

Governor Visit Record

Date	12/06/2024	Governors	Gill Finch, Karyn McMahon (Apologies: M Spence)
Objectives for			
DSLs, Governing body and all staff in the new school year			
Links with School Development Plan			
Behaviour and Attitudes: 'positive, responsible and independent citizens' Personal Development: 'pupils are encouraged to develop independence and to make positive choices in support of their wellbeing' Leadership and Management: 'Our ethos of equality'			
Background preparation			
For the third safeguarding link governor meeting of the academic year, we were joined by Mick Dunn, Safeguarding Consultant from Clennell Education Solutions. The meeting is an opportunity to review safeguarding practice and procedures over the academic year and also to discuss emerging issues and changes, best practice compliance, and contextual safeguarding; issues specific to our pupils and the contexts and environments where they live and may be exposed to risks or harm. Karyn had prepared extensively for the meeting and shared:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to KCSiE for September 2024 • annual summative safeguarding report for the GB (2023-24) • a report detailing the progress made against any action points from the 2023-2024 Safeguarding audit. 			
Scope of visit / Breadth of visit Scrutiny			
Compliance and the role of DSLs: We reflected on the increasing pressure for DSLs to expend valuable whole school strategic focused time completing audits and documentation requested by teams and services within the LA. This includes, the S175 safeguarding audit; a request from EWOS for extensive and personal information about children who may have Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance; and the 0-19 Service (formerly school nursing) who requested an extensive school profile to be completed although the school received no response following completion and submission of this in July 2023, receive no school nursing or 0-19 support from this team. Mick updated about a conversation between Clennell and Audrey Kingham, Executive Director of Children's Services. Mick felt reassured that schools would not,			

in future, be required to complete more than one annual safeguarding compliance audit.

We discussed and agreed emphatically that Karyn's role in prioritising and allocating time and resources to competing priorities is justified and necessary. Mick explained that Clennell now incorporate the model Karyn has developed for distributed safeguarding leadership as a model of best practice in their training.

We agreed that the team of DSLs are qualified and informed to ensure that safeguarding priorities are addressed by the people who know the children and their context.

The value of each external request for extensive information must be considered in terms of whether that service is fit for purpose or offers our school and learners any value or support. Where there is conflict with the quality of education; that must be a priority.

Dates 2024/25 academic year

5th September: Staff safeguarding refresher

27th September: Audit annual meeting

Context

We agreed that there is a role and need for a Northumberland contextual safeguarding input from the Safeguarding in Schools Team.

KCSiE 2024

We discussed the systems that are in place to ensure that Karyn still retains oversight of decision making, but the value to having 'tiers' of oversight and prioritisation. There was an increased sense of DSL responsibility about the phrase in Annex C, 'the DSL should keep written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions, including the rationale for those decisions'. Mick provided reassurance that the distributed leadership model enables Karyn to support and hold the wider team to account over the rationale by scrutinising examples of recording from each area.

We welcomed the clarity which some of the changes to language in the revised version will bring when referring to safeguarding issues (replacing 'deliberately missing education' with 'unexplainable and/or persistent absences'), and expressed concern about some others, such as 'taking a cautious approach to supporting a gender questioning child'. This section remains under review as the consultation on the guidance 'Gender Questioning Children' is not yet published.

Governor Observations and Comments

Mick suggested that the outstanding culture of safety and extensive work throughout school that supports learners to keep safe is captured. This includes the work of staff including; DSL's, Phase Leads, Teachers, TA's, OT's, SaLT, IT Technician, Health and Safety and Premises Lead, and Business Leads.

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

Please read the summative safeguarding report and priorities update and ensure awareness of changes to KCSiE by September.

Plans for Follow-up Visit

Autumn Term: Staff review to establish how staff recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns and what outcomes we have to celebrate.

Date reviewed at FGB : 25.6.24