. Some items had outstanding actions where the date had passed – CS stated that with an additional premises staff member this should not happen so often. Local governors raised concern over some of the items that had not been actioned were more urgent – such as a broken window and missing padlock on gas area.

NB – after meeting clerk investigated and found that the reports had not been fully updated before the meeting.

LGB Visits

Local governors were thanked for attending the last deep dive session in history and music – felt it had been very useful. It was suggested there was another visit in September in another area.

Strategic

Staffing

Some staffing changes due were waiting for decisions to be finalised – LGB members would hear before parents were informed.

Due to the changes in school pupil numbers, especially at Umberleigh, the Head of School role for two schools was becoming too much for one person. Brayford and Umberleigh would have separate Head of Schools again from September – CS would be Head of School at Umberleigh. Separate Heads of School would ensure the schools were given the focus they needed. Would the schools still do activities together? CS confirmed that the schools would continue to work together, and would continue doing joint activities.

Umberleigh would have 29 children in Reception/Y1/Y2 in September, so would have a class of YR/Y1, Y2, and KS2 would continue in a similar way to this year, with four mornings split and afternoons together. CS explained that Y2 would be separated out rather than YR as this year due to the mix of children – Y2 would do well on their own, and Reception children would be working well with Y1.

Letter to parents would go out on Monday informing them of changes.

Brayford cook – advertisement gone out for replacement, already have received an application.

Park and Play Update

All equipment under the current funding had been installed. Next stage – grass matting should be installed on Monday, grass seed needed to go down on other grassy areas. Thanks needed to go out to all members of the community/parents who had been working on the topsoil. Children would be able to go on it soon. Delays had been to ensure that the work was completed properly and it gave children the best results. Local governors discussed child awareness of traffic at the crossing point from the car park – CS stated that there was going to be a line marked which children would be taught to stop at and wait. There was also a bike club for YR and Y1, encouraging children to learn to ride.

Review pupil numbers, projected numbers, staffing

Brayford – expected 30 children in September – 14 in KS1, 16 in KS2. There did need to be a big drive in attracting children – felt that a head of school being there full time would help with this. Leaflet drop was also recommended. Currently 7 brumblebees, 3 expected in September.

Umberleigh – parents were very vocal about the rising numbers, and the success of Brumblebees. 10 Brumblebees, 8 Yr, 12 Y1, 11 Y2. 30 in

KS2 – 60 in school in total.

Brumblebees update, numbers, staffing

Covered earlier.

Update on Academy Trust

Beaford had officially joined the trust on 1st June. Local governors discussed the possibility of separating the LGB when the schools had separate Heads of Schools.

Date of Next Meeting – Friday 30th September, 1.00pm.