



**FULBRIDGE ACADEMY**  
**MINUTES OF CURRICULUM & STANDARDS MEETING**  
**EPCOT MEETING ROOM @ 2PM**  
**THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2020**

Present: Lucy Edwards (Chair) Helen Bath, Ben Erskine, Scott Biggs, Gareth Davis,  
Apologies: None  
Absence: None  
Clerk: Fiona Pais

Meeting started at 2pm

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. Declaration of interest**

None declared

**3. Matters arising**

No matters arising from the previous meeting

**4. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes were agreed as a true representation of the last meeting that took place

**5. Presentation on Writing (Hayley Bannister, GPS (Laura Crocker) and Phonics (Becky Evan)**

Writing Lead - Haley Bannister:

She took over in Easter, but has been at the school for 16 years so she has seen many creative and confident writers over the years.

The aim is for our children to be creative and confident writers who use their skills and knowledge to engage the audience for a given purpose.

Our Teachers (Directors of writing) will ignite the children's imagination. to create willing and enthusiastic learners who accurately compose for their audience.

We want the reader to understand the writing and the writer to understand the reader.

Curriculum structured around core stories. Pupils will compose a range of texts for a variety of different audiences throughout the year.

Haley has constructed a Directors Guide which is a one stop shop for all of the staff to give them the ideas and resources they need to plan effectively.

There are 4 text types:  
To Entertain, To Inform, To Persuade and To Discuss.

These will all be covered through the child's Fulbridge journey. Lead overviewed how these text types progress throughout the child's learning.

In reception there is a heavy focus on sentence structure with some composition but by the end of their Year 6 journey they should just be retrieving skills they have already learned and composing the majority of the time.

The lesson structure has been put together for teachers to follow.

Text board narrative example was explained on how the child would be taught in writing a story.

Yesterday we launched how to Model write (following on from guidance gained from the recent Mary Myatt visit)

The guidance is given to model by doing the following:

Mix it up,  
Outline a plan,  
Draft read and edit,  
Explicit skill,  
Leave it up.

GOV - WOW such amazing work you have done. Great to see that the children now have a model to see what they need to be producing. The teachers seem to be well informed.

LEAD - When the teachers are willing to learn, the children buy into the idea more.

#### Becky Evan - Phonics Lead

Becky took over as Phonics lead at the beginning of last year.

The teaching has been adapted so they children learn the sounds through different books so they have a meaning to what they are learning.

The Phonics results from last year were the best so far so this approach is proven to be working well.

There has been guidance put in place on the following areas:

- Target Children list of children who may have failed their phonics test and may still be struggling with their reading.
- Additional KS2 support for those who have low achievers in their classes
- Reception / Year 1 Approach evaluation
- Year 2 borderline student evaluation

We are trialing "Learn to read in 100 lessons" and this has been introduced to those who are struggling to access the class read.

Story time reading is 4 times per week and it varies between 30-45 minutes depending on the year group. Covers the phonics that they are learning in that period.

Zips and sounds are used. They learn the sound first then add in the chants and sounds to construct the words

Following on from some feedback received from the parents, we are now putting posts on facebook showing videos of the sounds we are learning.

Next steps:

To continue to upskill the KS2 staff

Support teachers in the assessment of Phonics within their classes

Continue to support parents using facebook videos

Looking forward to the Phonics screening this year

Evaluation of the phonic approach.

GOV - Are the parents open to the posts of facebook?

Lead - Yes we have found this helps with the pronunciation of the sounds at home because we discovered that some children were being taught incorrectly at home. The videos give the parents something to work from.

GOV - How did you come to name the Fairy words ?

Lead - Michelle Larbey is someone we have taken guidance from in the past and she is known as the Phonics Fairy. They were her words and the term has just stuck.

Laura Crocker - GPS Lead

Lead was offered the GPS Lead and took on the role in September

GPS stands for Grammar Punctuation & Spelling also known as SPAG in most schools.

Looking at what we offer for staff and pupils

Spellings

Print of spellings each week instead of the child copying them into their book. This ensures that they are reading them correctly.

Guidance given to the teachers on how to pick the words taken from the text / sound they are learning in class.

National Curriculum most spelled words are followed at this stage as this is the best practice.

Tests - spelling tests, test on fewer spellings than are given to ensure that the children are actually learning the spellings not just memorising an order.

Adults mark tests and results are shared with child and parent / carer which we have found very positive.

We are looking at having a spelling bee in the next block which is exciting for the staff and children.

Lead gave an example of the document she prepares for the staff and this details the areas that they will be learning and in which block they will be learning it in.

Lead along with writing lead has aligned teaching between writing and GPS as we need to ensure that the topic has been covered in GPS before the children are asked to write about it.

Lead added that there are set rules for punctuation which most people are unaware of and we unconsciously follow these rules. Lead shared details and gave examples of punctuation which is kept in a central resource so that teachers can refer to it when they are teaching the children.

GPS is embedded in the lesson in Year 1 & 6 with other years they have a separate GPS Lesson.

Part of the long term plan is to highlight sentence types that will be learned in the lesson for the teachers.

Lead outlined some examples of the abbreviations that they use to describe the different sentences that they learn

GOV: "Alan Peat" sentences were great at the time but this has progressed so much. Their parents must be astounded with some of the information that the children are coming out with

Lead - We have received comments from some of the parents about the changes in a positive way

Teachers now have GPS as part of their training which will continue to improve the teachers' learning

GOV - Are all staff on board? There must be a lot of learning for some of them?

Yes - they have had to rethink the way they teach this subject but we have provided lots of support for them.

Principal - Laura presented this at the staff meeting last night. This will change and the children will mark their own spellings as there is a lot of evidence that this will improve learning. Even if they "cheat" and correct their work, this is still learning for them.

GOV - Interested in 100 days to read to see how that works out

They are scripted lessons that you do not waver from. We are trialing it at the moment and if it works we will roll it out throughout the school where needed.

## **6. Lesson Observations / Snapshot Feedback**

Feedback Distributed prior to the meeting.

The way we conduct the lesson observations will change slightly and LP is working on it at the moment. She will present to the Governors once this has been approved.

2 Governors attended the recent learning walks and offered their feedback

GOV - During learning walks I was amazed on the speed that the children are answering the questions

GOV- The children were all so quiet and engaged, the classroom was very calm. The behaviour is consistent throughout.

## **7. Any other business**

Principal showed the committee the new school video for the website. This is about to be loaded onto the website and will be put onto twitter / facebook too.

Song written especially for the video

Meeting concluded at 3.15pm

## **Date of next meeting**

5th March 2020