

Parent Forum - Thursday 2nd March 2017

HL welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the governors. She explained that the Governing body comprises 12 people. (Full details can be found on the school website: <http://burntyates.n-yorks.sch.uk/data/documents/List-of-Gov.-Jan-17.pdf>) Governors In attendance - Diana Kitzing (DK), Annette Cadwallader (AC), Helen Leslie (HL), Helen Myers (HM), Sue Wass (SW), Jean Tither (JT), Alan Manship (AM), Mark Stoddart (MS), Joanne Mallinson – clerk (JM)

Steven Holmes introduced himself as LA Lead Advisor for the school. Fiona Beevers introduced herself as the Deputy Diocesan Director of Education. She explained that Simone Bennett is the named Diocesan advisor for the school and has been offering regular support, but she couldn't be here tonight.

Parents were thanked for their continued support of the school and for all the work carried out in the garden and the grounds. Parents had asked for an open and frank exchange of views and information, and HL stated that governors wanted this too. It was agreed that we need to be one team pulling in the same direction.

SH explained that the LA has produced a Support Plan/ Statement of Action which has been sent to OFSTED for approval. This represents a significant amount of support for the school. The LA continue to support the costs for the Acting Headteacher and HR support has also been provided. The Early Years Foundation Stage Advisory Team have supported in Class One, where there has already been a marked improvement. English/Reading training has been provided and will continue. The Dales Alliance will be providing support from local leaders to work on areas of concern. Approx £10,000 has been allocated for this. There has been joint training with Ripley on Safeguarding & First Aid. Representatives of the LA have also attended and supported Governor Meetings and have worked closely with SW to monitor teaching and learning.

The Diocese has also supported the school. Simone Bennett has come into school to carry out lesson observations and learning walks with SW and to support staff. SW has accessed Diocese training.

HL explained where we are up to in the academisation process. We provided the DfE with the information they required on Friday 17th February. Our assigned Project Lead, Phillipa James, is liaising with the Diocese. Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (YCST) has been approached (St Aidan's). On 28th Feb their representatives, John Wood (Headteacher), and Chris Burt (Deputy Head) met HL, Reverend Harford, FB, and SH in school. At this meeting we were able to present our case for joining the Academy Trust. They toured the school and grounds, met and talked to trustees, staff and pupils. They will now take the information back & talk to their Trustee Board (no timescale given). We are continuing to work collaboratively with Ripley, who are considering asking to join YCST too.

FB has spoken to Richard Noake (Director of Education for Diocese) and has asked him to contact YCST (John Wood) for initial feedback & whether they need anything else.

SW added that the Trust had noted how supportive the parents are and how happy the children were. She thanked parents for all their support over the last couple of months.

Questions:

Simon Cadwallader - **Statement of Action what purpose?** Very detailed School Improvement Plan - what the school has to do to demonstrate they are tackling the issues raised. Necessary for the LA to ensure the education for the children is being improved. It contains milestones/dates for when things will be done & by whom and what impact this will have for the children. It will chart progress over 18 months. However it will not change the OFSTED judgement, though OFSTED will monitor progress and could instigate monitoring visits to check the plan is being followed. The plan can also be used to show any Academy Trust how successful we are being in making the required improvements. **Is the Financial help going to track in parallel with the Action plan?** Yes via the Schools Causing Concern Fund. This will be reviewed during the process.

Rachel Dawson - **Will OFSTED provide anything in writing to show new parents of the improvements?** ONLY if they do a monitoring visit. This would be published, if not, nothing will be published. **Can a monitoring visit be requested?** Yes, but they would not necessarily action this. **Can the LA write a report to show the improvements in the school?** Yes, but we must give ourselves time to get things in place, but yes, this could be done in partnership with the Diocese. This could then be published on the school website. **Why are we training supply staff?** Staff training depends on who is here at the time. Training must be given to the staff who are currently here teaching the children. **Will other Teachers come in to support?** Yes, plus SLE's to come in and work with the school. Teaching staff have undertaken visits at other Local schools and brought back best practice ideas etc....Early Years advisor and English advisor are also supporting staff.

Linda Smith - Safeguarding issues. **Would OFSTED visit to check that safeguarding issues have been resolved?** There are no timescales for this, it may or may not happen. The children are safe. The problem was largely historical procedural issues that were rectified during the OFSTED inspection; but as these were seen, they had to be reported upon. Confident all these are resolved. **Whose responsibility is it to ensure Teachers are up to date with current procedures?** Teachers themselves - which is monitored as part of performance management. The Headteacher holds the Teachers accountable, then Governors, LA, Parents etc..... Training also available where needed.

Jane Smith - **Timescales on milestones?** In Statement of Action. SH coming in April, July, October, March etc up to October 2018. **At the end, is the school in a position to stand on its own?** Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) can force closure if we cannot find an Academy Trust. RSC could have forced closure right at the start. It is therefore positive that they have not made this decision. **Do we have to take Ripley with us?** **Is continued collaboration positive or negative?** We don't have to go as a pair, but from a Leadership point of view, shared Executive Headteacher over both schools is a positive option as the YCST may not have a spare 0.4 Headteacher to put in here, and if a full time Head here but having to teach, will they have capacity to action changes required and push the school forward. **As the building belongs to the**

Trustees, will this pose a problem? The Trustees would have to agree to the Academy Status change. The Trust have already met and agreed this in principal. Provided the building is used for educating the children of Burnt Yates there will not be a problem. The Trustees have also agreed to financially support the conversion to Academy status.

Sara Shehab - **Are there any other Trusts other than YCST?** FB: Two possibilities - but not approached as one is still some way from being operational and the other does not currently have the capacity to work with us. YCST would be the obvious choice, Local & strong schools. **When will we get the September Admission numbers?** Not until May. **Is there a deadline set by RSC for joining an Academy Trust?** No date - so this is open ended, but Diocese are being proactive & keeping the RSC updated with progress. **How long before YCST come back to us?** Hoping they will come back within next couple of weeks with an indicator of intent. Nobody wants this to drift on. **What is happening with the Nursery?** Not dismissed, but our energies need to be put into current provision to ensure that is right before we can extend our provision further.

FB - Strong offer with the Ripley Collaborative and their willingness to explore this with us. Parental concern in this area (see notes above). HL spoke to Chair of Governors at Ripley this week and they are looking at putting an Academy pack together too.

MS - Due diligence would be the next stage, where YCST would check the information we have given them is accurate. They will also look at where we are now and that the improvements have definitely happened. This will be carried out by members of the Trust – who are highly trained (like OFSTED) and know what they are looking for.

Toni Hannon - **Can parents make a pack to give to the Academy Trust?** As part of the due diligence, the Trust will talk to the parents. We already included the document parents provided in the original pack. **What about the parents who are not here and want to make a contribution?** Parents can send comments or views in which we can collate and send to the Trust. This can also be published on the school website. There is also a parents' section on the OFSTED website where parents can post comments: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Annette Cadwallader - **If YCST say no, what happens next?** Would have to see whether any other Academy Trusts would be in a position to let us join them. This would be subject to RSC approval.

Next meeting: in approx. 4 weeks. Time tba. Please let JM know your preferred time and we will choose a time slot that suits the majority.