

MIDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Notes of a meeting of the Local Advisory Council
held online
on Monday 22nd March 2021 starting at 9:30am

Present:

Mrs J Barton Headteacher
Cllr J Ellis Chair and Appointed LACM
Ms A Hughes Appointed LACM
Mr T Cross Appointed LACM

In attendance:

Mrs G Sesli Executive Head Teacher
Mr P Le Conte Deputy Head Teacher
Ms C Jenkins SENCO
Mrs B Wedderburn Pastoral & Pit Stop Lead
Mrs V Moyle EYFS Leader

Clerk: Mrs A Edmunds

1. Welcome and apologies for absence, acceptance of absence and absence

1.1. Apologies were received from Mrs Jo Brinkley, CEO and Dr. Shamini Balabaskaran, Parent appointed LACM.

1.2. No apologies were received from Mrs T Mebitaghan, appointed LACM.

2. Notes of the meeting of 8th February 2021

The notes reflected the meeting accurately and there were no further comments.

3. SENCO update from new SENCO Claire Jenkins

3.1. Mrs C Jenkins worked at Midfield three and a half years ago and knows most staff, as well as knowing year 2 and above.

3.2. Received a handover from Mrs K Kick however this was tricky due to Covid 19 and had to be via zoom.

3.3. At present there are 5 children with ECH plans. 10 receiving PRA funding. 3 children with medical needs. 104 SEN support – likely to increase. 18 in ARP. In addition, 10 children need to submit EHCP requests.

3.4. These numbers do not reflect the level of need in the school.

3.5. Covid has impacted some children – especially with the transition to secondary school. More children have been diagnosed with dyslexia or are awaiting assessment.

3.6. Looking at the Trust SEND policy, some teachers need more support to be fully inclusive of SEND children in their class. Teachers need to be more creative and flexible when planning so children with an ISA are encouraged to learn skills to be independent and not reliant on their one to one for support. If a child is reliant on a one to one and that adult needs to be constantly with them, then to ask whether mainstream is the correct place? However, parents still have a voice whether their child attends mainstream or not.

3.7. Summer term will look at learning environment. An audit to be completed to be sent to Mrs J Brinkley for areas which need attention.

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3.8. LAC member asked if Mrs C Jenkins had enough support in her new role. She replied that she did as there is a clear communication dialogue with the Midfield team and Teachers, PTPs and ISAs have all been very supportive.

4. OPAL play

Opal play has been adjusted to accommodate Covid 19. As lockdown eases then more equipment can be re-introduced. At present each class has their own cupboard of equipment. The playground is also a bit cramped as each class has half plus football.

5. Dig for Victory Project

5.1. This was all planned ready to go but has also been delayed by Covid 19. Year 6 are due to meet tomorrow and start. The plan is to plant four plants in a cross with a monument, which will start after Easter and finish by the summer holidays. There has been a lot of positivity from year 6 and the teachers.

5.2. In the long term the school would like to invite grand-parents to come in and talk about the second world war. It would also be nice for the LAC to come and visit once it is finished and perhaps hold a tea party or other social events which are good for well-being.

6. Update on return 8th March 2021

6.1. Up until today, attendance has been great. Everyone has been keeping to class bubbles in years 2-6 and year group bubbles up to year 1. There are elements of cross over in PIXL groups. Staff have remained in bubbles. Treehouse have 2 staff members shielding plus sickness so 2 members of staff from mainstream have been moved over to cover until the end of term. Lateral flow tests are ongoing on Sundays and Wednesdays.

6.2. Core curriculum is being taught in the morning and the teachers have more flexibility in the afternoon and are encouraged to go outside. Teachers are tailoring learning to the children.

6.3. PHSE has been key. Get back get fit has also been organised.

6.4. After Easter they will look at what catch up groups are needed. More PIXL timetabled next term.

6.5. There is a worry of bubbles closing after today.

7. Wellbeing group update

7.1. The new staff wellbeing group is called Midfield United. Stakeholder representatives from all groups. The plan is to organise a social committee to unite staff.

7.2. Developed a link with the Shaw Trust who have donated jigsaw puzzles and arts and craft which have been delivered to children who have been isolating.

7.3. The Friends of Scadbury Park have also donated bird feeders and bird seeds to the schools eco garden.

MIDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Notes of a meeting of the Local Advisory Council
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7.4. Clarion Housing have provided funding to train a member of staff in each Trust school in Pause B.

8. Junior Cray Forum

Two charities have been nominated and the plan is to fill two shopping trolleys with donations and then once full can then call the charity. Problem as no supermarkets want to lend the school any trolleys. Need ideas for who to contact for 8 shopping trolleys. The Chair to talk to local MP for trolleys.

9. Update on EYFS sustainability project

9.1. Teaching assistant in nursery has now been trained in Schema Play. They have seen amazing results with the children. LAC would like to thank Vicky for all her work. Adults in nursery are all now using SCHEMA PLAY.

9.2. Received a Bronze Award for sustainability in Reception.

10. AOB

10.1. Redundancies affecting office staff. There has been some push back to the Trust on concerns about the proposals. Headteachers need to voice opinions on the consultations. Trust is proposing to have one admin officer in each school with two senior admin officers overall. Starting from January 2022. Need to make sure that it is not the Headteacher that is taking over the additional work. Caretakers also to form a team with other schools in the Trust. The consultation document has revealed that some roles are on different grades, which have been recent appointments. MPS admin staff have raised this with their union rep and will be discussing this in their consultation meeting.

10.2. The school is disappointed that as a Trust a third restructure is deemed necessary especially as the first one involved the removal of the school business manager with the replacement of a senior admin officer/s and now they are at risk of redundancy, which was not part of restructure 1 or 2.

10.3. Mrs G Sesli replied that it is a massive undertaking to do a huge restructure and the Trust does not have the capacity to do this, therefore it has taken some time. The school wants to know why this was not communicated at the time as it gives the impression that the Trust does not know what it is doing.

10.4. The LAC were disappointed that the communication between teacher and TA has been lost as this had proved to be advantageous for the children as it allowed TA's to feel part of the team, this is a retrograde step in providing informed support to children. Teaching staff are now noticing the impact of having reduced TAs and TA hours from restructure 2, which is impacting on all teaching staff. Very little communication with staff and no time for training. Never see the staff, CPD is a massive part but difficult to do going forward.

10.5. SMT and staff are putting together a letter outlining their concerns about the restructure. There are doubts about how it is going to work in the office. Need to list all the additional

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jobs and examples that the Trust has missed. Nursery admin is more expensive when completed by a qualified teacher and it takes time away from the children.

11. Summary of Trust Board questions asked by the LAC

- 11.1. Why is the Trust doing a third restructure? It is creating more anxiety amongst the staff. Staff on the ground do not have a great opinion of how the Trust operates.
- 11.2. How much does the Trust intend to save by removing admin staff in the school? There are concerns that certain items will then fall onto senior staff.
- 11.3. Staff restructuring has not looked at number of staff to ratio of children. Midfield has more children and therefore needs more staff.
- 11.4. What about the wellbeing of a single Admin Officer? Cover at lunchtime, sickness etc. Track and trace admin has also not been included with this role.
- 11.5. Is the consultation paper being sent to the local community? LAC should be asked for comments not just be told about it.
- 11.6. Pathway of funding - issues with it getting to Mrs G Sesli.
- 11.7. Midfield Holiday Club - a survey was carried out by TSPT. Question why it is only for two weeks and not for the full six. If this scheme is to proceed the LAC would like to see the business plan and cost analysis.
- 11.8. Questioning whether they have received a grant for the project? LAC would like to see more information. Parents that will need this camp are the ones that cannot afford it.

12. Date of next LAC meeting

Date of the next meeting to be agreed with the Chair and Headteacher.