

Minutes from Barrow CoG Cluster Group : October 2018.

- 1)** Welcome from lead Chair: Phil Renney (Dane Ghyll)
Attendees: Pat Burton (Brisbane Park), Andy Brewerton (North Walney), Carly Buckingham (Barrow Island), Eric Rogers (St George's), Joe Wardman (Greengate Jnrs), Leon Walters (Chetwynde), Nick Roberts (Newbarns)
Apologies: Tony Sinton (Roose), Fred Chatfield (Roose), Lee Roberts (Victoria Infants).
- 2)** No declarations of interest
- 3)** Matters arising from the previous meeting : Governing training and recruitments was discussed and ideas re recruitment had been forwarded to the relevant persons. This would hopefully culminate in opportunities for schools to see an improvement in the people wishing to become governors. Suggestions such as open evenings within schools for new parents, engagement from existing governors in actively recruiting suitable candidates, contacting local businesses to register their interest and advise them of the need for governance, Neil Doherty approached within BaE, and Debbie Parkinson (Yarlside) spoken to. Debbie is in the process of organising an event within the community with a view to attracting candidates to attend on the evening and register an interest in joining the governing body of those schools who have vacancies, and also to build up a database for the future.
No issues with GDPR encountered.
- 4)** Ofsted : Schools throughout the cluster are reporting different experiences. There have been some positive and some negative visits and it appears that the fate of the school is very much subjective and depends on the inspector(s) who attend, rather than adherence to prescribed criteria. There is a hope that with the inspection criteria changing, this will help bring a more positive approach to inspecting the overall provision of a school rather than as it is currently and being heavily focused on data/figures.
Governance 'health checks' were discussed and Faye Kabara (LEA) has taken over the management of these and is more than happy to attend local schools and offer assistance and guidance should anyone desire her to do so.
- 5)** Budgets : Most schools are experiencing some element of financial strain. With the loss of significant sums of money, schools are having to find ways to save money or attempt to generate extra income. It was discussed that within the cluster group it would be beneficial to all schools to collaborate and share resources where possible. This would hopefully provide wider opportunities for children.
It was agreed that although a three year budget plan is required, realistically it is very difficult to accurately plan for any time period greater than one year. Issues such as the new teachers pay award, the national funding formula and assistance from HR were also discussed.
ACTION : To speak to head teachers and if confirmed in the Feb meeting, P.Renney will write to all schools within the area re resource sharing.
- 6)** AOB – None. Next meeting confirmed as Tuesday 5th February 2019; 6pm at Brisbane Park.