

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3 JULY AT 10:00AM AT THIE SLIEAU WHALLIAN AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Present: | Julie Edge, MHK | Minister for Education, Sport and Culture |
| | Graham Kinrade | Chief Officer |
| | Alex Downie | Education Council Member |
| | Peter Whiteway | Education Council Member |
| | Joff Whitten | Education Council Member |
| | Leslie Foster | Education Council Member |
| | Malgoratza Simpson | Education Council Member |
| | Barbara Brereton | Education Council Member |
| | Janet Bailey | Education Council Member |

In attendance: Emma Harmer Note Taker

Apologies: Carol Glover Education Council Member

| Minute Number | Item | Action |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
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[027/23] Declarations of interest or conflict

There were no declarations of interest or conflict.

[028//23] Minutes of the meeting of Monday 6th March

It was noted that the date of the next meeting should be amended to Monday 3rd July.

Subject to this amendment the minutes were accepted as true and accurate record of the meeting and would be signed by the Minister.

[029/23] Matters arising – Review of action points from the meeting held on Monday 6th March.

The action log was reviewed and updated.

[030/23] Education Policy for Consideration

It was noted that there were no items of educational policy for consideration.

[031/23] School issues to be raised with the Department

Working Time Agreement

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It was noted that all schools would be introducing new working time agreements (WTA). The Chief Officer advised that the WTA would set out expectations for teachers working time. It was noted that a 35 hour week would be broken down into 22.5 hours of contact time, 5 hours collegiate time and 7.5 hours planning and preparation time.

JW queried if this accounted for school holidays. The Chief Officer advised that the 35 hour weeks only related to school term time.

LF asked if there were any expectations for Governing Bodies following the implementation of WTA's.

GK advised that Governing Bodies should be aware of Head Teacher's implementing academic year calendars for staff which would include staff meetings and parent meetings. This allocation of meetings would account for staff's collegiate time.

Out of Catchment Area – Extra Ordinary Requests

JW queried whether, where Out of Catchment request could be considered extra ordinary or are very complex, there should be a different process in place. Particularly in cases where safeguarding may be a concern.

The Chief Officer noted that Out of Catchment process should normally be followed, however that in extra ordinary cases the Department could make arrangements for a pupil to be moved to another school where safe guarding may be a concern.

LF asked if there were alternative provision sites available.

The Chief Officer advised that schools may use alternative provision sites for short periods however the aim would ultimately be for students to re-join the main school population.

Student Expulsion Policy

MS requested clarity on the policy where a school governing body believes there are grounds for a student to be excluded.

The Chief Officer advised that the Department do not exclude students from schools and that the managed move process should be referred to in instances such as this.

Reinstatement of Panel for complex needs children

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PW asked whether there were plans for the panel to be reinstated.

The Chief Officer advised that panel hearings had been paused and the Department were instead providing schools with additional funding to expand their Additional and Complex Educational Needs provision.

The Chief Officer advised that the Department anticipated that a new form of the panel would be in place as an advisory body at the beginning of the next academic year.

New financial/budgetary delegations and financial management training for head teachers and school administrative staff

It was noted that training had been discussed under matters arising.

Department Updates

RSE

It was noted that the Department are expecting part 2 of the report imminently and that final interviews were taking place this week.

Industrial Dispute

The Chief Officer provided a verbal update. It was noted that the new working time agreement had been discussed under school issues to be raised with the Department.

Governing Bodies Task and Finish Group

It was noted that the Head of Business Support had not been available to attend the meeting and that the Chief Officer would ask for an update to be circulated to the Education Council.

POST MEETING NOTE

The Head of Business support would be in attendance at the next meeting and a Governing Bodies Task and Finish Group Update would be included as an agenda item.

AEN

The Chief Officer advised that in order to implement the full code the Department required £8.9 million in additional funding. It was noted that the Department had secured £2million in additional funding in the financial bid and that

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this would be used to implement the code through a phased implementation.

There was discussion over the funding review of the Department, the Chief Officer advised that the Funding Review Report would be considered by the Council of Ministers and could not be shared any further at this time.

[032/23] Any other business

Education Provision in prison

MS queried why the Education Manager at the prison had been given reduced access into prison wings.

The Chief Officer advised that all visits to individual wings had been stopped whilst there were no risk assessments in place. The Chief Officer advised that a risk assessment had now been provided by the prison and visits to wings were now restarting.

IT provision

IT provision in schools was discussed. It was noted that the Department's budget for IT sat with Government Technology Services (GTS).

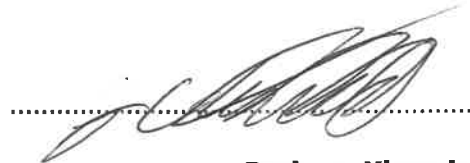
The Chief Officer advised that GTS had committed to replacing all teachers laptops.

There was discussion over why apple products were being used in schools. The Chief Officer advised that the Department consulted with staff as to whether they preferred windows or apple devices and that teachers would be provided with their preferred options.

[034/23] Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was still to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 12:10PM



Graham Kinrade

Chief Officer, Department of Education, Sport and Culture

17 May 2024

Date