



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools**

Site Visit to Morriston Primary School

Wednesday, 20 February 2019 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor M Sykes (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
B Hopkins

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
L R Jones

Councillor(s)

D W Helliwell
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas

Other Attendees

Alison Thomas

Headteacher
Chair of Governors

Officer(s)

Sue Edger
Helen Morgan - Rees
Michelle Roberts

Head of Primary Phase Unit
Head of Education Achievement & Partnership
Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day, M Durke, S J Gallagher, L James, S M Jones, M A Langstone and H M Morris

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None

2 Notes and Conveners letters from previous meetings

Notes from Extra meeting on the 11 December 2019 received.

3 Visit to Morriston Primary School

The Panel visited Morriston Primary School and met with the Headteacher Alison Thomas, Chair of Governors Emma Boucher, Challenge Advisor Sue Edger and Head of Education Achievement and Partnership.

The Panel invited the school to a meeting in February 2018 where they saw a number of improvements had been put in place. Councillors were keen to see these improvements embedded and making an impact so agreed to visit the school in one year.

The following was noted at the visit:

- The school has been on a busy and active journey over the last year.
- The panel congratulated the Headteacher who has been confirmed in the post.
- Estyn revisited and seen the improvements made, recognising the school is on a journey, have now moved the school out of Estyn Monitoring.
- School had been doing a number of improvements including, for example, redeveloping Foundation Phase, working with the university around raising aspirations, visiting and receiving visits and sharing practice with other primary schools.
- There have been a number of challenges on the way. Temporary staff but now have a new permanent Deputy Headteacher appointed and who started in January. So management team in place.
- Things looking very positive moving forward.
- Panel sorry to hear about the lead stolen from the school roof and the associated damage and hope it can be repaired ASAP.
- Headteacher said it is a fantastic school to work in with devoted staff.
- Governor's involvement has been key in development and improvement at the school. They had a Team Around the School to support them and they are now ready to drive their own improvement.
- Headteacher said the schools journey of improvement has been very well supported by the local authority, the education improvement service and fellow headteachers.
- Councillors asked the Chair of Governors whether she felt stability was better at the school. She said that governors and staff feel much more secure and connected to each other.
- School working to improve communication with parents, they have developed a new more accessible website and newsletter and parents can message teaching staff if have parents have questions.
- Still managing budget very carefully.
- Challenge with instability of staff now sorted but school is an old building which causes many challenges and costs.
- School working to develop consistency across the year groups.
- Varying pupil numbers because of high mobility of pupils can be a challenge for the school.
- School doing all it can to raise the profile of the school locally.
- The panel recognise that a lot of work has been done by staff, the headteacher and governors at the School.
- Councillors feel that the improvements put in place are embedding well and starting to bear fruit. They wished to congratulate all at the school for their hard work and commitment to this improvement journey.

4 Workplan 2018/2019
Noted

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm