

## **Burlington Junior School**

### **Minutes of the Curriculum Committee meeting held on Wednesday 9 November 2022**

**Present:** Mrs Julie Hickman (Chair)  
Mr Stefan Bown  
Mr Simon Gilmore  
Mrs Mariam Hakim  
Mr John Kewley  
Mr Naveeh Shah  
Mrs Pip Utting

**In attendance** Mr Matthew Blow, Deputy Headteacher  
Mrs Natalie Yendole, Assistant Headteacher  
Ms Karen Bridgman, Clerk

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr Arbuthnot, Mrs Campbell, Revd Thomas and Mr West.

#### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2022 were approved.

#### **3. History**

Governors watched a pre-recorded video from Miss Albury which gave an update on the history curriculum.

*Governors asked whether there was a list of the topics covered in history.* The Assistant Headteacher gave details of the different topics covered. She explained that the history timeline is included on the website.

*Governors asked how the topics were chosen.* The Assistant Headteacher explained that the national curriculum states which subjects have to be studied.

*Governors asked whether the pupils' own diverse background could be reflected in the history curriculum.* The Headteacher explained that the history curriculum focuses on ancient history and British history and it is not possible to study Korean history.

There was a discussion on how the school is trying to diversify the curriculum as stated in the Equalities Policy. The Assistant Headteacher explained that the history subject leader is reviewing this at the current time. She is also working with the local authority to ensure that the right content is selected and correct information is given to the children. AfC's Curriculum Lead is supporting with this work and is signposting to relevant resources.

*Governors queried how the school built on themes and developed topics through each year group.* The Assistant Headteacher gave details of the areas covered and how topics are developed even when the children are working on different aspects of history.

*Governors queried whether the content changed as the interpretation of history changes.* The Assistant Headteacher explained that the children watch Newsround and are encouraged to reflect on how the knowledge about the past impacts on how they think today. The school also has to ensure it has the right sources of information. It is challenging but it is important to encourage conversations with the pupils to reflect on the past.

#### **4. Geography**

Governors watched a pre-recorded video from Miss Gorman which gave an update on the geography curriculum.

*Governors queried whether the children went on school trips which were linked to geography.* The Deputy Headteacher gave details of the different trips which are relevant to geography. The Headteacher explained that the school is currently reviewing the cost of school trips as these have changed since covid.

**The Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher agreed to review which subjects will be discussed at the next Curriculum Committee meeting on 7 March 2023.**

#### **5. Curriculum Update**

The following points were noted:

- There are new geography and PE subject leaders.
- The focus this term is on development and maintaining (retrieval, scaffolding and vocabulary).
- The focus subjects are computing and art.
- In computing, the focus is on curriculum progression from KS1 to KS3. The school is being supported by the AfC computing leads on this work.
- In art, the focus is on building on knowledge and developing skills to support the children as they go through the school.
- Subject leaders are being given more opportunities to monitor lessons and talk about their subject.

The Assistant Headteacher gave details of the work being carried out on assessment on the wider curriculum. The school is developing assessment being used in every subject area.

*Governors queried whether the school had assessment data in respect of the foundation subjects.* The Deputy Headteacher explained that the school has assessment data in respect of the core subjects due to the SATs. The school tracks children in preparation of these tests. Ofsted will focus on the bottom 20% especially in respect of how they access learning and engage in their learning. The school previously had a lot of tracking grids which showed that the children were being assessed but these were not always very useful. Assessment is now more personalised to each class and is not the kind of numerical data which is collated for core subjects. Teachers will be aware of an area where the children are struggling and will go over this again in small group work or through conferencing.

*Governors asked how the school assessed and judged the pupils' outcomes.* The Deputy Headteacher explained that this is based on what information the pupils have retained. The work in their books will evidence this.

*Governors queried whether the bottom 20% who struggled in the core subjects, also struggled in other subjects.* The Deputy Headteacher explained that children who struggle with reading or writing may be skilful in other subjects such as art. Children can be good at scientific conceptions and can explain these but will struggle with writing them up.

The Assistant Headteacher reported that the school knows the children in every class that struggle with reading, writing or maths but it does not mean they cannot retain knowledge, which the school is now able to evidence. Due to the changes to the Ofsted framework there is more focus on the wider curriculum. The Deputy Headteacher explained that Ofsted do not want to see spreadsheets of data and want to see assessment in progress in the classroom that can directly influence teaching and learning.

There was a discussion on how the school monitors the progress of all children in the foundation subjects.

The Headteacher thanked Mrs Yendole for all her work on the curriculum which is outstanding. The work she is doing at the school on the curriculum is very strong.

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **Governor Hub**

The Headteacher gave details of the governor hub and how this may benefit the school. **The Clerk agreed to obtain further information on the Governor Hub and costings for this which will be reviewed at the Governing Body meeting on 23 November 2022.**

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 7.00 pm

Agenda: Music and Maths

Summer Term: Computing and DT