

Minutes: Special Educational Needs Committee of the Governing Body of Dog Kennel Hill School held at 62 Oakhurst Grove on 6:30 on Monday 22 September 2012

PRESENT

Peter Bibby (Convenor)

Marion Cranmer
Gillian Reeve
Karen Jones

Philip Prior
Robyn Harrison

APPOLOGIES

Eileen Wray

1. Appointment of minute taker

The Convenor volunteered to take minutes

2. Minutes of meeting Monday 14 May 2012

The minutes of the last meeting were noted.

3. Committee Membership

Tania Degale has resigned as a Governor because she is training to be a teacher. Philip Prior is ending his time as a Governor because his children are no longer at Dog Kennel Hill School. Karen Jones's term of office as a parent Governor will end in February 2013. The Committee said thank you for your energy and involvement.

We need new members.

4. Annual reviews

Members (Karen, Phillip and Peter) reported on three annual review since our last meeting. Children were at two of the annual reviews. We expect the older children to come to the beginning of their annual review and to be engaged in it. This is not always easy. Governors and the children's parents were pleased with the children's progress.

By way of reminder, a member of the SEN Committee who is not an employee of the school usually attends an annual review. As far as possible the same committee member will attend year on year for the same child. This arrangement may be unique to Dog Kennel Hill.

We agreed attendances at annual reviews for the coming year as follows. All reviews are at 9:30 am

12	November	Peter Bibby
29	November	Karen Jones
21	January	Gillian Reeve
11	March	Gillian Reeve
20	May	Peter Bibby
17	June	Peter Bibby or a newly appointed committee member

5. Individual Children

We discussed individual children.

6. Draft SEN Legislation

In September the Government published draft amended SEN legislation. This is largely to be welcomed. DKH Governors objected to the Green Paper proposal to end the right to education in mainstream in accordance with parents' wishes. We said:

"It is a proposal to permit Local Authorities to send children to special schools against their parents' wishes in order to save money. The proposal is wrong. We strongly object to it. We affirm our commitment at Dog Kennel Hill to provide education for all children."

The Government was persuaded by our argument and has dropped their proposal.

New legislation will extend statements of special needs, to be known as Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans) up to the age of 25. Students at sixth form college will have EHC plans. The plans will have the same authority as statements with respect to educational provision. They will also specify health and social services provision.

Parents and young people will be entitled to a budget for securing particular elements of the provision set out in the EHC plan. It is unlikely that this will affect school based educational provision.

Appeals to the Tribunal will continue with respect to educational provision but there is no appeal with respect to health and social services provision. Before an appeal is lodged, parents will be obliged to take part in local mediation arranged by the Local Authority. This extra stage in the procedure could be expensive and time wasting some cases, but could produce quicker and better settlement of disputes in other cases

Philip Prior pointed out that changes in School budgets and SEN funding might also affect SEN provision.

8. SEN Spending

The committee agreed to review income and expenditure with respect to SEN at Dog Kennel Hill School at our next meeting so that we can be assured that the allocation of resources to children with special educational needs is sufficient and fair.

Robyn Harrison will complete a provision map in advance of our next meeting and request advice and assistance about the costing from Robert Ashdown.

9. SEN Register

At our meeting in the summer term, Robyn Harrison will circulate copies of the complete SEN register for discussion.

10. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be at 6:30 on Monday 28 January 2013 at 62 Oakhurst Grove.