



MINUTES of the GARRAS LGC MEETING

Thursday 21st September 2023 5.30pm @ the school

Item	Subject	Action	
1	<p>Governors present: (V = virtual attendance)</p> <p>Nathaniel Hobbs – Chair (NH) Laura Murgatroyd (LM) Emma Rayner – Staff governor (ER) Lisa Williams (LW)</p> <p><i>Also present:</i> James Sturges – Head of School (JS) Pat Nicholas – Governance Professional</p>	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Governors were saddened to learn that Leona Lugg had stepped down from the LGC, and the meeting wished to record its thanks to Leona for her service.</p>	
2	Conflicts of Interest		
2.1	Staff governors declared an interest as paid members of staff. New forms were signed by the governors present.		
3.	Election of Vice Chair		
3.1	The election will be deferred until more governors can be recruited.		
4	Approval of minutes from the last meeting 13.7.23		
4.1	The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 th July 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.		
5	Matters arising		
5.1	There were no actions from the last meeting.		
5.2	There were no matters arising.		
6	Head teacher’s report – verbal		
6.1	<p>Staffing update The school welcomed Mrs Desmond as a TA, and who is already proving to be a great addition to the team.</p> <p>Linda May’s visits have been limited due to personal issues and an Ofsted inspection at Halwin School. JS has settled into his new role as Head of School (HOS).</p> <p>Q: How will we keep in touch with LM if she is not attending governors’ meetings this term? A: The communication will take place through JS as HOS.</p> <p>Q: Have JS’ responsibilities reduced enough to allow for 3 days of teaching? A: JS reassured governors that they had. There was a discussion about the number of meetings that Crofty schools’ subject co-ordinators were expected to attend, and the impact this would have on ‘quality first teaching’. For the small schools hub, JS explained that the plan would involve having a hub representative to attend these meetings and feed back to the others.</p>		

6.2	<p>Premises updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New doors were fitted on the Elliott building over the summer. • New LED lights have been installed throughout the school. • Governors discussed several potential issues with the plans for a green perimeter fence, not least access at the main gate for two settings with different start and finish times. • There is still no news on the Trelowarren lease negotiations. 	
	NH thanked JS for his report.	
7	Pupil outcomes and the curriculum	
7.1	<p>Corestats headline data was circulated for governors' information. The main points discussed were.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 SATS data was very positive, a great result for the children. JS thanked the staff for their efforts. • Reading results were well above county and national averages. Also, the number of children achieving greater depth (GDS) was well above average. • In Maths and SPAG the results were not as good, however it was clear that the children had benefitted from attendance at SATS club throughout the year. • Governors were reminded of the problems of data reporting with small cohorts i.e., one child = 12.5%. <p>Q: In the previous minutes, writing results were stated at 67%, why is it 56% in this document? A: There was an error in the previous minutes; the Corestats figure of 56% is accurate.</p> <p>Q: Are these figures published annually? A: Yes.</p> <p>Q: Maths? A: Y2 results were not as strong compared to the previous two years, but this was not unexpected. KS2 results were slightly higher than the year before; when the 'White Rose' scheme is embedded there should be improvements. 'Mastery in number' has been introduced across the Trust for YR and KS1, staff have completed the training.</p> <p>Q: The number of children achieving GDS is improving across the school. Are all children given the opportunity? A: Yes, especially in KS2. For KS1 this is more challenging, as the focus tends to be on the lowest achieving 20%.</p> <p>Q: There is no requirement for statutory KS1 tests this year, will the school still carry out some form of testing? A: This will be a Trust decision; however termly assessment is already in place with the PiRA and PUMA tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics scores are above Cornwall and national averages in all areas. Governors agreed that these were 'exceptional results.' JS explained that the school was looking at improving the spelling programme. <p>Q: What was the attendance figure for last year? A: 96.1% overall, the highest in the Trust.</p>	

	<p>Q: How will the Trust feed back to the school on the data? A: Information will be submitted to the trust and then collated to compare with other schools. The Sonar tracking system has a similar benchmarking tool.</p>	
8	Safeguarding	
8.1	<p>Governors were reminded of the importance of the Keeping Children Safe in Education document 2023. Governors present signed a declaration to show that they had read and understood Part Two of the document...’ The Management of Safeguarding: The responsibility of governing bodies, proprietors, and management committees.</p> <p>All staff completed the L2 training on the 5th of September INSET. Governors were reminded that there is no requirement for all governors to have Tier 2 training. The safeguarding policy has been updated.</p>	
8.2	<p>Governors were asked to read and approve the Anti bullying policy and Behaviour policy before they are published on the school’s website.</p> <p>Q: Should parents be made aware of the sanctions/consequences? A: Parents are made aware of the specific consequences when the call is made. The school will always share a copy with parents if they ask for it.</p>	
9	Governor monitoring	
9.1	<p>Curriculum focus</p> <p>LM will arrange a SEND/curriculum monitoring visit for this term.</p>	
9.2	<p>Monitoring plan for 23/24</p> <p>LW will carry out a safeguarding visit. Governors were reminded of the importance of pupil conferencing.</p>	
9.3	<p>Attendance/personal development focus</p> <p>NH to monitor staff wellbeing.</p>	
9.4	<p>Funding for future Garras projects</p> <p>There was a discussion about the GAG (general annual grant) pooling at Crofty. This is where all the funding from the individual schools is pooled and shared out according to need. Garras’ funding is healthy, and concerns were expressed funding being made available for Garras projects, including the paths for the outdoor area, and an outdoor classroom.</p> <p>Governors’ main concern was in the fact that neither LM nor JS were involved in setting the budget for this year. That said, management accounts should be available to governors.</p>	
10	Governor training & recruitment	
10.1	<p>Parish council candidate</p> <p>There was no update on recruitment from the parish council. The school will advertise for additional governors on the school newsletter.</p>	
10.2	<p>Governor Induction training will take place on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 from 5-6pm at Tolvadden.</p>	

10.3	The Trust is hosting a governor conference Saturday 30 th September from 9am - 12.30pm. Flyers had been circulated and governors were encouraged to book their place.	
11	Trust updates	
11.1	There were no updates for this meeting.	
12	Governors impact on the pupils	
12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring standards by carrying out regular governor visits and putting the monitoring plan for this next academic year. ● Monitoring staff wellbeing by keeping in touch regularly with the staff and Head of School. ● Ensuring effectiveness by actively seeking new governors. ● Improving skills and knowledge by attending relevant training. 	
13	Feedback to the Trustees	
13.1	Governors asked for an update on the installation of the security fencing, and the renewal of the Trelowarren lease.	
	AOB	
	Dates of next meetings: Thursday 9 th November 2023 5.30pm	
	Meeting finished at 7.05pm	