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Little Paxton School Governing Body

British Values and SMSC Presentation Monday 1st February 2016 at 6.30pm

Ellen Barrett	Parent Governor	Mike Kendall	Co-opted Governor
Penny Conway	Authority Governor	Debbie Gray	Co-opted Governor /Staff
Neil Donoghue	Co-opted Governor	Graham Hiom	Co-opted Governor
Rebekah Jenkins	Associate Member / Staff	Oliver Poulain	Parent Governor
David Jones	Parent Governor	Jordana Watts	Staff Governor

In attendance: Alison Gatward Clerk to the Governing Body

RJ & JW gave a useful and informative presentation which was greatly appreciated by the governors. A copy of the presentation is circulated with these minutes.

British Values has now been added and fits into Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Development (SMSC.) The Ofsted Handbook defines this. Where applicable school draws on the experiences of families with other faiths in the school by inviting the parents in to come and share.

The presentation led to discussion regarding the implementation of these recommendations into school life. **QU:** Promotion of the concept of British values is relatively straight forward, but is it also about defending British Values when you see them being not upheld. Do you have the skill to do this? As a team of staff there have been some discussions regarding this but it is early days. There is a need to ensure what is shared with the children is age appropriate. Racism incidents are reported, although these are very rare. There is a need to understand what it looks like in our school and how is communicated to children. **QU:** Both children and parents may make comments which do not support British Values. What happens when negative comments are made? Where does the teaching staff or the governing body go with that? Is it discussed with parents? How is this dealt with? The values come from home especially for the youngest ones. This is recognised to be a massive challenge, which still needs to be worked through as to how in practice this would be dealt with. **QU:** Does this include challenging right wing views? There is a need to be seen to defend what is wrong and without being guilty of showing a lack of tolerance. **QU:** How do the governors support? Not really come across this situation as yet. The aim is to educate the children broadly across a diverse range of cultures and beliefs so that through this broad education, children can make an informed decision over time. **QU:** If the children have radical views at age 4 this

has to have come from family background, how is this dealt with? Is this where the prevent strategy come in? The prevent strategy would be followed, for all religions and political views or it may become a child protection matter. **QU:** How does the school decide when something is unhelpful or offensive? For example, the debate about the veil and whether that would be allowed. It is telling you to tolerate other people's faith and beliefs so to say no is not to tolerate them. There is evidence that Britain does not tolerate all beliefs. This feeds into the policy which will be discussed shortly in the Curriculum Meeting.

Governors were invited to look further at the British Value headings and see where these are covered in school. They were given a grid with each of the sections into which they were asked to put different activities in school.

Some of the suggestions were as follows:-

Rule of law

- History - can be included in discussions of different periods. This is less confrontational and enables information to be drip fed throughout the curriculum.

Tolerance

- Playground behaviour - things aren't always going to go their way and how to deal with it.

Responsibility & liberty

- Classroom responsibility, self assessment
- Age appropriate responsibilities - encourage parents to give the children more responsibility for their own things.
- Taking the register to the office - why it is a responsibility.

Democracy

- School council

Mutual respect

- Fund raising events

In addition JW shared a completed list that another school had compiled. See attached.

JW made a proposal to change the policy and completely update it to make it align with these changes. A template from Charlbury school was shared as a good example and proposed to use and adapted version for our school. **QU:** There is no RE box? Presumably because these are the other subjects and RE and PHSE have traditionally been seen as covering SMCS. This looks at how the other subjects contribute towards SMCS. This is just an example and ours may include RE to make it clearer. Looks at how the other subjects contribute. Ensure that LP doesn't ignore RE and PSHE. **QU:** Our school is quite limited in

scope due to the ethnic and religious demographics being quite narrow, so how do we bring this in? It is about going out to see other cultures or bring these elements in to share with the children. This needs to be strengthened in the policy. **QU:** Ours is a western approach but we need to understand how this may look to a Muslim for example? Need to look how this can be adapted and included into a policy document.

JW shared how the staff has looked at each year group to see how British Values fits into the curriculum by age. This is still work in progress at this time. **QU:** What about outside the classroom - playground, lunchtimes, displays etc. There is a need for training for non teaching staff and mid day supervisors. Sam England to review further with the TAs. **QU:** Who is leading this? DH has been leading this so far. Miss Stapleton is the RE subject leader and may take this on at a later date.

Meeting closed - 7:15pm