

The Swanage School
MEETING OF THE STUDENT COMMITTEE
Held on Tuesday 21st November 2023

MINUTES

In Attendance: Isobel Tooley (Chair), Jenny Maraspin (Head Teacher), Tanya Hamilton-Fletcher, Jessica Starmer

Present: Margarett Corben (Clerk)

Item		Action	Lead	By
STU 2.1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Hannah Etherington, Adam Hines and Sophie Weld-Davies			
STU 2.2	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest			
STU 2.3	Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2023 confirming 2 figures were approved. The minutes from the meeting held on 11 th October were approved.			
STU 2.4	Matters Arising & Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible Commercialisation of pastoral resources – This was commended by the recent Ofsted inspection. This is ongoing. • Children Looked After – Completed • Home School Agreement – Completed • Home Learning Policy – There are still some changes to the Home Learning policy, but the detailed changes have not yet been made. • UPS responsibility for Pupil Premium Students – There will not be a UPS responsibility for Pupil Premium this year as there is no available budget, and the approach for Pupil Premium is not changing this year. • Risk recommendations for Audit Committee – Completed • Link Governor questions for Pupil premium student – Complete • Uniform Policy – The amendments regarding hoodies have been made. Complete. 	Action list	JM	
		Action list	JM	
			Clerk /JM	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Learning Walks – Dates and times to be confirmed and emailed to Governors. 	Dates & Times to be confirmed		Spring 1
STU 2.5	<p>Keeping Children Safe in Education</p> <p>The Governors discussed the report from the Safeguarding Lead. TSS uses ‘Smoothwall’ which reports directly to staff when a student is using inappropriate words whilst using their Chromebook or school computers. The Headteacher gave an example of an alert that was triggered by a student using an inappropriate search word whilst using their school chromebook at home; and explained that this had been reported to the student’s parents. The committee felt reassured that the procedures that are in place are a strength and working well to keep the students safe.</p>			
STU 2.6	<p>Link Governor Reports</p> <p>This item was deemed confidential</p>			
STU 2.7	<p>School Development Plan Review, including Curriculum Review</p> <p>1. Science Report</p> <p>Ofsted was very impressed with the approach to science, and the governors were impressed with the report from the Lead Practitioner for science. The Governors felt that AH had challenged what was working well and what wasn’t to change and models that had failed. Issues were acknowledged and it was an honest assessment and included strategies to move forward. The committee praised the work of AH in his role as lead practitioner.</p> <p>2. Duke of Edinburgh</p> <p>Engagement with the D oF E award has improved with the new timetable. The Headteacher discussed the new launch assembly which will set out the timetable, with letters going home with the students to their parents. It is currently estimated that 80 % of students will want to complete the expedition. The groups will be set as a 3-tiered approach as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze group who will complete all activities. One group to complete Voluntary and new skills but not include the Expedition. Smallest group who will complete less skills. 	To show progress on the actions highlighted in the report	AH	Spring 2

	<p>As the workload for staff is high and the staff leading this are early career teachers, they will require more support from the phase leader. It was noted that the UPS responsibility to support with community links for voluntary aspect is currently on hold whilst that role-holder focusses on other areas of development.</p> <p>At the end of this year, the school will need to assess the effort required and the outcomes achieved. If the new approach works well then it will continue next year.</p> <p>A Governor enquired as to accessing support from local groups who are experienced in the activities. The HT said that the new model is working well so far, the staff are meeting regularly and listening and responding to any issues. They also have had help from Dorset D of E, helping them to register for clubs and activities. The students now have 1 hour is timetabled lesson time for D of E.</p> <p>At the end of the year, it will be reviewed and assessed to decide if it has been worthwhile and whether to continue next year. JM showed a video that the students had made during last year's D of E, this showed the expedition and how they had a positive experience, the students will talk about their experiences in the launch assembly.</p>	Consider the impact of D of E on student development	D of E leads	Summer 2
STU 2.8	<p>Assessment Information and Baseline Data</p> <p>JM confirmed that assessment weeks had been timetabled and will provide the assessment dates from the calendar for the governor's information</p> <p>In relation to the baseline data that had been requested by the committee, it was reported that there are no KS2 SATS results for year 10 and 9. Higher, middle and lower attainment for the school's internal purposes have been taken from CAT scores where students were tested when they arrived at The Swanage School in Year 7. This will mean that there will be 2 years with no progress 8 scores due to Covid; there will only be attainment data for those two year groups.</p> <p>JM distributed a print out of the baseline information for each year group.</p> <p>The Committee noted that Year 11 has lower prior attainment and relatively low Pupil Premium, and the school has typically achieved good results for those sorts of students for those who attend regularly.</p> <p>Each year group has its own characteristics and there are some challenges ahead particularly for year 9 and year 8.</p>	Provide dates of assessment weeks	JM	Before next assessment week
STU 2.9	<p>Attendance</p> <p>This item was deemed confidential</p>			

STU 2.10	<p>School Inspection Data Summary report and/ or Published GCSE results</p> <p>The committee discussed the IDSR including the provisional KS4 results, the chair commented that these were reassuring and nicely average. No standout negatives from the summary. A governor commented that the provisional Progress 8 scores for the two geographically closest other secondary schools was also zero. The school has less resources compared to other schools that also had similar results. It was recognised that the school is trying its best and doing a lot for the pupils.</p>			
STU 2.11	<p>Policies</p> <p>The committee discussed and reviewed the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour and Exclusions Policy was Approved • Attendance Policy – JM would like to discuss the policy further with the Attendance lead considering the issues raised in previous discussions at the meeting. The chair commented that DR5 (page 5) around supporting students who find it difficult to come to school was in the wrong section and should be moved to page 1. All felt that it needed reviewing and consideration given to highlighting that students with persistently low attendance may need to be escalated to partner agencies for interventions. It is in the policy already but the wording needs to be clearer about specific consequences, including having the right support in place for the individual as there is limit to what TSS can do. • Young Carer Policy – The policy has been drafted from the Wey Valley young carer policy. The governors agreed there are some alterations needed including reviewing the policy every 3 years and not annually. They also discussed having a Governor link role and the Safeguarding link governor agreed to taking on the young carer role. It was discussed whether the Designated Safeguarding Lead should take on the responsibility of young carer champion. It was felt that the policy needs to be more tailored to TSS taking into consideration staff workload and ensure that it can be implemented and introduced. Additionally, there were some points which is a to do list and it would not impact on the policy. A governor with experience of young carers noted that half termly meetings for a young carers group giving students a network who are in the same situation as it can be very beneficial. The committee agreed that the key purposes of the policy should be identification, awareness, promotion and reviewing students in a young carer role. 	Review policy	JM with DR	Clarify the policy
				THF/JM/MS Spring 1

STU 2.12	Any Other Business No other business			
STU 2.13	Confidentiality Items 2.6 and 2.9 were deemed confidential			
	Next Meeting The meeting closed at 7.25pm The next meeting will be held on 17th January 2024			