



Headteacher's Report to the Governing Body – October 2022

1. Headteacher's Summary

School Improvement Partner Visit

School Improvement Advisor (SIA), Diana Denman, visited school to complete her monitoring visit for the Local Authority (LA). She spoke with the two Deputy Heads and the TLR (Teaching and Learning Responsibility) project leads. The feedback was very good and there will be a full report written which I will share with Governors. Diana's initial feedback was *'I really enjoyed my day at Pathfield. The school has significantly moved forward under your leadership, so well done.*

I am pleased that leaders found my input useful and spending time with students at lunchtime was a bonus for me. It is not something I have an opportunity to do very often as an SIA.'

This is really good feedback which shows the strength of the Senior Leaders and emerging leaders in the school. The pupils as always were a credit to the school and proof of the excellent progress being made.

I am looking to use Diana in a growing School Improvement role as she is now able to work independently of the LA on a consultancy basis.

Parental Engagement

The primary and secondary sports days held at the end of September were well attended by parents with good feedback from the events. Parents *'evenings'* have been held over the week with the first opportunities since the beginning of COVID-19 to come into school and meet with the class teacher. Learning objectives and curriculum maps have been shared

with families. All of these activities have been scheduled early in the term/ year with the hope of increasing engagement.

There is a McMillan coffee morning planned for the 8th October.

Long Term Absence

The long-term absence for the Music teacher is currently being covered by our previous Music teacher. One TA absence looks to be longer term and may not return next half term.

COVID-19

The guidance around COVID-19 is to move the risk assessment over to the school emergency plan. Reported cases have been low and the recommendation is that pupils should only test if advised to by a medical professional.

0-25 TEAM and the Local Authority

There have been a number of changes and more still happening across the LA following their recent Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) inspection. There have been personnel changes from the director level down with interim teams in place leading the changes. This also feeds into the 0-25 team who handle the Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Every pupil who attends Pathfield School has an EHCP and the 0-25 Team consult on new placements by sharing the details of the plans with school.

2. School Data

Pupils on Roll - 190 on roll. Planned places are for 186.

Attendance - 87.5%. This is low, but the percentage is always impacted more greatly at the beginning of the academic year. Adam James is our Attendance Lead, and he meets regularly with the Attendance Officers Sharon Facey and Roz Dunn. This focuses on pupils below the 95% threshold and those with persistent absence (below 90%). Evidence is gathered for pupils with persistent absence with reasons and follow up actions.

Attainment - I've attached a working version of the School Evaluation Form (SEF) to my report. There is a lot of information on assessment within the Quality of Education section and it covers attainment over the year broken down into key cohorts.

3. School Development Plan

The School Development Plan (SDP) focuses on the four areas identified as TLR (Teaching and Learning Responsibility) projects for the year, alongside this sits PSHE and a review of our interventions. Training opportunities for the Senior Leadership and Management teams on new development is also a key area.

4. Quality of Education - Teaching and Learning

Curriculum Development

The whole school focus has continued to be on our phonics programme Read Write Inc with significant time and resources being assigned to it. Conversations with Diana Denman showed that we were beginning to underpin all our learning areas with the core skill of reading.

Work has begun in the primary department around the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is progressing well, with shared planning and mapping ideas. The Keystage 4 actions have focused on the setting up of a shared curriculum across the two classes. This is matched to accreditation offers including AQA unit awards and EQUALS. ICT and Science teaching expertise is being shared between Pathways and Keystage 4.

5. Staffing

Recruitment

We have recruited one teacher for a planned start of December 2022 and have an advert out for one more teacher and a maternity cover starting around February half term. The two permanent posts would be for classes T3 and B2 replacing a supply teacher and HLTA Behaviour Lead.

We have appointed three TAs to start as soon as Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks are complete. An advert is out again as we currently have one vacancy plus a maternity leave starting in January. There are TAs leaving in November and February.

Appointments

New TAs have settled into school well and the general feedback is positive. I feel that the last few rounds of TA recruitment have been strong.

There is currently a supply teacher in class B2 looking to complete their Newly Qualified Teacher Status (NQT) with us before the end of term. Working closely with mentor Adam James, they set weekly development areas with regular class drop-ins and monitoring.

Mental Health

We have had members of staff raising mental health concerns this year with elements of work-related stress, but also often related to life outside of school and previous illness. We have made adaptations in school and managed to address this for some staff. There has also been the offer of the Schools Advisory Service (SAS) and Occupational Health (OH) referrals. The Wellbeing Team do a fantastic job at highlighting events such as TA Appreciation Day and have shared resources with all staff such as a monthly Happiness Calendar and positive affirmations.

6. Safeguarding

Staff received Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) updates and training at the start of term and have had all the relevant policies shared. There are two booked external training sessions over the next two terms on Level 2 Safeguarding and Harmful Sexualised behaviour and Child Protection. There have been no other whole school safeguarding issues raised outside of our normal recording and reporting procedures.

7. Resources - Finance, Premises/ Health and Safety

Please see the Finance SWOT Report produced between the Chair of Governors and the School Business Manager.