

Burlington Junior School

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 June 2023

Present: Mrs Julie Hickman (Chair)
Mr Stephen Arbuthnot
Mr Stefan Bown
Mr Simon Gilmore
Mrs Mariam Hakim
Miss Jemima Harris
Mr Naveed 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 Mrs Campbell and Mr West.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Computing

Governors watched a pre-recorded video from Mr Panesar which gave an update on the computing curriculum.

Governors queried how the school keeps pupils and parents abreast of developments around online safety? The Headteacher reported that staff talk to children all the time about how they use their devices and what information they are accessing. If there is an incident in the classroom, there are immediate discussions with the children to address the issues. There is also a lot of advice for parents on the school website. It is ultimately the parent's responsibility to control the apps the children use as the school cannot check their phones. The school is constantly giving advice to parents to keep them updated.

The Headteacher reported that the school also arranges for Peter Cowley, AfC's Lead Adviser for Online Services and Safety to talk to the Year 4, 5 and 6 children annually.

Governors asked about TikTok, which has a minimum age of 13, but there are a lot of children at the school who currently use it. The Assistant Headteacher explained that the children are constantly reminded about age restrictions and how to behave responsibly online. The school cannot stop the children accessing TikTok on their own devices.

Governors queried whether the school has funding for computing equipment updates? The Headteacher explained that there is a rolling programme for updating equipment and this is planned very carefully due to the school's financial situation. The school is well resourced but all the equipment is heavily used.

The Assistant Headteacher reported that the investment in chrome books has really made an impact on how these are used in other lessons. The Coombe Schools have stated that it helps the children with their transition to secondary school if they know how to use chrome books and know how to research information.

Governors queried whether the school still gave chrome books to disadvantaged children. The Deputy Headteacher explained that the school does not promote this as it does not have an endless supply of chrome books. Parents can still ask for support and for a chrome book. The Headteacher reported that if a child does not have access to a device, the school will support them with ensuring that they can do work after school or provide a device. The school is proactive in working with families.

Governors asked how often CPD was provided to staff to ensure they kept up to date with latest developments. The Headteacher explained that the Computing Subject Leader attends the local authority network meetings and will lead a staff meeting on any updates. He has also worked closely with Mrs Yendole on the programs being used and whether they are the best ones for children and staff. Mrs Yendole explained that the software being used has been reduced so the children are more proficient in the programs they are using. The school used the programs recommended by the DfE.

Governors queried whether Ofsted would want information on how children were assessed in computing. The Headteacher explained that Mrs Yendole presented to other headteachers on data collection as Ofsted do not want this. There has been a lot of discussion about what is useful in respect of assessment of foundation subjects. The school uses quizzes and talks to the children and this is incorporated into the planning.

5. DT Curriculum Update

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

There was a discussion on the work the school has done on ensuring that children understanding the difference between art and DT.

6. Curriculum Update

The following points were noted:

- The SIP has carried out deep dives in science and music. Both subject leaders talked confidently about their subjects and the SIP was very positive about the work that was seen.
- The school is working with local secondary schools on what will help the children already know in different curriculum subjects when they transfer to Year 7.
- 88% of PPG children attended at least one club throughout the year.
- 90% of SEND children attended at least one club throughout the year.
- The school continues to monitor and review what clubs children want to attend.

- There has been a review of assessment in the wider curriculum especially in respect of how mini quizzes are used to help with planning, identify misconceptions and support all pupils.
- Any changes in planning will be included in the curriculum maps for September.
- Changes are going to be made in history as teachers have stated that they need to give more time to some elements.
- Geography and writing will be a focus for 2023-2024.

Governors queried why writing is a focus for the next academic year. Mrs Yendole explained that the English curriculum is very large and it is better to review reading and writing separately. Reading has been a focus but there have been changes in the children's writing following the pandemic in respect of their stamina. Children also often overwhelmed when new things are introduced.

There was a discussion on STEM week and the different projects covered by each year group.

7. Any Other Business

SATs

Governors queried when the school will receive the SATs results. The Deputy Headteacher explained that schools usually receive these at the beginning of July. The tests were a lot harder especially the reading test.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 7.00 pm

Autumn Term: PE, RE, English

Spring Term: RSE, Science, Maths

Summer Term: Geography, Computing, History