



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education**

Remotely via MS Teams

Thursday, 19 January 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

A M Day
S Joy
F D O'Brien

Councillor(s)

B Hopkins
S E Keeton
A J O'Connor

Councillor(s)

Y V Jardine
J D McGettrick

Co-optee/s

B Allender
E Lee

Other Attendees

Robert Smith	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Cressy Morgan	Cluster Link Officer Partneriaeth
Adrian Smith	Cluster Link Officer Partneriaeth
Andrew Owen	Commissioned Headteacher
Kerina Hanson	Commissioned Headteacher
Gareth Rees	Headteacher Pontarddulais Comprehensive School
Sue Bradshaw	Chair of Governors Pontarddulais Comprehensive School
Helen Talaat	Headteacher Pengelli Primary School
Chris Scott	Chair of Governors Pengelli Primary School
Alison Norman	Headteacher Pontlliw Primary School
Sarah Burns	Headteacher Penllergaer Primary School
Gareth Davies	Headteacher Pontarddulais Primary School
Claire Bate	Deputy Headteacher Llangyfelach Primary School
Michelle Kidwell	Chair of Governors Llangyfelach Primary School

Officer(s)

David Thomas	School Improvement Advisor
Michelle Roberts	Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): S M Jones

29 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

30 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

31 Minutes

The minutes of the 15 December 2023 were accepted by the Panel.

32 Letter/s

The Panel accepted the letter sent to the Cabinet Member following the Panel meeting on the 15 December 2023.

33 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

34 Schools Scrutiny Session - Progress with Introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales

The Panel was pleased to meet the Head and Chair of Governors from Pontardulais Comprehensive School and each of the schools in the cluster of Primary Schools feeding into the Comprehensive School, including Pengelli, Pontlliw, Penllergaer, Pontardulais and Llangyfelach Primary Schools. They were also interested to hear about the support provided to the cluster by the School Improvement Service, the Commissioned Headteachers and Partneriaeth.

The Panel were keen to discuss with them how the new Curriculum for Wales was being implemented on the ground and how the work being done at each Primary School in the Cluster was being brought together as pupils made the transition to the Comprehensive School.

The Panel had a set of key questions they discussed with the cluster, these included:

- a) How is it going so far?
- b) What are you finding most challenging?
- c) How are you supporting your teachers and school staff to transition to the new curriculum?
- d) How are you working together as a cluster to ensure a consistency of approach?
- e) How are you taking learners along with you on this journey?
How is information about the new curriculum being shared with the learners?
How are the learners responding to the new curriculum, particularly those who have had experience of both systems?
- f) How do you feel about the support you have received from the local authority and Partneriaeth?

The Panel were glad to hear from them first-hand about how the cluster were working as a team, as well as listening to their successes and the issues that they faced and how they worked together to overcome these.

The Panel were grateful to the team at each school for taking the time to join them and gave a big thanks for their enthusiasm and for the fantastic work they are doing.

The discussion, the Panels thoughts from the session and any recommendations will form part of the letter that will be sent to the Cabinet Member following the meeting.

35 Work Programme 2022-2023

The Panel agreed to look at School Attendance in the new municipal year. The Work Programme was agreed.

36 For Information - Recent Individual School Inspection Outcomes List

The individual school inspection outcomes list was noted by the Panel.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm

Chair