

Parents Forum – The March C of E School – April 2015

Date – 28.04.2015

Topic – School Improvement Plan

Attendees

Chair – Mr Jackson (Deputy Head)

Headmaster – Mr Edgington (Topic Leader)

Governor Attendee – Mr John Proctor & Mrs Asgard

Parent Governor Attendees – Mr Ashley Hatton

Further attendees – parent attendees

Minutes – Gael Emmett

Mr Edgington led the forum with a presentation, as follows

PLEASE NOTE – attached two x docs showing full presentation by Mr Edgington

Key questions to consider when writing a SIP are:

- Which things must we do because they are necessary to raise standards and because they will have the biggest impact on outcomes for pupils?
- How are we going to do them?
- Which issues do we have in common with other providers in the locality and, therefore, what actions might be better undertaken collaboratively by, or within, partnerships?

The plan should:

- Have a small number of headline priorities, a clear rationale and success criteria
- Include a one-page summary backed by more detailed action plans available to those who need them
- Be written in clear, simple English

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

PLEASE NOTE – FULL VERSION IN ATTACHMENT

Priority 1: to introduce a new assessment system that evaluates progress against objectives in the 2014 National Curriculum

Rationale: the new National Curriculum introduced in 2014 requires an assessment system based on 'End of Year Expectations' rather than levels.

Ofsted Key Issue: Teachers sometimes move onto new work too quickly, before pupils have fully grasped this.

Priority 2: to close the attainment gap in reading, writing and grammar

Rationale: to ensure all children are 'Secondary ready' at the end of KS2

Priority 3: to close the attainment gap in Maths

Rationale – Ofsted Key Issue: pupils' achievement in Maths at KS1 is not as good as that in Reading or Writing

Priority 4: to continue to develop high standards of behaviour, both in lessons and at other times throughout the school day.

Rationale: demands of the Cornerstone curriculum for increased collaboration between children. Need to reduce numbers of fixed term exclusions.

Priority 5: to ensure that the Christian Ethos of our school is reflected in high quality teaching and learning in RE and in the involvement of children in acts of Collective Worship.

Rationale: to ensure standards in RE meet or exceed those in English. To ensure Collective Worship is of a high quality in this voluntary aided school

Priority 6: to close the gap in attainment between the lowest attaining 20% of the children and the class average

Rationale: the new National Curriculum requires mastery of end of year expectations. All children have an entitlement to equal access to the curriculum and to be 'secondary ready'

Please note – the following websites are available for further reading on topics included in the presentation

www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk – Curriculum used by the March School

www.workingwithothers.org – Working with Others – there will be a training day on this for the teachers on the Inset day 14th April 2015 and a training session for parents on Wed 13th May 2015

CREATING THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- The plan is written by the senior leadership team and includes these key areas
 - SENCO – led by the SENCO
 - English – led by the English coordinator
 - Maths – led by the Maths coordinator

- Arts – led by the Arts coordinator
- Science/technology – led by the Science/technology coordinator
- Ethos – led by the Ethos coordinator
- The school prefers to work as team in creating and implementing School Improvement Plans
- The governors role is that of ‘critical friends’ in the creating of the School Improvement Plan
- The Finance Committee provides a full breakdown of costs involved for ‘budgets’.
PLEASE NOTE – *some of these costs are included on the attachment, however ‘hidden’ for privacy reasons*

IMPLEMENTING THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- The plan is costed and then given to the finance committee and the Teacher/learning committee
- The plan is evaluated by each team.

Further matters raised

Proposal was raised by attendee as to whether any attendees had other ideas/concerns that could be addressed by the School Improvement Plan

Question was raise as to the appointment of new Headteacher – concern as to the ongoing support for existing improvement plan and continuing successful running of school

- New Headteacher most likely to start Jan 2015. As Head Teachers can only resign at three given times a year, the 29.04.15 (the date of Mr Edgington’s resignation) being the last day for resignation, the 1st of Jan is the first date we could expect a new Headteacher to start, if we are employing an existing Head Teacher. Should we employ an existing Deputy Head, they could potentially start after the October Half-term.
- Mr Jackson will be acting Headteacher, with an open ended contract.
- The governors were rated by Ofsted as ‘exceptional’ and therefore the school can feel assured by their ongoing involvement in the running of the school and appointment of a new Head Teacher.
- The next governors meeting will be given over to the matter of the Appointment of new Headteacher
- Part of the criteria for a Headteacher at a Church Aided school is that they are a practicing Christian.

The point was raised as to how we assess the quality of the teachers/leaders at the school and therefore ensure the ongoing quality of teaching/leaders

- The Head Teacher is assessed by an external assessment body. This is a privately run body that is a 'School Improvement Partner'. This involves
 - Reviewing achievement against targets set in
 - Leadership management
 - Christian Ethos
 - Pupil Progress
 - Data review of the following
 - Analysis of pupil progress
 - Evidence reports
 - Setting targets for the next year
 - A report is submitted to the governors for acceptance
- The Teachers are assessed by Headteacher and Deputy Head teacher (the TAs meet with the SENCO) by the following methods
 - Performance against an approved target
 - Pupil progress
 - Teaching/learning
 - Own CPD
 - Data submission
 - Lesson observation
 - Data and work scrutiny

The question was raised as to 'what is in the School Improvement Plan for children who don't fall into the lower 20% area' - how the improvement plan supports and raises standards and achievements amongst the average and more able pupils?

- The Governor John Proctor stated that it is part of the role of the governors to remind the Head Teacher to also support these pupils.
- 'Mastery' is stated to be the goal for this group of pupils
 - Embedding knowledge in all children – broadening for competent children and intervention for others.

- *It was noted that a discussion followed expressing concern as to whether the 'closing the gap in attainment' approach can lead to a 'dumbing down', rather than overall raising of standards.*

NEXT MEETING – 23.06.2015

TOPIC – Christian Ethos at the March C of E
DIOCESAN INSPECTION – Next Term