

## Department of Education, Sport & Culture Education Council Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	<b>Time</b>	10.00am	<b>Location</b>	Conference Room, Hamilton House
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<b>Attendees</b>	
Mrs Ann Corlett, MHK	Department Member
Mr Geoff Moorcroft	Director of Education
Mrs Margaret Mansfield	Education Council Member
Mr Robin Turton	Education Council Member
Mr Steven Bevan	Education Council Member
Mrs Barbara Brereton	Education Council Member
Mr Ray Smith	Education Council Member
Mrs Diane Brown	Education Council Member
Mr Andrew Cole	Education Council Member
Mrs Louise Strickett	Education Council Member
<b>Apologies</b>	
Mr Graham Cregeen, MHK	Minister for Education and Children
Mr Lawrie Hooper, MHK	Department Member
Professor Ronald Barr	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Tracey Martin	Education Council Member

### AGENDA ITEMS

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Presentation – SOLE by Helen Moyer</b></p> <p>The meeting opened and the Director of Education introduces Helen, who would be giving a presentation on SOLE (Self Organised Learning Environment).</p> <p>The presentation explained how SOLE worked within the classroom. Explaining the focus on big questions that spark imaginations and curiosity within the children. SOLE is open and inviting, gives children the opportunities to problem solve and ask questions in a creative way which comes from them.</p> <p>After the presentation there was a discussion about SOLE, its success in the classroom and differences and similarities with other teaching styles such as P4C. Discussion was also around different aspects of SOLE such as how the children make the classroom their own and that it encompasses all children whether Higher level needs or High functioning with no pressure.</p> <p>The Director of Education thanks Helen for her presentation and making the time talk about it.</p>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed as such by Ann Corlett, MHK and Department Member.</p>	

### 3 MATTERS ARISING – From minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

#### **Inclusion & Safeguarding**

It was mentioned that the Director of Inclusion & Safeguarding was asked to come and talk at the meeting. She felt more time was needed to prepare for the meeting and would come back at a later stage.

The Director of Education confirmed the number of HLN children currently in the Island's schools. He stated that there were 367 HLN children in mainstream school and 136 currently in Units. He went onto explain that moderation is still currently underway and that these numbers may again reduce.

HLN pupils now represent 4% of the school population, down from 6% before moderation began. In the UK the number is at 3.6% which the Island is now much closer to.

#### **Education Bill**

The Education Council questioned possible delays in the new Education Bill.

The Department Member explained that a drafter had now been employed and met with the Legal & Administration manager on the previous Friday.

It was stated that this should now speed up the process and bring things in on time. The consultation will be lengthier but the department member explained that is was better they get it right.

#### **Education Council Tenure**

The Education Council sort clarity in tenure of school governors. It seems that there is some confusion/Inconsistencies that need to be cleared up across the board.

#### **What future provision does the department plan for children who are excluded from their schools? The present system does not offer a long term solution and schools are struggling to find reasonable ways to offer suitable educational options**

The Director of Education explained that they need to get some clarity around how many pupils there are and why they can't be supported at their current schools.

He explained that there would be an audit for children whose behavioural needs are not being met, so that they can find out exactly what they are dealing with and begin to address it.

Although it is a small proportion of the school population a few points were made;

- The impact that these children are making is massive
- Moving these children around just isn't working, transferring a child only transfers the issues
- With this in mind, will still have to take into account safeguarding

One member of the education council stated that there has been no real action since the last meeting. The Director of Education explained that The Department is responding. The data needs to be looked that so we can see what it's telling us in order to make a plan of action.

Governors make sure that the school has done everything that they are able to before recommending that a pupil be expelled. It is pointed out that action is taken, but at the moment that action is limited to the moving of pupils, which only compounds the problem.

The Director of Education explained that one of the School Improvement Advisors was currently working on the suspension statistics in order to begin gathering information for making improvements.

A discussion ensued around different options and ideas for these students. Once it is known how big the problem actually is, The Department can look at how to best deal with the associated issues.

## **SOLE**

The Meeting returned to the subject of SOLE, with an Education Council Member commenting that to roll out over all of the primary schools may take a long time due to traditionalist teachers.

Much of the remaining Education Council disagree, that most teachers throughout primary schools are welcoming these innovative approaches to teaching. Teaching staff just need the training about a more flexible curriculum. It is mentioned there might be a fear of not delivering the information required, there's a sense of accountability.

It is discussed that if secondary schools don't get on board with these new techniques related around SOLE children will become disengaged with more formal teaching environments.

## **Data Protection**

Discussion about current training in regards to GDPR. The Department is currently developing workshops and applying it to contacts in a schools context, testing with one School to start.

Need to be stricter in devices used and sharing information. Encryption is a serious issue, especially with personal devices.

4.	<b>Any Other Business</b>  No other business – Meeting closed.	

	<b>Signature</b> .....  <b>Dated</b> .....	
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