



Governor Visit Record

Date	21.09.2022	Governors	Gill Finch, Karyn McMahon
Objectives for			
<p>At the first meeting of the new academic year, we review compliance with new aspects of the updated statutory guidance Keeping children safe in Education 2022. The compliance checklist from Clennell Education Solutions (CES) had been updated over the summer break and KMc updated this as we met and were discussing the implications of any new requirements</p>			
Links with 5 Year School Development Plan			
<p>Positive behaviour strategy</p> <p>Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 Statutory Guidance: Contextualising the guidance for a Special School setting</p> <p>Goal 1: ‘...maximising the quality of life of the children, young people, families and staff’</p> <p>Goal 2: “...a community hub offering the highest quality, effective support to a range of services in the development of SEND provision”</p>			
Background preparation			
<p>KMc had read and annotated the online safeguarding audit</p> <p>KMc/GF had both read KCSiE 2022</p> <p>GF had read and annotated the NSPCC summary of changes to KCSiE 2022</p>			
Scope of visit / Breadth of visit Scrutiny			
<p>New aspects of the guidance which were relevant and formed the basis of discussion and target setting included:</p> <p>Sexual violence/harassment: The term child on child abuse has replaced peer-on-peer; not every child who abuses another is their peer in age. The school’s CPOMS system continues to have a Harmful Sexual Behaviour category, and the number of categories of incident has been reduced, in order to facilitate the DSL’s overview of the current situation in school. Previously staff had been able to log a single incident as having multiple categories. This should reduce the number of incidents reported to the governing body. Part Five - New flowchart for child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment is to be incorporated in the Child Protection Policy rather than stand-alone.</p> <p>Disclosure: Part One of the guidance reminds us that not all children feel ready or know how to tell someone they have been abused. The school has already expressed an interest in using the NSPCC, SEND specific Speak out, Stay safe resources. The programme provides support and resources to help staff deliver messages to their pupils about what abuse is and which trusted adults they can turn to for help. Staff training for delivering this resource is arranged for 27 September 2022.</p>			

Online safety: 'Schools and colleges should use communications with parents and carers to reinforce the importance of children being safe online'. Recent events involving a small group of pupils over the summer have raised the importance of school making sure anticipatory messages are received at home to try to avoid instances of perceived cyberbullying. There is a role here for the school's Digital Safety Group.

LGBTQ+ Pupils: (paras 198-199) The guidance now emphasises the importance of providing safe spaces and trusted adults to whom LGBTQ+ pupils can talk and speak out or share their concerns. LGBTQ+ identities should be visible in Relationships, Sex and Health education in school. This is already well established and corresponds to a proposed new equality objective about visibility and representation.

Low Level Concerns: These are concerns which staff share that do not meet the level of risk to involve the Local Authority Designated Officer (DO), but are necessary in order to maintain a safe, supportive environment, and to be protective of one another's safety as well as that of children and young people. Ultimately, although these may be shared by staff with the DSL, it is the Head teacher who decides how to respond. These shared concerns are recorded and the guidance reinforces the message that learning lessons applies to all cases, not just those which are concluded and found to be substantiated.

Equality Legislation: Consider how school is supporting children with protected characteristics and taking positive action to deal with the disadvantages those pupils may face: One aspect of this which we discussed was that of representation and visibility, for example reflecting the identity and heritage of all of the pupils.

This will be a theme for a refreshed equality objective in autumn 2022.

Single Central Record Training: YB, KMc and GF attended SCR training in June 2022. Some improvements to the systems had already been implemented, for example online searches of applicants as part of due diligence.

Governor Observations and Comments

The updates to KCSiE 2022 always provide us with a structure for our first safeguarding meeting of the school year and prompt the cycle of continuous improvement. We reflected on opportunities we had had during the recent Ofsted inspection to see how the school's safeguarding culture and practices responded to scrutiny.

Issues to be raised with the Full Governing Body (if any)

If there are Governors who require updated safeguarding training to update their own understanding, it would be helpful to attend one of the refreshers being offered to staff in the forthcoming academic year. Alternatively, online refreshers are available via CES.

Plans for Follow-up Visit

The Spring term visit will focus on the curriculum

Date reviewed at FGB: 29/11/22