

Ethos Committee Meeting | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 13/11/2019 | **Meeting location** *Boasley Cross Primary School*

Meeting called by Deirdre Petersen | Lucy Gardner (staff)

Type of meeting Ethos Committee Meeting | Kyle Paine (staff)
Nicola Bellew (staff)

Note taker Lucy Gardner/ D Petersen | Gavin Jordan

Ali Heard

Tiffany Perry

Sarah Bernie

Chris Mallinson

Adrian Brooks

Apologies (parents):

Rachel Holden

Rachel Orchard

Karen Tingle

Mrs Squire

Bernard McNelis

1. INTRODUCTION TO ETHOS COMMITTEE/ REMINDER OF DUTY AND TRUST VALUES

DP - introduction, reminding the ethos committee of our Trust cooperative values that underpin everything we do as a Trust school. The Ethos Committee's role is to ensure that the Multi Academy Trust's (MAT) Values, Vision and Aims are embedded in the actions and activities of Boasley Cross Primary School. A reminder is given of the Trust's co-operative values: Self-help, Self-responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity, Solidarity. Reminder of the main duties of the Ethos Committee:

- To preserve and develop the Co-operative values and the distinctiveness of the school.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the school's leadership and management with regard to the maintenance of the Co-Operative values.
- To ensure the pastoral care of the children and staff, including how the school meets the needs of learners through its implementation of the Co-Operative values.

- To ensure that the voice of the local community, in particular, but not exclusively parents, staff and children is understood.

The school is a 'Trust' school but also strives to maintain its individual distinctiveness. DP referred to the last ethos meeting when we discussed the values and aims in more detail. She also reminded the group that the Trust promotes the individual vision and values of Boasley Cross School: *Respectful, Resourceful and Resilient; a creative approach to learning where all children can succeed*. It is important that we maintain the individual distinctiveness of each school whilst working collaboratively under the umbrella of the Trust.

DP also added that the minutes of this committee would be shared with Trustees and that parent, staff, community and pupil voice are valued.

2. Actions from last meeting:

a) School vision:

DP – in response to the parent and pupil views a new school vision has been adapted and we are embedded the vision across the school. The importance of our school vision in keeping our school's unique distinctiveness – DP has embedded new school vision with staff and children. Respectful, Resourceful and Resilient. All children are taking the vision and values on board and can articulate the language through their learning. All classes have a display to remind pupils of the vocabulary and the school vision is all over the website, on the newsletters etc.. This has been received well by the community.

b) Sports equipment:

KP - We have spent a proportion of our PE budget on new sports resources for the school. Netball posts and hoops/ balls have been purchased and are well used by the children. We now need to purchase a "fit for purpose" storage facility in which to store all the new equipment. Unfortunately, we can't use the PE budget to purchase this. We are currently looking at available grants and thinking of fundraising ideas through our Friends committee. Maddie's mum said that she would look into possible local grants in the idea.

c) Opportunities for parents to view children's work:

We have now created an Open Morning each half-term so that parents can look at learning over the term as well as look at the project homework work. TP said she likes this new format. SB shared this view. This model will be continued as is well received.

DP – we also have an open morning for prospective parents coming up on Friday 6th December. NB is introducing this homework to EYFS in Spring Term. DP – this was well received last year as the EYFS pupils look up to the older children and the work that they are doing as home learning.

SB was very happy with Times Tables focus that is taking place in school. DP spoke to the group about the MTC which is starting next year – new statutory TT testing for Year 4s. EYFS baseline is also coming in and the school has run pilots in both so that teachers are up to speed with new government statutory testing.

3. SCHOOL GATEWAY

GJ raised the fact that only one person can log-on at one time which is not workable with two parents. DP - This can be rectified by informing admin at Boasley who can amend this manually – both parents can be set up on the system.

Messages don't always seem to come through immediately – DP has had same problems and KP has advised to look at phone settings. Settings/Gateway/Allow push notifications or notification dot . Discussion around the effectiveness of School Gateway as a means of communication. The group talked about which means of communication suited parents best. As most parents have got the School gateway app, we have decided that most day-to-day messages, reminders, cancellation of clubs etc will be sent via messaging on the Gateway app. Emails to parents will also be sent through Gateway. DP – there is no facility to respond. Responses will have to be through the admin email or by telephoning the school. DP agreed to publish this on this week's newsletter to all parents.

4. GOLDEN HEARTS

TP wanted clarification of the Golden Heart “system”. DP gave clarification that it wasn't awarded on a rota basis but was awarded on individual merits which were chosen collaboratively by staff – acts of kindness and consideration. We do not give this award out to a pupil just because they have never had it. Staff have a discussion around who has really shone each week and then it is decided. TP had heard conflicting information from children about who gets awarded this – a conversation about ‘favourites’ from young children was overheard. DP reassured the group that the school certainly does not have favourites but that often this award is given to KS2 pupils as it often goes for acts of kindness for the pre-school and younger pupils. KP suggested re-visiting Golden Heart values during assembly.

5. EMAIL HEADER

There is a standard format email header that goes out from the Trust that has a default header that appears with every email sent. This has been raised as very irritating by BM so would like it removed. CM – yes, this is very irritating on every email.

The header states '**Please note: Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, will not pay any invoices without a valid purchase order number being quoted.** This applies to all schools within the Trust.'

DP – as the minutes go to Trustees, it is good that this has been raised. The header has gone on from the central finance team but I can understand that it can be irritating. DP will inform IT that this has been raised and hopefully action will be taken.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

GJ raised the fact that there seems to be lots of different ways that messages are relayed to parents. This is quite irritating and would like it to be reviewed. DP has talked to DD (admin). All texts are sent via SCHOOLCOMS. Whole school correspondence – general email. Email to individual parents via SCHOOLCOMS. SB suggested that a text to say there's an email coming out like we already do about letters.

GJ also asked about late cancellations of clubs and how we know if parents have received the message. There is not a facility to be able to do this.

TP suggested that it would be good to have a summary of clubs booked, lunches ordered and parents would like it to be a bit more sophisticated so that they can make it work for them.

7. SAFEGUARDING

CM raised issue that photos of Boasley children appeared in a flyer random flyer which was inserted in a rugby magazine seen by a parent. He asked how much control we had over photos. This is something to be aware of when we are at different sporting venues.

KP – this event was a Federation sports event where a company with a drone turned up. This is extremely hard to manage and monitor.

8. LUNCH ISSUES

SB raised the issue that she understands that the portion control is very random. Pupils are complaining that they are hungry as they come home and are complaining about the school meal provision. Children had not been served with what they ordered and several children have talked to parents about portion control which they say is unfair. DP is currently checking different options but it is a slow process. The school have lodged many complaints and taken this up with the central team and Trustees are also aware of the issues. DP believes that Norse provision is not fit for purpose for our school – the menu is not healthy, the portioning and cleanliness of the kitchen has been reported and spot checks have been undertaken. DP has alerted Barbara Sherell (area manager) and Alan King at the College. The menu is considered “unhealthy” by one parent and they have complained directly to Devon Norse. SB was disappointed at the low intake and the fact that children were missing out on sharing a meal together. DP – KS1 pupils are entitled to universal free school meals and they are not uptaking the provision. Uptake across the school has dropped considerably.

One option could be to take the catering back in-house – this is an option that is also going to be investigated. DP has asked the College about possible provision from there.

DP to raise with issues that are continuing with the central team to try and find a suitable solution.

Staff have also raised this issue as they have had to buy cupboard staples to make sure that in the event of lunches not being ordered, or food running out, there is something for the children to eat. DP asked that if parents can send in their comments to admin email also that we would build sufficient evidence to secure a change in provision.

DP thanked everyone who attended.

Meeting closed at 4.15pm.

Next meeting TBC