

Burlington Junior School
Minutes of the Curriculum Committee
Wednesday 12th February 2025

Present: Mrs P Utting (Head of School)
Mr S Arbuthnot (Chair)
Mrs J Hickman
Mr S Gilmour
Mrs M Uteem
Ms S Finch
Mrs R Campbell
Mr M West
Mr N Shah
Miss C Albury

In attendance Miss L Golding, Year 5 Class teacher
Ms K Cleaver, Music teacher
Mrs N Yendole, Y6 Class teacher
Mr M Blow (Deputy Head)
Miss A Mir, Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Bown,

Absent without apologies - Mrs Hakim, Mrs Hall

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 05 June 2024 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Music Update

Governors watched a presentation delivered by Ms Cleaver which gave an update on the [Music curriculum](#)

Governors raised no questions and praised Ms Cleaver for her hard work and commitment in delivering the curriculum. Governors acknowledged how much the lunchtime Ukulele club was being enjoyed by the children.

5. French Update

Governors watched a presentation delivered by Miss Golding which gave an update on the [French Curriculum](#)

The following points were raised and noted:

Governors asked if children found French an easy language to learn and if there is any possibility for other languages to be taught? Miss Golding recognised that French has formed part of the curriculum in schools for many years. There are other languages and cultures that children explore during diversity week. Miss Golding suggested that children have the opportunity at secondary school to learn other languages also.

Governors asked how many native language speakers attend the school? Miss Golding reported 10 however the data depends on the information parents share on the application form. Miss Yendole felt the numbers are higher with other languages such as Spanish also being popular, however Burlington has a good foundation for French.

6. English Update

Governors watched a presentation delivered by Mr West which gave an update on the [English Curriculum](#)

The following points were raised and noted:

Governors recognised that by Year 6 children are expected to write longer articles and asked how the school is preparing the children for this? Mr West reported ongoing practice through model stories in class, writing newspaper articles and by setting targets for model texts. Overall the school encourages quality of the work over the quantity.

Governors acknowledged how rigorous the 11+ entrance exams can be and asked how the school ensures that the children are well prepared for these? Mr West agreed that the 11+ system can be challenging and that English and Math papers usually include verbal reasoning and/or non-verbal reasoning tests as well. The children taking these tests are often receiving external support to prepare for these and in return this also supports their work in school. By contrast, national exams such as SATs cover core English and maths skills, are standardised and aligned to the National Curriculum, and are part of the government framework for education. The school's role is to prepare the children for these standards.

7. Math update

Governors watched a presentation delivered by Mrs Yendole which gave an update on the [Math Curriculum](#)

The following points were raised and noted

Governors asked how many children understand the 144 multiplication grid by year 6? Mrs Yendole reported that the grid is practiced weekly and children respond well when given an incentive to learn such as class competitions. These incentives often make the children more determined to learn and succeed. Mr West added that by year 6 50-60% of children achieve their 144 and approximately 40% across the whole school.

Governors asked why some children struggle to get the 144 multiplication grid? Mrs Yendole reported that in some cases the children can find rapid recall difficult and require extra

support. However with regular practice and encouragement most children have a good understanding of their times tables.

Governors asked if the school runs a club at lunchtime to teach the 144 grid? Mr West confirmed that multiplication is taught during math fluency slots and felt it is better learnt in class rather than a club. Miss Albury added that the younger children in year 3 find the topic quite daunting and are often set tasks to learn at home too.

Governors asked what provision is in place to support SEN children to learn the topic? Mrs Yendole reported that intervention groups are set up to help narrow the gap. In addition to this, times tables are a big part of the curriculum in year 3, maths targets are set and ongoing communication with and support from parents is also helpful.

8. Curriculum update

Governors watched a presentation delivered by Mrs Yendole which gave an update on the [Curriculum Update](#)

The following points were raised and noted

Governors raised no questions and praised Mrs Yendole for her hard work and commitment in delivering the curriculum. Governors praised the work prepared for diversity week and thanked the school for making all the children feel a sense of belonging.

9. School development plan

The HT postponed this until the next meeting

10. Link Governors / Governor Week

Governor weeks commencing
24th February 2025
02nd June 2025

11. Any other business

None declared

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed