



Governor Visit Record

Date	12/10/2023	Governors	Gill Finch, Karyn McMahon
Objectives for			
<p>All staff and governors: KCSiE 2023 updates</p> <p>DSL: KMc who is leading work to challenge poverty and dealing with issues connected to aspects of safeguarding in school, in particular parental conduct and Harmful Sexual Behaviour.</p>			
Links with School Implementation Plans			
<p>Behaviour and Attitudes: 'positive, responsible and independent citizens'</p> <p>Personal Development: 'pupils are encouraged to develop independence and to make positive choices in support of their wellbeing'</p> <p>Leadership and Management: 'Our ethos of equality'</p>			
Background preparation			
<p>In preparation for the October Safeguarding meeting, we met Mick Dunn on the second day of term to talk about new aspects of KCSiE, attended the staff training refresher after school and considered two key new contextual issues for the school, namely the need to develop and implement two new policies 'Harmful Sexual Behaviour' and a Code of Conduct for parents.</p> <p>Poverty and hardship, the NCC Inequalities Plan and the prospect of another winter of fuel and food insecurity for many of our families has also focused us on the financial aspect of safeguarding and the need to develop and introduce some of the evidence-based approaches that the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Poverty Prevention Programme will be supporting school to address now that CHS has been successful in securing a place.</p>			
Scope of visit / Breadth of visit Scrutiny			
<p>KCSiE:</p> <p>Updates made in 2023 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarification around the roles and responsibilities of education staff in relation to filtering and monitoring • clarification that being absent, as well as missing, from education can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding concerns, including sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or child criminal exploitation • additional information on online pre-recruitment checks for shortlisted candidates • information on responding to allegations related to organisations or individuals using school premises 			
Parental Code of Conduct			
<p>CHS is very fortunate to have a supportive school community.</p>			

However, there have been recent incidents where parents have expressed heightened levels of anxiety linked to school procedures and staff have been in receipt of communications which cause them alarm and emotional distress.

A code of conduct for parents, carers and visitors is being developed to clarify that mutual respect in the workplace is essential to indicate to pupils and colleagues that they are valued for their achievements, abilities and qualities.

In choosing the school and trusting the workforce to do the best for each child, parents are expected to also subscribe to our values of mutual respect and professional regard.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour: A new policy was ratified by Governors and introduced in October 2023.

'We recognise the importance of distinguishing between healthy, inappropriate, problematic and harmful sexual behaviours'.

'Our response is always based on sound safeguarding principles and follows school safeguarding processes. It is considered appropriate and puts the learner at the centre of all decisions made'.

'The school will always adopt a multi-agency approach and seek external support and guidance, in line with school policy, if deemed necessary. This may include; MASH, Early Help, CYPS or the police.'

Poverty and Hardship

Research has shown that family income affects children's lives and development in a variety of ways. Living on a low income increases parents' stress levels, in turn affecting relationships and family dynamics. Increases in family income can boost children's educational achievements, and emotional and physical wellbeing.

This graphic from the Child Poverty Action Group illustrates what the implications of poverty and hardship can be for children:



Cleaswell Hill School has been successful in being selected to take part in the North of Tyne Combined Authority Poverty Prevention Programme 2023-24.

As a result, school can access a 'Poverty Intervention' from a suite of options:

Poverty Proofing audit from Children North East

OR

Family learning from Northern Learning Trust

OR

Afterschool clubs from Newcastle United Foundation

OR

Grant funding up to £5000 for a bespoke poverty intervention project in school

We are considering which of these will be most beneficial and have the most significant impact on the lives of our pupils and their families.

Governor Observations and Comments

The actions of the DSLs are informed, responsive and appropriate.

Staff training is up to date with an annual training programme in place to ensure that Governors, DSL's, staff, parents/carers, and pupils receive further safeguarding information across the year.

Maintaining robust safeguarding regarding experimental and often harmful sexual behaviour on and offline is a growing concern in all schools.

KMc is particularly vigilant about new and emerging online harms. Communicating these to parents is part of the school's digital safety strategy.

The NTCA poverty intervention is a welcome aspect of the school's approach to, and alignment with, the Northumberland Inequalities Plan. Another winter of fuel and food insecurity is likely for many families, and we are committed to extending awareness of and access to community-based resources and assets that could be useful to the different areas where our disadvantaged pupils live.

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

It would be helpful to hear from governors whether they have views about which strand of the proposed poverty interventions might have most impact.

Plans for Follow-up Visit

November 2023: Equalities and accessibility in the context of the work on poverty and hardship

Date reviewed at FGB 28.11.23