

School Improvement Committee

Early May saw the latest meeting of the School Improvement Committee (SIC), held to discuss a wide range of issues that affect staff and pupils alike here at Pens Meadow.

The SIC, and its forerunner the Curriculum Committee, is held regularly and is singularly the most important meeting that takes place between Governors and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) comprised of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, TLRs' and the Business Manager.

The SIC gives Governors the opportunity to discuss in depth and to challenge the SMT in literally everything that is done in providing a worthwhile, meaningful and rounded education for our pupils/students, and at the same time addressing the various elements that are involved in and around school life that go into making Pens Meadow the successful school it is today.

At the meeting we are presented with a wealth of information by the SMT – these include pupil progress, interventions, attendance, safeguarding etc. As Governors we are responsible for the strategic direction of the school – where we are now, where we want to be and how are we going to get there and what resources (staffing, equipment, facilities) we need to accomplish our aims. The operational side of school life is left very much to the SLT, the deployment of staff and how the school functions on a day to day basis. We as Governors can form opinions about this side of school life and indeed it is our job to provide challenge to ensure that what is done is in the best interests of pupils and staff alike.

In the SIC we are presented with updates on everything affecting and effecting the school being successful. We do not however simply take what is being said at face value, and frequent searching questions are asked by Governors to help us formulate views and make informed decisions. This can and does lead to debate amongst those present which is searching and rigorous in nature but at the same time not intended to make participants feel uncomfortable - we are all working towards a common goal, that of providing the very best for all of our pupils/students.

Members of staff, not part of SLT, are also regularly invited to come along to meetings to present to Governors on topics that they are directly involved or responsible for within school. Our latest meeting saw teacher Rachel Piotrowicz give us an update on “Outdoor Learning”; its provision and impact within school life. Her husband (Ian Piotrowicz, HLTA) also updated those present on our “Forest Schools” project and the tremendous progress that is being made in getting this valuable resource up and running.

I am sure I speak for fellow Governors when I say that we all find these meetings of great importance; we know more about school and its pupils, we are made aware of issues affecting the provision of education within school and we are far more aware of the many and varied challenges that the school faces on a daily basis. We as Governors and the SLT work in partnership to look at these challenges, find solutions to them, and manage them effectively, to take the school forward and look to become an outstanding provision within the Local Authority.