



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LGES MEETING

MONDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2020

PRESENT: Councillors H R Jones (Chair)
S Jago (Vice-Chair)

Councillors H Barrett and M Jones

Cooptees:

C Brown (Parent Governor-Primary) and M Symonds (MT Assoc. of School Governors)

Officers:

A Lewis (Head of School Planning Performance and Resource), S Walker (Chief Education Officer), S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer) and C Hole (Head of Community Wellbeing)

Outside Bodies:

C Burns (Assurance & Improvement Board), E Willmott (Central South Consortium), D Morgan (Chair of Governors – Troedyrhiw Primary School), H Davies (Estyn), J Edwards (Estyn), K Maher (Head Teacher – Pen-Y-Dre High school) and J Roome (Head Teacher – Troedyrhiw Primary School)

M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
39	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Isaac and K Phelan.

40	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were received.
41	Draft Forward Work Programme 2020/21	<p>The Chair introduced the item and explained to the committee that the Work Programme can be revised and amended at any point throughout the year.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Committee approved the Draft Forward Work Programme.</p>
42	Update on Activity - Pandemic	<p>Sue Walker introduced Jacqui Roome Head Teacher at Troedyrhiw Primary School and Keith Maher Head Teacher at Pen-y-Dre High School. Both Head Teachers provided comprehensive PowerPoint presentations highlighting the demands and challenges faced by their schools since the start of the Pandemic in March.</p> <p>Denise Morgan (Chair of Governors – Troedyrhiw Primary School) provided an update in relation to the role the Governors played in assisting in the detailed plan set out to ensure Troedyrhiw Primary School met the targets they set out at the start of the Pandemic.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and answered in detail by the Head Teachers and Officers in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the seesaw app is it a one way or two way communication tool – does it provide parents/pupils with the ability to ask questions of the teachers • It was stated that attendance has dropped from 94% to 80%. Is the majority of the drop due to illness or fear of Covid-19 • Have all schools in the County Borough carried out the same level of research as Troedyrhiw Primary in relation to identifying digitally excluded families, as it would be very useful to be able to pinpoint families that would require additional support if we do end up in another lockdown situation • How many digitally excluded learners are there in the County Borough • Do you think the plan is currently working, keeping the class bubbles, social distancing etc especially in Troedyrhiw Primary as it is an old school with a very different layout compared with the modern Primary schools in the Borough.

		<p>The Chair thanked the Head Teachers for their fantastic insight into how their schools have dealt with the many issues they have been faced with in such difficult times and also thanked them for all of their hard work.</p> <p>Sue Walker provided the committee with an overview of the Update on Activity – Pandemic report that was produced for the committee.</p>
43	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair requested an update from Chris Hole in relation to the Parenting Strategy.
44	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair reflected in detail on the items discussed in the meeting.
45	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the officers for the excellent presentations and report and as there was no other business deemed urgent the meeting was closed.