

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD
8 FEBRUARY 2018
5.00 - 6.45 PM**



Present:

Councillors Leake (Chairman), Ms Gaw (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Dr Barnard, Mrs McCracken and Peacey (Substitute)

Observer:

Councillor Mrs Birch

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Ms Merry

16. Apologies for Absence and Substitute Members

Councillor Peacey was in attendance as substitute member for Cllr Ms Merry.

17. Declarations of Interest

The following Declarations of Interest were noted:

Cllr Ms Gaw declared that she had three children at Ranelagh

Cllr Mrs McCracken declared that she had one grandchild at Ranelagh

Cllr Dr Barnard declared that he was a governor at College Hall and Garth Hill, and that his wife was on the Governing Body of Warfield

Cllr Allen declared that his wife ran a private nursery

18. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record, subject to the attendance being amended to reflect Cllr Mrs Birch's attendance as an Observer.

19. Urgent Items of Business

There were no Urgent Items of Business.

20. Ofsted Update (including changes to inspection)

Rachel Morgan updated the Board on Ofsted inspections and changes to inspections from January 2018.

Before January 2018, a school judged to be Good would have a Section 5 revisit the following day. The changes meant that a Section 8 one day inspection could trigger a Section 5 if inspectors believed the school to be borderline Outstanding or Inadequate. Inspectors would advise the school of the changes which needed to be made to improve, and allow some time up to two years before a Section 5 revisit.

Any school judged Requires Improvement for the first time would not trigger an HMI visit, however if a school was judged Requires Improvement for a second time, a HMI visit would follow. An HMI visit would also follow if Ofsted received a considerable

number of complaints or safeguarding concerns regarding the school. The Board was reassured that if the Local Authority did not believe a Requires Improvement school was taking effective action, officers would issue challenge to the school.

Arising from questions, the following points were noted:

- Local Authority officers had a good working relationship with HMI's inspectors.
- Section 5 inspections were longer and more intensive inspections, compared to Section 8 inspections which were one day inspections.
- Ofsted tried to maintain a three yearly inspection schedule.
- The Board commented that it seemed like a long time to leave struggling schools for 1 – 2 years before re-inspection.
- If a Good school did not maintain its Good judgement, the Local Authority would work with them and implement the Learning and Improvement Strategy.
- A new Ofsted framework was anticipated later in 2018.
- Headteachers and Governors were updated regularly on changes in Ofsted inspections. The Board was reassured that Headteachers and Chairs of Governors were aware of the Learning and Improvement Strategy processes.
- The Board recognised the importance of the School Improvement team in the coming years.
- Ofsted held an annual conversation with each Local Authority, split between social care and education. In a recent conversation with Bracknell Forest, inspectors had gone through every school to discuss areas for improvement. Officers felt that Ofsted were being effective in holding the Local Authority to account. The final version of the outcome of this conversation session would be shared with Members once approved.

21. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Minute 22 which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

(3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority).

22. **Report of the School Improvement Team**

Rachel Morgan presented the Report of the School Improvement Team.

There had been 8 inspections since the last meeting in September, all of which had had positive outcomes for the schools involved.

Edgbarrow and Wildmoor Heath had both opted to become academies since the last meeting.

Rachel gave details of a number of inspection outcomes

The Board noted that during the two years which schools were given to improve before a subsequent inspection, capability plans and staff training would be undertaken. It was commented that it takes several years to change the trajectory and culture of any school.

It was explained that there was some variance across academies whether data was made available to the Local Authority or not. In some academies, the Local Authority was reliant on Department for Education data rather than the schools' own data.

The Board noted that there were fewer vulnerable Good schools in this report.

The Board recognised the significant turnover of teaching staff, particular in one form entry schools.

It was agreed that the Councillor Dashboard would be a useful resource going forward, and would also be presented to Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny.

The Board also requested data on the expected trajectory and upcoming inspections.

CHAIRMAN

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