



Local Governing Board of Howden School
14 September 2021



Minutes

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Mrs J Leeman (Chair, JL), Mr G Cannon (Headteacher, GC), Fernandes (AF), Mr R Gardiner (RG), Mrs S Warnes (SW)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Harris (Deputy Head, PH), Mrs A Orley (Clerk), Mrs L Stephenson (SENCO, LS)

Throughout these minutes a question is indicated by Q followed by the initials of the questioner and a comment is marked by C.

01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

JL thanked the governors for their attendance and welcomed AF who was present remotely. A blended approach to meetings will be used to support Governor attendance at the meetings.

02 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Michael Clark, Carol Hall and Jack Whileblood

Resolved: Apologies accepted

03 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

AO distributed pecuniary interest forms to be completed as a part of the annual checks.

AO distributed data collection sheets to be checked and signed as a part of the annual checks.

ACTION: AO to provide forms to absent Governors (MC, CH, JW)

Resolved: There were no declarations of interest from the present Governors

04 LGB MEMBERSHIP

JL was re-elected as Chair for 1 year

JL extended her term as Governor for 1 year

Catherine Wilcox resigned as Governor prior to the meeting and was not present. JL thanked CW for her time and will follow up in writing

AF resigned as Governor following the meeting

JL and SW will share the responsibility for DSEN

JL will continue as PP Link

SW will continue as 'Catch Up Link'

Q (JL): Would it be appropriate to look to recruit new Governors at the Open Evening in September?

AO: This will be discussed with Gilly Stafford, Clerk to the Trust Board for support with recruitment of new Governors.

Q (SW): Do any subject link visits take place? How do the Governors know there is oversight of subjects?

GC: This is monitored internally and by TCAT. The role of Governors is to question subject leads at the LGB meetings, but subject specialists are best placed to conduct checks of departments. Subjects are monitored through the Health Checks that are reported back to the LGB.

05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (18 May 2021)

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair, JL

06 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (18 May 2021)

Governors confirmed the minutes are a correct and accurate record.

Resolved: signed by the Chair

07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ACTION: Most recent Safeguarding Visit report to be shared with Governors (minute 64)

Resolved: This has been circulated to Governors

ACTION: AO to circulate possible dates for additional meeting (minute 66)

Resolved: Governors met in July for a brief update on the Summer Term

08 AWARDED RESULTS SUMMARY

- Basics 4+ English and Maths have stayed the same 78.7% in 2020 and 78.4% in 2021. This is higher than national which is 77.1%
- Basics 5+ English and Maths improved. 49.2% in 2020 and 54.4% in 2021. This is higher than national which is 51.7%
- Ebacc Entry decreased for this year group. This is expected to improve significantly in 2022.
- Progress 8 is in-line with last year, +0.03 (national is 0.01)
- Attainment 8 and Average grade have improved (51.47 over 49.76 for 2020 and 5.15 average grade over 5.02 for last year)
- Progress has improved for student of all abilities. Middle ability have improved the most.
- Progress for Higher ability students, specifically boys has improved but the gap persists and seems to have widened nationally.
- DS student are making less progress then other student group nationally and at Howden.
- Successful subjects are French, Science, Physics, Chemistry, Drama, Computer Science, English, Business Studies, Music, ICT, Health and Social
- English Attainment is significantly above national, but below based on progress for KS2-4.
- Underperforming subjects are RS (-2.24 progress), Sports Studies (-1.53 progress), 3D Design (-1.39 progress), Food (- 0.84 progress), German (-0.8 progress)
- This year group has triggered a curriculum review; Howden will no longer offer German, but Spanish.
- More students choosing to undertake MFL than capacity, therefore recruited an MFL ECT – the changes have been student led.
- Expected outcomes for class of 2022:
 - Based on Targets, 2020 outcomes and Mock exam data

Signed: 
Dated: 18 October 2021

- Cohort size = 129
- Basics 4+ = 75
- Basics 5 + = 48
- A8 = 44.49
- EBacc Standard Pass = 36%
- EBacc Strong Pass = 25%

Q(JL): How did the sampling work for the Teacher Assessed Grades and moderation?

PH: All schools were asked to provide 2 samples, we had to provide DT and English Language. The sample was not random, it included 5 files that had within the sample PP, SEN, High Ability.

Q(JL): Were there any appeals of grades?

PH: No appeals were made against the Teacher Assessed Grades. A lot of time went into marking and making materials. Teachers had a lot of pressure on them to get the marks right.

C(GC): Comments from students suggest they prefer this assessment style.

C(JL): Teacher Assessed Grades empower the teachers.

C(SW): Teaching of MFL has improved at KS2 and this should support changes at KS3 and into KS4

C(GC): P8 continues to be at Zero and is an indication that the results were a fair reflection of the students and not over-inflated through the Teacher Assessed Grade process

C(SW): Ensuring grades at KS4 are not over-inflated is important for students progressing for KS5 as they need to enter their next establishment at the correct level

Q(JL): Has COVID-19 had a bigger impact on SEN?

PH: Yes, this has been another barrier for students who may be more inclined to give up. There may be issues surrounding the sensory impact of working on a screen or online. The gaps the school has in SEN and non-SEN students does reflect the national picture, but this is something we are addressing

C(SW): An explanation for the progress being below national for English, but above for Attainment may be that English is not tested at KS2, only moderated

C(PH): The Progress 8 model requires accurate KS2 data

Q(JL): Is there an option to wipe primary data and use CAT testing to assess progress in English?

GC: The data from KS2 is compared to the CAT data to look for significant anomalies, but it cannot be wiped

Q(SW): Does the school have accelerated reader? Do parents/carers know about this?

PH: Accelerated reader is recommencing this week and the school will ensure this is communicated to parents/carers

Q(SW): Why do students have to study RS?

GC: It is important that students study RS for understanding diversity, but it is not getting the impact the school had hoped. It has been rebranded to Philosophy and Ethics, but students do not have the motivation to revise.

Q(SW): The reasons for studying RS are valid, but this could be covered in Life Long Learning, does it need to be assessed if students are happy to attend lessons and discuss the subject content?

GC: There is the potential to move to options for the subject, we have also tried selective cohorts for the exams. It will continue to be considered and options explored

Q(JL) Food continues to be a hit and miss subject for the school, why is this?

PH: A lot of SEN students choose food, it is a tactile subject that gives students a break from written work, it also suits students who require life lessons in cooking and self-care

GC: Food practical work is hard to assess when working remotely

Q(JL): When Mocks take place in December, will the students be working in the hall? Some students will not have experienced this before and it would be useful for them to ease anxiety for the main exam series.

PH: This is dependant on the COVID-19 situation at the time.

Q(SW): How has the new Life Long Learning been communicated to parents and carers? As a parent, I don't know what it is?

PH: The school will ensure the website is updated and communication is sent to parents and carers

Signed: 
Dated: 18 October 2021

08 LEARNER RETURN TO SCHOOL ANALYSIS

- Positive return to school
- New uniform policy has been adopted, there is some resistance, but overall it has had a positive impact
- At present, COVID-19 cases are low, but there are options for contingencies should this change including moving around the building outside and returning to wearing face masks
- The house system continues to work well and have a positive impact on behaviour

Q(JL): Has the school returned to group work, trips and visits this term?

GC: Yes, everything has returned to normal so far, but the number of cases is closely monitored

09 LINK VISITS

Visits will take place with each of the Governor links during the Autumn term. A Safeguarding Link will need to be agreed.

ACTION: JL and SW to arrange a SEND visit with LS

ACTION: JL to arrange a PP visit with LS

ACTION: PH will inform SW when the catch-up budget has been released

ACTION: Safeguarding link to be determined

10 GOVERNOR TRAINING

- AO advised Governors they will be required to complete the updated NGA Safeguarding Module for 2021.
- AO reminded Governors the Ofsted training is taking place at Wolfreton on 15 September 2021
- AO requested Governors complete the skills audit which will be circulated after the meeting

ACTION: Governors are required to complete the updated NGA Safeguarding Module 2021

ACTION: JL and SW to attend Ofsted training at Wolfreton on 15 September 2021

ACTION: AO to circulate Skills Audit

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 19 October (Plans)

12 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Resolved: There was no other urgent business

ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING

ACTION: AO to provide forms to absent Governors (MC, CH, JW) (Minute 3)

ACTION: JL and SW to arrange a SEND visit with LS (Minute 9)

ACTION: JL to arrange a PP visit with LS (Minute 9)

ACTION: PH will inform SW when the catch-up budget has been released (Minute 9)

ACTION: Safeguarding link to be determined (Minute 9)

ACTION: Governors are required to complete the updated NGA Safeguarding Module 2021 (Minute 10)

ACTION: JL and SW to attend Ofsted training at Wolfreton on 15 September 2021 (Minute 10)

ACTION: AO to circulate Skills Audit (Minute 10)

Signed: 
Dated: 18 October 2021

Signed: 
Dated: 18 October 2021