KGGS Governors visit form. Please complete and return to the clerk to governors

Link Governor	Ian McBain		
Faculty / Member of staff Visited	Mr Sean Tarver (SENCO) Mrs Tracey Doig (Assistant Headteacher)	Date	21/11/19
Purpose of Visit	SEND update		
Question asked	Can I have an update on the current SEND numbers at the school? 125		

Response:

Sean had prepared a detailed overview of the current SEND numbers:

Number of pupils with SEND on 5th Nov 2019 (June 2019 figures in brackets)

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder: 5 (4)
- Physical or sensory impairment: 12 (13)
- Social, emotional mental health: 4 (5)
- Specific learning difficulties: 103 (97)

Percentage of pupils with SEND in each year:

Year group	Number of pupils June 2019	Number of pupils Nov 2019	Percentage of total SEND (124)
7	7	9	7%
8	6	8	6.5%
9	10	6	5%
10	22	21	17%
11	33	25	20%
12	30	23	18.5%
13	12	32	26%

Pupils with an EHP:

"There are four pupils with an EHP, two (yr11) of which are expected to remain at KGGS for the next academic year, the others are yr13 and will leave for Higher Education. All making good progress with ongoing support. However, I have concerns about one of the yr11s as her condition has substantially deteriorated to a point where she has recently been unable to attend school. This is beyond our control but we are supporting her by sending home work."
Sean Tarver, Nov 2019

Progress of pupils with SEND:

Measure	All pupils	SEND pupils
Progress 8	+0.92	+0.64
A level value added	-0.07	+0.43

Note: Sean attributes some of this success to many SEND pupils being allowed extra time for examinations. Tracey and Sean are running a trial to see if this can be measured by asking SEND pupils to use black ink during 'normal' exam time and then switching to blue ink during the extra time period.

Sean reported at the recent Welfare committee meeting that we had a higher than usual number of yr7 pupils joining the school with known issues. This, he believes, may be a 'blip', but it was noted how many primary schools have suggested that we screen particular pupils.

Question asked	What are the current issues facing the SEND team and our SEND pupils?

Response:
The ongoing issue of not having enough ground floor classrooms is becoming more of an issue. We currently have an unprecedented number of pupils with wheelchairs and this is placing significant strain on timetabling etc. Tracey explained that there may be a possibility of converting some ground floor rooms that are not currently being used as classrooms into teaching or examination rooms but this is at a very early stage.

One other key issue concerns the 'new' arts block which, due to not having an external lift or stairs, has restrictions on the number of pupils because of fire regulations.

Our existing lifts are an ongoing issue- they are rapidly reaching their end of life (one is at least 20 years old) and we are going to have to address this properly at some point in the future if wheelchair user numbers continue to increase.

Question asked	How has FOCUS 5 on the SDP impacted the SEND team and our pupils? (Focus 5: "To further develop whole school strategies- across curriculum and pastoral teams- for securing progress for students at risk of underachieving in KS3 and KS4."

Response:
Sean and Tracey reported that this hasn't had a direct impact on the SEND team as yet. It is an ongoing process looking at the whole school and SEND hasn't been identified as a particular area of concern.

Our recent Progress 8 and A level value added scores suggest that our SEND pupils are continuing to achieve well and in line with our wider pupil body. It may, however, be worth doing some additional analysis of the data to identify if this is the case for all SEND pupils, or if a few very high achievers in a relatively small cohort have 'skewed' the data.

Question asked	How have things changed since Mr Fuller's arrival? I was really pleased to see reference to PP and SEND included in the recent Headteacher report to govs, but have there been any practical changes?

Response:
Sean's time is being used more effectively now that he has moved to an office closer to the pastoral team rather than his previous base in Harrowby House.

Sean is trialling screening for all year 7s in an attempt to identify issues more quickly. Mass screening for all yr7s was stopped several years ago (we don't appear to know why), and some pupils have issues that only become apparent as they progress through the school and work pressure increases. It is hoped that if issues can be identified in yr7, Pupils concerned will benefit from earlier support and help with 'coping strategies'. This trial is initially in the form of a reading assessment.

I asked if the SEND team have the capacity to manage a larger number of known SEND yr7

pupils. At this stage it is thought that this trial shouldn't create a larger number of pupils requiring SEND support at some point during their time at KGGS, but it might create more work initially.

Question asked	What are the implications of the new OFSTED inspection framework for our SEND systems and processes?

Response:
Very limited at this stage.

Whilst it is thought unlikely that we will have a visit from Ofsted in the near future, the new inspection framework is less reliant on data and is more driven by key factors such as the curriculum and what it is like to be a pupil at a school. This is inevitably having an impact on the way schools are being measured.

I introduced Sean and Tracey to the watchsted.com tool which highlights the 100 most recent inspections across the country. At the time of this meeting, only two secondary schools had achieved an Outstanding grade since the introduction of the new inspection framework in September, including a selective grammar school in Kent. The inspection reports for both schools make reference to SEND provision and, in particular, how school leaders ensure that there are high expectations for SEND pupils and how they ensure that the curriculum is adapted to the needs of SEND pupils.

Clearly, we would hope that KGGS is always endeavouring to do the best for all pupils rather than focussing upon Ofsted, but I suspect that it may be worth investing some time and thought into ensuring that we are completely up to date with expectations under the new inspection framework.

How did the visit go? What did you learn? What were your impressions?

This was another very positive visit. Sean and the SEND team continue to work hard to support our SEND pupils and the yr 7 screening trial is a very positive and proactive move. The Progress 8 and A level value added scores are particularly pleasing and it will be good to see how these scores compare with next year's data.

Clearly, we have ongoing issues with the accessibility limitations of our older school buildings. This will inevitably be even more challenging at exam season due to the number of pupils requiring alternative examination provisions.

Signed _____ Date _____