

## Fowey Primary School

Windmill, Fowey, Cornwall, PL23 1HH

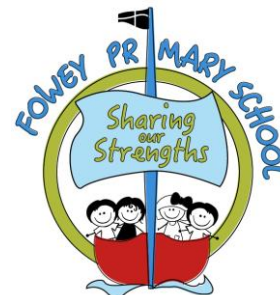
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Minutes of a Meeting of the Local Governing Committee of Fowey Primary School held in the Headteacher's Office on 18th July 2019 at 3:30pm.

### Present:

Chris Williams (Chair), Kate Sicolo (Headteacher),  
Maria Barnes, Kay Peacey (Vice Chair), Kay Taylor  
Chris Price, Tony Freshwater and Natalie Peperell

### Absent:

Jodie Morcomb

In Attendance: Sue Blaxley (Clerk to the Governors)

### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Procedure for evacuating the building

The Headteacher outlined the procedure for evacuation of her office.

### 3. Declaration of Business or Pecuniary Interest – verbal

There were no additional business or pecuniary interests to declare.

### 4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Jodie Morcomb and from Chris Price for leaving the meeting at 4pm.

### 5. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and Matters Arising not included on the agenda

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2019, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record. It was noted that the exclusion panel training had taken place. **A governor said that the Behaviour Policy should be reviewed on an annual basis.** The Headteacher said that this is done and that she will circulate a copy to all governors.



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## 6. To receive and consider the following matters:

### SATs Data

It was noted that the data had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Headteacher said that she was disappointed with the KS2 data but was not surprised with the data apart from the KS2 reading results which were lower than expected. She said that three children did not pass who she expected to pass and four others who were expected to pass did not pass on the day. She said that reading outcomes have fallen at a national level. She also said that the difference between this school and the Cornish average for reading is just two children. **A governor asked why the reading results were so low.** The Headteacher said that the text was between 1600 and 1800 words in length last year but was 2200 words in length this year. She said the vocabulary was complicated and that whilst the questions were simple, the children may have panicked with the amount of text they had to read and some did not attempt all the questions. The Headteacher said that she has spoken to the challenge partner about the results and emphasized that it is important not to panic about these results and that she is confident that it is not reflective of reading across the school. She said there is a need to focus on the children in Years 3 and 4 whose reading speeds are slow. Other than that, she said there is no need to make major changes to the way reading is taught in school. **A governor asked if the children had been taught exam strategy beforehand.** The Headteacher said that they had. **A governor asked if the children who had failed were omitted from the data, what the percentage achieving the expected level of attainment in reading would be.** The Headteacher said that she was unsure and commented that each child accounted for approximately 5% of the data. The Headteacher said that the three year average data shows that the school is consistently above national average. In terms of the data for greater depth, the Headteacher said that the data was not where she hoped it would be.

In terms of the KS1 results, the Headteacher said that she was pleased with the results. She said that this demonstrates there is not a reading problem systemically or across the school. In terms of the Phonics Screening results, the Headteacher said that governors have to take into account that two SEN children were disapplied, but they still count in the data. **A governor asked if novel study has had an impact on Year 6.** The Headteacher said that it had not but that perhaps it should have done. She said that the aim is to achieve step by step learning across KS2. **A governor commented that there are not sufficient variety and quality of books to choose from in Year 6.** The Headteacher said that a whole new reading system will be introduced from September 2019 which will address this issue. **A governor asked if the reading data is cohort specific.** The Headteacher said that she was unsure but this could be discussed at the next meeting of the LGC.

### Head Teacher's Report

It was noted that the report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and questions were invited on the report. The Headteacher said that an update on class contributions will be provided at the next meeting of the LGC. **A governor asked if the school had received all the money from parents for the Lion King trip.** The Headteacher said she would check. **A governor asked if a direct approach is made to governors who have not paid the money.** The Headteacher said there is but it does not always have an impact. **A governor commented that it would be useful to provide progress measures in the Headteacher's report as stand alone data is rather meaningless.** The Headteacher said that this is a standardized PLT Headteacher's report and the standardized format states what should be included. She said that the school will have a different data system in September due to the PLT merger. She said this data system will have improved final level data analysis although it will take time to familiarize everyone with it.

**A governor asked if the growth mindset strategies are being linked into the curriculum.** The



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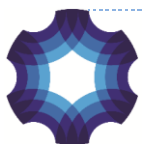
Headteacher said that the first two weeks of the Autumn term will be “thinking time” which will establish the mindset and will be embedded in PHSE work. **A governor asked if there is an increase in unauthorized absence from children who are choosing not to go on school visits.** The Headteacher said that of those who did not go and were absent, one was educated off-site, one had their absence authorized as the circumstances were deemed to be exceptional and one unauthorized absence has resulted in a fine being levied on the parents. The Headteacher said that, overall, she was quite pleased with the attendance data. She said that the school has the lowest persistent absence in PLT. She said there have been a significantly reduced number of requests for holidays than this time last year. **A governor asked if the school plans to extend the October half term to be two weeks in length.** The Headteacher said that the staff are very against this idea and furthermore, it has been shown that it does not improve attendance. She said that she considers it to have a negative impact on the Foundation children who will have just joined the school in September and it has a negative impact on staff well being by not having inset days and amalgamating them into a week. She said that some schools are having twilight sessions for staff but this impacts on family life. In addition, she said that Fowey River are not extending their October half term to two weeks. **A governor asked if the staffing ratios on the London trip were adequate.** The Headteacher said that the ratio was 4:32 which met the recommended ratio and were approved by Cornwall Council. She said that the risk assessment was undertaken by Cornwall Council. **A governor asked if the process for risk assessment worked on the trip.** The Headteacher said that it did and that when necessary, reactionary risk assessment takes place. She said the pupil to staff ratio was more than adequate as Cornwall Council had specified that three members of staff would be adequate. **A governor asked what the backstop contingency is in the event of unforeseen circumstances taking place on a visit.** The Headteacher said that staff respond according to the circumstances. **A governor asked why the paving slabs are a health and safety issue.** The Headteacher said that the school has the money for these works but does not have a contractor who is willing to undertake the work. She said that some contractors say that it is a fiddly and small job and as they are not guaranteed the work, they will not spend time giving a quotation for the work. She said that PLT’s requirements for contractors limit those who can be asked. **A governor asked if PLT has plans to address this problem.** The Headteacher said that it did not. Governors put forward some ideas as to contractors that could be asked to undertake the works.

**A governor congratulated the school on its Facebook page.** It was noted that Twitter and Facebook are dying socially. The Headteacher said that she would establish the Facebook page first and then consider using Instagram too. She said that the reason that the Facebook page worked so well in London was that staff used their own mobile phones to take images which were then deleted as soon as they were put onto Facebook. She said that if this practice is to continue in school, a robust system would need to be put into place as well as a policy and that it would have to be a staff led decision as to whether to use their own phones or not as opposed to their use being a requirement.

**A governor commented that the pupil premium data looks good.** The Headteacher commented that it is difficult to quantify what constitutes good pupil premium data. It was noted that the pupil progress meetings had not taken place this term due to the Headteacher’s teaching commitments.

### **Priorities for 2019/20**

The Headteacher said that priority has to be given to Maths in 2019/20 with a closer and more sustained look at Maths being taken to ensure there is enough challenge in the subject across the school as well as consistency in Maths teaching. She also said that the other priority has to be NQT training to ensure that there is consistent training from that group. In addition, it was



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agreed that priority has to be to make the mixed year groups work.

### **Governor Business**

Chris Price was re-elected for a further 4 year term. Chris Williams said that he was standing down as Chair and as a governor at the end of term although he would be happy to be an associate governor for a year. The Headteacher thanked the Chair for his invaluable help and support. Natalie Pepperell said that she was standing down as a governor at the end of term. The dates of the LGC meetings for next term were circulated.

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There was no further business and the meeting closed at 4:45pm. The next meeting of the LGC will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 3:30pm.



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