



Governor Visit Record

Date	06/03/2024	Governors	Gill Finch, Karyn McMahon
Objectives for			
All staff and governors			
Links with School Development Plan			
<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> <p>Quality of Education: Highest professional standards of effective performance and provision so that every child experiences excellence every day</p>			
Background preparation			
<p>For the second safeguarding link governor meeting of the year, we were joined by Mick Dunn, Safeguarding Consultant from Clennell Education Solutions.</p> <p>The meeting is an opportunity to discuss emerging concerns, best practice compliance, and contextual safeguarding; issues specific to our children and the contexts and environments where they live and may be exposed to risks or harm.</p>			
Scope of visit / Breadth of visit Scrutiny			
<p>Compliance:</p> <p>We discussed the perennial issue of duplicated effort and valuable time spent completing safeguarding audit/compliance documents. Clennell support schools to complete this promptly in September, at the beginning of the academic year. NCASP then request or require a further document to be completed (Section 175 audit) later in the year. In the past, school has submitted their own compliant documentation as evidence of compliance with KCSiE. Each year the NCC Schools' Safeguarding Team request that this be completed again in their format later in the year; a significant duplication of effort. This year NCASP state that this will be mandatory. MD reassured KMc that the new version of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' uses the phrase 'their audit document' when describing a school's compliance. The robust documentation we have is more than adequate evidence of compliance.</p>			
Scope of visit / Breadth of visit Scrutiny continued			
Training for new members of staff			

MD advised about which training offer would best suit the needs of new staff who missed the last full training day from Clennell. A full, new refresher is available but there is no statutory requirement.

Context

We discussed some of the safeguarding issues that have not met the threshold for Children's Services involvement. MD and GF were both relieved to learn that staff at CHS sustain their professional curiosity when things still do not feel right in these cases. MD spoke about a culture of 'professional optimism' that can emerge when families appear to become more engaged or comply with requests and how 'no more involvement' does not necessarily equate to 'no further risk'.

Thresholds of Need

MD, who has extensive professional experience of Child Protection recommended challenging Children's Services decision and returning to the [Thresholds of Need](#) documentation and resubmitting any referrals where school still has significant concerns using the exact language of the Stage 3 and Stage 4 criteria, for example: • *An adult's health seeking behaviour mean a child is at risk of or who have suffered significant harm, such as unnecessary restriction of activities, unnecessary medical investigations, the misuse of medication or risk of life from induced illness.* MD recommended calling the Team Leader to ask why a referral is assessed within the 24 hour period as not requiring any further action, especially given that every pupil in school is already at Level 3.

Capacity

KMc described the expansion of the team of DSLs and the increased capacity by specialism that the distribution of responsibility will bring.

We discussed the systems that are in place to ensure that KMc still retains oversight of decision making, but the value to having 'tiers' of oversight and prioritisation.

Governor Observations and Comments

MD suggested that some of the more complex and challenging cases be captured as brief, anonymised case studies which could be shared with all staff to educate and inform about best practice, professional curiosity and safeguarding outcomes.

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

Please note the expansion of the DSL roles and the increased protection this will establish

Plans for Follow-up Visit

Autumn Term: Staff voice exercise to establish how staff put safeguarding into action

Date reviewed at FGB 12.04.24