



Luckwell Primary Open Parent Meeting

28 September 2017, 6pm

School Representatives

Kevin Jones	Headteacher
Jacqui Noble	Deputy Headteacher
Jane Ellershaw	Co-Chair of Governors
Adam Morris	Co-Chair of Governors

Local Authority Representatives

Sue Rogers	Director of Education Services, Bristol City Council
Richard Hanks	Education Services, Bristol City Council

Sponsor School Representative

Sarah Baker	Redland Green Headteacher
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Approximately 100 parent/carers attended the meeting. Teaching staff were not present as the meeting was parent focused. A staff meeting regarding the Ofsted report had already taken place.

Jane Ellershaw (Co-chair of Governors) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for the questions submitted in advance. Jane stated that as many questions as possible would be answered within the meeting and that governors will ensure that further questions are answered outside the meeting.

Jane said this was an opportunity for parents to have their concerns heard and asked parents not to share the content of the meeting on Facebook or any other media.

Jane Ellershaw shared with the parents/carers her disappointment as a parent and governor upon reading the Ofsted report and recognised the challenges within the report.

Jane stated the governors had already begun acting upon Ofsted's recommendations. The wellbeing of the school staff is an absolute priority and governors are leading a survey to monitor staff moral and to identify exactly the support they will need. Staff have been provided with access to counselling.

Jane told parents that an additional Inset Day may be arranged to enable governors to work with staff on immediate support and professional development. Parents will be informed as soon as this decision has been made.

Jane also informed parents that Luckwell's Governing Body would also be subject to a Governance Review, to be arranged by the local authority.

Kevin Jones (Headteacher) thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and told parents and carers he was deeply disappointed at outcome of the Ofsted inspection and he was already working hard to act on the reports' recommendations for action.

He summarised the actions already implemented following receiving the report.

Safety

- The school gate security has been improved.
- The site manager completes daily safety checks using approved checklists.
- Lunchtime staff are assisted by the senior leadership team and they have given feedback that they value their support.
- Jacqui Noble has been surveying pupils since the changes to the playground routines to gather feedback on how they feel in school playground. The local authority will audit all of these changes.

Progress

- Luckwell, Redland Green and Bristol City Council are working together to create an action plan to improve progress across the school.
- As soon as the action plans are finalised and approved they will be shared with parents/carers.

Leadership Capacity

- Luckwell School is working with Redland Green (The Sponsor School) and Bristol City Council to provide high quality professional development of staff so they can carryout their roles and responsibilities.
- Wellbeing and stress awareness sessions are to be held.
- An improvement plan would be rolled out over the year.

Kevin Jones finally thanked parents for their support and welcomed the opportunity to talk to them to be able to move the school on.

Sue Rogers (Director of Education Services, Bristol City Council) commented that it was important Luckwell now moves forward to improve. Sue stated that the local authority would ensure there is capacity for the school to improve by providing whatever support was needed. She stated intervention powers were available to be used but as Redland Green had agreed to be Luckwell's sponsor school they may not be used. She finally stated the Governance of the school would be reviewed as part of the conversion to becoming an academy process.

Sarah Baker (Redland Green Headteacher) introduced herself to the parents/carers as the Head of Redland Green, an Ofsted inspected "Outstanding" school. She explained that she set the school up from scratch and had been head there for eleven years. She recognised that parents may be concerned that Luckwell and Redland Green School had little in common but, she explained her career included working in London with schools of wide ranging backgrounds. Because of her experience and knowledge she has become a National Leader of Education. Sarah stated that her strength was to "develop people into good leaders and a school needs good leadership in all areas to succeed".

Sarah Baker stated that Redland Green would now be accountable for Luckwell to “get back to where it should be”. She commented she had already talked to the staff and they had the “desire and the will” to improve the school. She added if the Local Authority, parents, staff, and other schools and providers work together to improve safety and safeguarding the children will be safe and happy which is the number one goal.

Sarah Baker summarised the current situation. Luckwell has a governing body in place with new Co-Chairs. The governing body had anticipated the formation of the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and was in the process of consultation but, due to findings of the Ofsted report, there was now a direct, legal order to become an academy with Redland Green being the sponsor school.

Sarah explained how the current the governing body oversaw the school but within a MAT the governing body would be overseen by trustees of the MAT. Sarah continued that the current governing body would be subject to a review by an external body and this would identify areas that needed improvement.

Sarah Baker explained the principles of the MAT, which were that each school would keep its own identity e.g. they will keep their own names and school uniforms. The absolute priority of the new MAT is to ensure that every child in each of the member schools receives the best education.

Sarah Baker explained that the Ofsted report would be used, along with other methods, to identify the strengths of the school and also what needed to be improved rapidly.

Sarah Baker explained as the school was being sponsored there would be money available from the Department of Education to make school improvements. She will be able to negotiate the best resources so Luckwell can thrive. She also gave examples of how the schools can work together to revitalise best practice, share knowledge, training and experience from each other.

Regarding timescales Sarah Baker confirmed she was already working with Luckwell and was writing an action plan in collaboration with Bristol City Council. Once this plan is approved it will be shared with parents/carers. This will be by the end of Term 1 (20 October)

The formation of the Multi Academy Trust is set for 1 January 2018. Sarah informed the parents that at this point Luckwell will be classed as a new school and as such will not be inspected by Ofsted for approximately 2-3 years. However, the Department of Education and the Regional Schools Commissioner will be monitoring the schools’ progress and the plan very closely.

Questions Raised by parents at the meeting

How will the schools progress and monitoring be communicated to parents?

The Head will communicate the progress of the action plan and any monitoring visits e.g. from the local authority and Department of Education, with parents.

What is Luckwell School now if it is going to become a Multi-Academy trust?

Currently Luckwell is a local authority maintained school which means that the funding, oversight and support for the school comes from Bristol City Council.

What is the difference?

An academy is funded direct from government, not by the local authority. The local authority does not monitor or maintain academies. The Multi-Academy Trust is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the school, but parents and pupils will not be affected by the change.

Is it proven that academies improve schools?

In the past failing schools were assigned other schools to assist their improvement, and this was not always successful. The Department of Education and the Regional Schools Commissioner believe it is better instead to assign a sponsor school. Redland Green has had to prove that it has the capacity to help Luckwell. Sarah Baker has worked with schools across Bristol for 3-4 years and has the experience to lead the rapid improvement required at Luckwell.

How does this affect the outcomes for learning at Luckwell?

It will be a better place to learn and the quality of teaching and learning will improve.

Site safety has to be paramount. What were the inadequacies of safety?

The site safety was an issue as it was possible for a child to leave the site. The keypad gate system has been introduced to the exit. The site is now checked by the site manager on an on-going daily basis. Playtime supervisors were not supported enough this has been addressed. There is now a rota system so there is time for the playtime staff to feed back to teachers on the break time activities and behaviour. If parents have any concerns over school security they must communicate these in writing to the governors.

Do you think the teachers are ready to work with the current leader?

Yes, there is capacity and interest to improve the school. Good leadership is not based on one person.

If a child does not arrive at school and the parent does not call to inform the office that they will not be attending when does the office call the parents/carers?

In the past the office would call after lunch but this has been reviewed with immediate effect and a telephone call will now be made within the first school hour.

Why Redland Green and Luckwell when they are so far apart geographically?

The Regional Schools commissioner asked Redland Green to be the sponsor school. It is an outstanding school and, as a National Leader of Education, Sarah has the experience and capacity to help Luckwell improve rapidly. Redland Green have appointed a new head of school meaning that Sarah will be able to spend time at Luckwell every week. Although it is on the north of the city Redland Green is only a 15 minute drive away from Luckwell.

How will we know when improvements have been made?

The improvement plan will be in place by end of Term 1 (20 October).

The newsletter will include regular updates on the improvements. Parents are encouraged to ask the school for more information if they feel they want more.

If Bristol City Council maintained the school what support did it give the school?

Each local authority school is given three 'core' visits per year by the school improvement officer who writes a report. The school works with the school improvement officer to create a plan of actions, which is overseen by the governing body.

Did the School Improvement reports highlight any issues?

No, not to the extent of the Ofsted report. The most recent School Improvement report (June 2017) rated Luckwell as "Good" in all areas. The Ofsted report is a snap shot view of the school. The School Improvement report is an on-going view of the school.

Final comment from Sarah Baker

"Communication is the key and going forward we welcome questions and will give weekly updates and invite parents to view the school improvements".

A parent comment

"A lot of parents here tonight wholeheartedly support the school and wished this to be shared with the school."