

**Notes of the Fourlanesend Community Primary School Curriculum & Standards
Committee Training Session held at the School on Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 9.15am**

Present	Mrs J Eason Mrs R Norton Mrs J Dennehy Mrs R Ginger Mrs G Kelleher Mr S King Miss H Marks	Committee Chair Headteacher
In Attendance	Mrs S Garton	Clerk to the Governors

The Headteacher commented that pupils had just completed their SATs week and enjoyed having some fun at the end of it, and one of their comments had been "It's the best SATs week ever!"

The purpose of this training session was for governors to be able to focus on 'School Pupil Tracker Online' (SPTO) which is an online assessment tracking tool to help measure the progress of individual pupils against the National Curriculum. Governors were given a handout called 'Tips and guide for new users'.

Mrs Dennehy was asked to explain SPTO in terms of how it is used in the classroom (either via a laptop or iPad). Mrs Dennehy showed governors the link to the National Curriculum objectives, including objectives by years for Reading, Writing and Maths, as well as the map of objectives and the planning tool.

SPTO can be used to write an immediate assessment in the classroom, to plan ahead for individual pupils and to help make success ladders enabling them to meet the objectives. Mrs Eason asked if the pupils can see the objectives ticked off for themselves and this was confirmed. Mrs Dennehy added that pupils feel more involved in their learning. Mrs Kelleher asked if the tool included the same objectives as the new National Curriculum and Mrs Dennehy confirmed it was the interim ones.

Mrs Dennehy displayed the individual pupils plus their learning objectives on the screen. She explained how peer review works. This is where pupils are able to assess each other's work. She explained that assessments might be done via the teacher going round the classroom to see how pupils are doing, peer assessment, self-assessment or by marking.

Mrs Dennehy explained the following:

- #1 = requires support in lessons to reach objective
- #2 = understand as taught in lesson
- #3 = understands and can apply independently
- #4 = extremely confident and can apply in different contexts.

The hashes (#) on SPTO are dealt with differently compared to other online tracking systems. The Headteacher reported that a teacher can override a # if they disagree with it. Teachers click on the objective as they see the pupil doing it. This is where the greater depth comes in. The pupils can see the objectives which makes it clear for them and helps them achieve. The Headteacher explained the school is having to teach the children to think like this and for some it can be daunting and they have to be encouraged.

The Headteacher commented that the old National Curriculum was about 'jumping through hoops'. This National Curriculum is about measurement of progress against the objectives and children generally are better at one of these styles but not both. The Headteacher referred to this as 'Apples and Pears'.

Mrs Kelleher asked about Maths and it was reported that it has changed a lot and is much harder now; more like the 11+. Mrs Dennehy commented that the pupils are not as good at spelling so now the school is trialing different methods in order to improve this.

Mrs Dennehy showed governors a graph which can be used for each year group to see how the pupils are progressing and it was clear that the line went both up and down when the new National Curriculum was introduced, instead of showing a smooth line. However, the overall trajectory is up.

Mrs Dennehy demonstrated the Planning Tool for Writing showing governors how to highlight an objective, load the objective and then drill down. Mrs Dennehy showed how she could select three objectives for a lesson plan on a Learning Wall where success ladders were used. Mrs Dennehy was asked if teachers were using this tool and it was confirmed that the techniques are filtering throughout the school and staff are sharing new discoveries with each other as they explore the system. The Planning Tool is considered helpful. Teachers become more confident through use and practice.

Mrs Marks asked if SPTO is used by the school or other parties and it was confirmed it was for use by the school. It was confirmed that the teachers are now in tune with linking and using the data with the new National Curriculum. Mrs Marks asked if SPTO is a package any school can buy and this was confirmed. The Headteacher reported that it is one of just a handful supported by the DfE. When the DfE makes a change to anything then SPTO is updated too.

Mrs Dennehy was asked if the data sheets will be blank next year and it was confirmed that the data will come from the previous year's data.

Mrs Dennehy explained that using SPTO does not take away teacher assessment. It was confirmed that the desk top version and iPad version talk to each other. The Headteacher reported that she gets to see an overall view. Mrs Dennehy demonstrated how the system showed a snapshot of a pupil's progress.

Mrs Kelleher asked about practice for SATs test and if it showed any resemblance to the real thing and it was confirmed that it varied.

Governors discussed whether the new national assessment process is fair on pupils. There has been feedback on Twitter. It can damage the self-esteem of some; it can lump pupils into 'Below ARE' which is poor for morale.

The marking process for this year was discussed. It was confirmed that 14 pupils took Year 6 SATS. The tests will come back marked but this year the school won't know what the pass mark is. It will be known on 8th July. The Headteacher explained this as "Teaching pupils how to score a goal but you don't know where the goalposts are!"

The Headteacher explained the data Drop Times during the year which take place at the end of each term. The data will therefore change depending when you log in during the year.

The Headteacher gave out papers to governors and explained the importance of keeping log in details secure and confidential. The Headteacher gave a laptop to each governor and governors logged on to SPTO via the Internet.

The Headteacher ran through SPTO:
Welcome Page (with icons at top of page)
1. School Menu

- Choose On Track Report (this is the screen you will use most as governors)
 - Click on this page with Groups/Class/Year
 - Choose Whole School (NB Pupils coming into the school or leaving the school affects the figures when the system is updated monthly)
2. Choices, Attainment & Progress
- Choose Percentage of Pupils Making Progress (measured against their individual starting point in the year)
3. Choice of Subjects
- Choose National Curriculum – Reading, Writing, Maths
 - Choose Pupil Premium groups
 - Choose End Autumn Term or End of Spring Term or End Summer Term (i.e. data Drop Times)
 - Choose Spring Term - Governors can look at this data to ask challenging questions.

It was agreed that laptops can be used by governors at Curriculum & Standards Committee meetings so they can ask questions. It was recommended that governors also use the system at home too to help prepare for meetings.