

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Brayford/Umberleigh LGB

Date of meeting: 5th March 2020, Umberleigh Primary Academy

Attended by: Penny Wignall, Corrine Smith, Helen Cooke, Charlotte Janisch, Verity Goss (clerk)



Brief overview of discussion

Procedural items

Welcome and apologies

PW welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from Lucy House, Sue Davies and Rhian Nicholas. Caroline El-Marazki was stepping down from her position due to work commitments.

Sign off previous minutes

Minutes agrees and signed as accurate record of the meeting.

Governor Visits – LGB members to arrange. Sue Wells (trustee) had visited both Brayford and Umberleigh.

Matters arising brought forward by Chair

None.

Correspondence

None.

Monitoring and Accountability

Spring curriculum Update KS1/KS2

The topic for the term had been 'Farm to Fork'. Some frustration had been felt due to it being a short term given the amount staff wanted to fit in to the topic. Brayford juniors had been focussing on geography in relation to food, and had also visited Asda to see behind the scenes of a supermarket. Children at Brayford had visited a farm, Umberleigh had not yet managed this trip due to the weather – the trip had been rearranged. Children at Umberleigh had been looking at processes related to food – eg after learning about flour they had made bread.

Children had also learnt about land use, how to read an Ordnance Survey map and identifying where farms were on the map. The topic would move on to look at modern farming, and what farming may look like in the future.

Brayford infants had been looking at farming methods and old and new farming machinery. A trip to Otterton Mill had tied in with looking at making bread. Both schools were to take part in a chocolate workshop. Umberleigh were setting up their own farm shop, which involved deciding what to sell and testing the products. Children had also looked at traditional tales linked to food and farming. CS reported that children had been enthusiastic about the topic.

LGB members felt the children were fortunate to have such a variety in their topic work, and to have the trip experiences.

Decision spelling – the junior classes in both schools had started this. CS explained that they were currently trialling this, and explained how it helped children become better able to choose which sound patterns and letters to put into words. CS thought it would be more effective than the weekly spelling list. How would the effectiveness be measured? CS explained how the creators used data to show progress. Schools across TEAM were using the program, and it was felt to be a clear way of working at spellings for the children, and a good continuation from KS1 phonics.

CS reported that the schools had been able to use PE grant money for climbing sessions and tennis this year, and would also have a football coach.

SIP Updates: 2019 /2020 SIP

- Progress on SIP at Umberleigh
- Progress on SIP at Brayford

CS explained the two school specific aims in maths and writing. CS reported that these were progressing well.

Monitoring standards

KS1 / KS2 predictions

Umberleigh – 3 Y6 children – all expected to reach the expected standard in maths, currently one expected to reach expected standard in reading and writing, with potential for one more to achieve the expected standard.

Brayford – 8 Y6, 50% expected to reach expected standard in reading, 50% in writing and 50% in maths. 3 out of the 8 children were expected to reach the expected standard in all three areas. Progress measures were very good.

Transition to secondary school discussed – preparing children for SATs was also linked to the preparation to secondary school.

SEND children in Y6 – one in each school. Both were not expected to reach the expected standard.

Y2 Umberleigh – 4 children, 2 with SEND. 50% expected to reach the expected standard in all areas.

Y2 Brayford – 4 children. 75% expected to reach the expected standard, with 3 greater depth in reading.

Phonics – Umberleigh 5/7 in Y1 would pass. Other two were making progress but were not quite at test standard. Two Y2 children who would be retaking the test would not pass. Brayford – 5/6 would pass, other child was making very good progress and might pass. CS explained the use of recordings of books to help with children's reading – this had been trialled at Witheridge with very good results.

EYFS – 1 in Brayford, who would reach a good level of development. Five children in Umberleigh, four would reach a good level of development, the other was making good progress but was working towards at the moment.

Topic journals – CS reported that KS1 children were struggling a bit with these, and that she thought they may not be the best way to record learning for this group. They were proving successful in KS2 – children also really liked the ownership they had of them, and the freedom they had in recording their work. CS reported that staff were exploring why they were not being so successful in KS1, and were looking at how the topic journals were being used in KS1 in the other schools.

Governor Visits

PW had visited Umberleigh specifically to look at the acoustic properties of the buildings. PW reported on some of the changes needed – quotes were being sought for these.

Safeguarding Report

No update for this meeting. SD was booked to visit the last week of term.

Health and safety report

Reports received. LGB members agreed that dates for completion of items were useful. CS clarified which items had been completed and which were in progress.

Review Sex Education policy

Policy currently being updated.

Strategic

Umberleigh Park and Play

Hedge had been taken down where the entrance would be so work would not be delayed due to nesting birds. Land purchase currently with DfE. BP and WS were looking at solutions for questions raised.

Review pupil numbers, projected numbers, staffing

Brayford – currently 33, expected 30 next year with two brumblebees.

Umberleigh – currently 34, expected 40 next year, with 4 possible moving to area. Six brumblebees.

Discussion on awareness of brumblebee provision at Brayford. Agreed on the importance of website being kept up to date.

Brumblebees update, numbers, staffing

Included in previous item.

Umberleigh Brumblebees Accomodation

Brumblebees building had originally been developed for ten pupils aged 3-5. Including two year olds changed the number that could be accommodated. Discussion on ideal situation – to include intervention space etc. To take to trustees – need for a new building to give children the best early years experience. Currently at capacity so not able to expand the places offered.

School Meal Menus

Had been noted there was not consistency across the two schools. CS explained changes that had been made, and felt that these were going well.

Attendance including PP data

Brayford – 95.4% whole school since September, PP in line with this. Had been a few sickness bugs.

Umberleigh - 97.1% whole school, PP 96.45%.

Update on Academy Trust

RN updated the LGB on curriculum leader teams, which were helpful for working together across the schools as curriculum leads. Subject leads were shared across Umberleigh and Brayford.

Cornerstones – online topic planning. This was a replacement for target tracker. RN explained the advantages for planning and resources, and the possible challenges with working with different age groups.

Umberleigh and High Bickington had a grant from the British Council to be part of an international group of schools, with links to a school in India. Agreed it would be good for Umberleigh to work with High Bickington on a project as the schools were so close.

Meeting ended 3.02pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st May, 1.00pm, Brayford Academy