



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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30/9/20

Minutes

Teaching, Learning and Achievement Committee Autumn 2020
Wednesday 30th September 2020 at 9.30am remotely via zoom

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Claire Paul (Chair), Trudy Rudge (Vice), Tim Woodward, Carol Green, Will Hermon (CEO)

In attendance: Jo Callow (EHT), Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

2. Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests relevant to this Agenda

None declared.

3. Confirm minutes of previous TLA Spring (3rd Feb 2020) and matters arising

No actions. Committee agreed previous minutes and the Chair will sign a copy once normality resumes.

4. Confidential Agenda Items

One item discussed under confidential minutes.

5. Review Data & Improvement

a. Assessment of current position/teacher assessment (in lieu of data)

WH furnished the committee with the school improvement position following the first 3 weeks of term. There are some common trends like phonics and those things that are learnt in parrot fashion that need work. The committee agreed that the work done is very detailed. **A director challenged what is being done to consult with parents over a child's progress?** JC confirmed that Class Dojo is still being used frequently and some parents have been consulted briefly at pick up. WH noted that DfE has stated that the usual form of parent/teacher meetings should not take place but parents will be consulted over the phone. It was noted that the children have come back to school with a very good and positive attitude. **A director challenged how staff welfare is being managed in terms of work-life balance.** WH confirmed that PM objectives will revolve around the catch up programme for the children and other things will not be focussed on. There is also additional support in place for the teachers. It was noted that there is a new normal in the schools which involves a lot of work for the staff and there is an ethos of 'we just have to muck in and get on with it'. The committee then discussed how long this is sustainable and what measures there are to support the staff.

b. Draft Recovery Schedules and 'Blended Learning'

WH highlighted the recovery schedules for each school, previously provided to the committee. The bids from the school leaders were very sensible and the plans have

been funded. Funding is not the same in all schools due to size, needs identified, standards and whether OFSTED is due. The funding is mostly being used for funding extra tutoring. The schools have done well to identify the problems and implement the additional support very quickly. The MAT improvement officers will follow up on the impact of this funding throughout the term and Directors will be updated at the full Board meeting. Additional support will be communicated with parents. **A director noted that some children will have done well in lockdown but what is the assessment of the gaps in learning for disadvantaged children?** WH noted that there is likely to be gaps and the schools are always looking for ways to close these.

A director challenged that those children that have been lucky to have one on one tuition at home and made great progress, that the parents will be looking for their child to continue making good progress at school and what is being done about this?

WH noted that this has been recognised and this is being addressed but is dependent on resources. WH discussed the grants from government for catch up tuition.

WH discussed 'blended learning' which is remote learning provision for children in the short or longer term, if a school has to close or a class has to isolate. It will be a combination of 'live' learning, video recorded learning, paper based learning, class dojo assignments and other resources provided to children. For 'blended' read a range of learning available to the children. Some schools have surveyed parents regarding blended learning and in general, parents want a range of learning for their children (a mixture of flexible learning they can pick and choose from as suits their home life). Schools have to publish a remote learning contingency plan on the school website by 30 Sep 2020. WH noted the feedback from parents regarding the access to IT but **the committee challenged that this was an online survey and the % noted is only of those that have accessed IT to complete the survey.** There is a plan to try to lend IT to children where possible if needed.

Action: Recovery Schedules progress and impact to full Board agenda

c. National Statutory Assessment 20-21

WH updated on the statutory testing plan, such as using a past paper to test Yr 2 phonics in October. This will put pressure on the children and teachers going forward to catch up to the required standard.

d. OFSTED expectations 20-21

Clearly there have been no inspections during this time, and they are not due to start until Jan 2021 at the earliest. Most school's Ofsted inspections have now been pushed back. Ofsted are conducting assurance inspections looking at Covid risk assessments, quality of blended learning on offer, children's attitude to learning and how schools are conducting recovery in the learning.

6. Review Risks

a. MAT Risk Register - Learning and Achievement Risks

WH updated the committee on a few amendments to the format. Under section E Curriculum and Standards, WH noted risk 33 is new and focuses on SEND, PPG and PE funding and provision, and that if the schools are not getting this right it is a risk to the organisation in terms of outcomes, Ofsted inspections and the like. However, it is considered a low risk as schools do take this provision seriously and carefully plan it out.

WH noted the risk of focussing on the recovery curriculum while still covering a broader

curriculum with the children. WH noted the PHSE inclusion in the curriculum and consultation with parents over Sex & Relationship education policy.

b. Individual School Risks

Covered in the recovery schedules for each school and this will be the focus for school risk management this term.

7. Review T&L:

a. MAT Vision & Ethos

Reviewed last year and no plans to change at the moment.

b. EYFS Statutory Framework (including policies & procedures)

Schools are following the statutory framework. Early years inspection training notes have been issued to staff. The early adoption base line learning assessments are optional this year. MAT improvement officers will look at EYFS provision this year.

c. SEND Overview of MAT

It was reiterated that SEND funding for schools is very poor and never adequate for what is required. The expectations on the EHCPs is high but the funding does not support this and some schools have a higher than average number of SEND children. The schools are producing a SEND provision map to show SEND expenditure – it will show that the SEND funding is being spent appropriately and that additional funding is always needed even though it hasn't been provided by the local authority. The Trust has always been inclusive but supporting SEND children takes a great deal of resource that is not provided to the school. **A director challenged what the impact of lockdown was on the children in the ARB?** The ARB manager has been in constant contact with parents and the ARB children are a 'bubble' so if any test positive, the whole ARB will need to close temporarily.

d. Review PPG Provision and Impact

Schools all have a PPG provision map for each year and then review to ensure the expenditure has had an impact. This has been tricky this year due to school closures but nonetheless a review has taken place.

e. Review PE Provision and Impact

PE funding as above. It was noted that PE provision was positive over the lockdown period.

f. Review Discipline, Exclusions & Behaviour

Policies in place. Discipline on the whole has been good. No exclusions to report to this committee.

g. Review Pupil Attendance

Schools have been between 79 – 96 % attendance and none attendance has been due to potential symptoms. Parents appear confident to send children to school but are being cautious if their children have the usual colds and coughs in case they are perceived as Covid symptoms. The availability of tests affects children with potential symptoms returning to school.

h. Review Christian Character & Distinctiveness

Both SC and LT are now under the same leadership and provide Christian character and distinctiveness in their daily routine and ethos. SIAMS at SC was due in May but is now

delayed; according to the SIAMS SEF there are no issues of concern. It was noted the Lifton Priest will be joining the LT governing board.

8. **Policy Review**

MAT PPG Policy – minor changes – approved.

9. **AOB**

WH noted a confidential matter regarding Lew Trenchard.

10. **DONM**

Date of next meeting – Monday 25th January 2021 at 9.30am remotely via zoom (TBC).

Meeting closed at 11.15am

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

W. Hermon – CEO Director C. Paul – Director (Chair) T. Woodward – Director	T. Rudge – Director C. Green - Director J. Callow – Ex-Officio Observer
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