

## Governor Monitoring Visit Record

<b>Date</b>	<b>04.0625</b>	<b>Governors</b>	Gill Finch, Karyn McMahon
<b>Objectives</b>			
Term 3 Safeguarding Link Governor monitoring: Contextual Safeguarding Mick Dunn from CES also in attendance			
<b>Links with School Development Plan</b>			
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'			
<b>Background preparation</b>			
Review of some schools HR policies in the light of some recent cases and interactions			
Issues to address from recent involvement with Schools' HR			
Attendance at a recent meeting of the Sex Education Forum Partners to learn more about the DfE proposed timescale and guidance framework following consultations on RSHE and Gender Questioning Guidance for schools			
<b>Scope of visit</b>			
Challenge and support on themes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision for DDSLs</li> <li>• Disclosures in school</li> <li>• Potential impact of Reform Candidate in Stakeford and Choppington ward on diversity, equality &amp; inclusion</li> <li>• The recent ruling of the Supreme Court in Scotland on the definition of a woman</li> <li>• School's role in challenging or improving the content of policies provided by the Schools' HR service</li> </ul>			
<b>Impact/Next steps</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision for DDSLs will commence in September 2025. Scoping exercises have taken place over this academic year by GF and KMc to decide on a system which will be most effective at Cleaswell. MD will offer KMc access to a training resource he offers, and she is already working with Sharon Common from the Ascent Trust.</li> <li>• KMc will obtain clarification from the legal team about who has the responsibility to inform parents of a child we believe is being implicated in a false allegation of criminal activity alleged to have taken place on the school site.</li> <li>• GF and KMc will look at the new Sexual Harassment Resources on the CES website.</li> <li>• We will watch and wait for the publication of the new, proposed guidance documents from DfE. The new RSHE guidance will have a one-year implementation period and will be likely to include a stronger focus on</li> </ul>			

Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG) including at secondary level the conversation will be broadened beyond consent. Sexual violence and harassment will be addressed with an emphasis on skills more than just knowledge. There should be more conversations about sexual ethics, with new topics such as: Sexual offences, AI Deepfake and Online sexual imagery.

- There will be a year-long implementation period: Sept 25-26.
- Schools will have to consult with parents and develop a policy.
- We hope, with the support of Helen McIntyre, to develop and lead a special schools' RSHE professionals' network, as many of these topics, while very important, will be very challenging for many of the pupils to learn about and apply in real life contexts.
- No statutory guidance for schools has yet been published in the light of the supreme court ruling; the best schools can do for the time being is deal with gender questioning or trans\* people with respect and sensitivity.
- The Dignity and Respect at work policy which we ratified earlier this year, and which is provided by Schools' HR has some wording which could potentially impact negatively on some staff were they to be required, for example, to have a mediated conversation or 'come to an agreement' with a colleague accused of abusive or coercive behaviours or sexual harassment. GF has returned an annotated copy of the policy to Frankie Kitt Schools HR adviser.

#### **Governor observations and comments**

For reasons of confidentiality and sensitivity, aspects of the meeting which addressed individual cases of concern are not recorded in detail.

#### **Items to be raised with the Full Governing Body (if any)**

Please do pass on any concerns about the wording of any policies you read or ratify; it can be easy to overlook the potential impact of these, or how they perhaps reflect different times and priorities to those we now encounter.

#### **Plans for follow-up visit**

Autumn 2025: Compliance visit.

**Date reviewed at FGB:** 23.06.2015