

Minutes: Special Educational Needs Working Party of the Governing Body of Dog Kennel Hill School held at 62 Oakhurst Grove on Monday 23 May 2011 at 6:30

PRESENT

Peter Bibby (Convenor)

Marion Cranmer
Gillian Reeve
Philip Prior
Tania Degale

Karen Jones
Robyn Harrison
Eileen Wray

1. Appointment of minute taker

The Convenor volunteered to take minutes

2. Minutes of meeting Monday 14 February 2011

The minutes record *Philip Prior agreed to send to Robyn Harrison and Peter Bibby the funding information when it is received from Southwark. That information should be in the form of a list of named children and the sum allocated to each as well as the budget sheets which give the numbers of children and total sum allocated.*

Philip said he would make sure that this is done

3. Contents of Statements

Southwark is seeking views on the contents of statements. Committee took the view that parents would benefit from having specialist teacher hours specified on statements, where Southwark envisage that a child needs 20 or more hours of LSA time per week.

4. Special Educational Needs Register

The committee completed its review of each and every child on the SEN register.

We are able to assure the Governing Body that the school is not incorrectly identifying or over identifying children as having special educational needs. Ofsted and The Government are suggesting that there is a national problem of such over or mis - identification.

There are about six children in each class with special educational needs. One class has nine children.

5. Consultation on Changes to SEN LAW

We discussed The Government Consultation Document: "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability."

Agree that current system for getting a statement is too time consuming. Welcome the proposal to reduce time limits. Agree that it is not necessary in all cases to have a report from a paediatrician.

Accept the proposed amalgamation of School Action and School Action Plus.

Express concern that new wider assessments involving social services and health may be cumbersome to organise, noting that the health service very rarely sends a person (such as Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist or Physiotherapist) to an annual review.

Express uncertainty about the future of the recently introduced Common Assessment Framework, which is not mentioned in the consultation.

Assert strong opposition to league tables across schools of progress made by children with Special Educational Needs. A new bureaucracy would be needed and the result would be unreliable.

Support the continuation of the right to a mainstream education. This might be threatened by the objective of *removing the bias towards inclusion*.

Advocate caution with respect to parents having personalised funding. If such funding can be used either to support the child at school or to provide support at home, there may well be a conflict between parents and school. What are currently school resources could be transferred to the home.

Peter Bibby to draft and circulate the School's response

6. Governors attendance at annual reviews

Gillian Reeve and Peter Bibby reported favourably on two reviews that they had attended. Once again Gillian emphasized the importance of the school employing our speech and language therapist.

7. Review of School SEN Policy

We did not have time for this item. Deferred till our next meeting. Robyn Harrison and Eileen Wray agreed to have proposed changes identified for that meeting

8. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be on Monday 17 October 2011 6:30 at 62 Oakhurst Grove.