



LGB Spring Term 17 Questions and Answers

Questions from Louise Gordon

1. SIP related - Can you further explain the Shanghai and Singaporean maths programme - what is it and how do you see it benefitting the children of OV? Having been through an initial trial at the school, do you see this helping further and improving results particularly in the focused middle ability children in yr 5/6?

See maths case study supplied.

This approach to maths teaching ensures a much larger depth of understanding is required in each concept before children move on to the next stage of learning. Children must be able to apply their knowledge and skills in multiple contexts and over a wide range of problems which have multiple steps. As the teacher marks the work with the children in the lesson and talks to every child in the lesson no child leaves a session with a gap in the learning. Children are much more confident and are retaining this knowledge in their long term memory and not just their short term working memory.

2. SEF - SEF judgments - fine gradings - how do you come about reaching the scores and what is the highest score which can be achieved? What measures have been put in place to improve the lower scored areas?

1 – Outstanding

2 – Good

3 – Requires Improvement

4 – Inadequate

Fine grading - .9 being lowest the and .0 being the highest

Our lowest grade is teaching, learning and assessment. We have had some staff changes this year and have replaced some experienced members of staff with two NQTs.

Although teaching is good and they are making great progress towards their NQT targets the fine grading has dropped slightly.

Data this year although strong for writing and reading was weaker in maths and this also affected the fine grading. This will improve over the year.

3. Attendance - Our attendance has seen consistent growth over the last few years, and we have now set our highest attendance target yet at 97%. Do you think this target is achievable and will it be a whole school attendance? What measures are currently in place to track this?

Last year the school target was 96.2% and we achieved 96.6 % which is a gain of 0.4% on our target. 97% will only be an improvement of 0.4% on last year which we feel is achievable and would put the school in the top 10% of schools in the country which shows that we are constantly pushing forwards in this area and have high aspirations for our children. The attendance lead has discussed this with Educational Welfare but due to our attendance last year being above the government target of 96.2% we are no longer subject to the official audit of previous years.



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Questions from Paul Cooper

1.FUNDING- What effect will the planned introduction of a revised national funding formula for schools in England have on Orchard Vale in particular and the other schools in Ventrus ?

We are unable to answer budget questions about the new formula for next year as we do not have this information and this question will need to be answered at Director level. It should be noted that the proposed model for the new formula has yet to be finally accepted, and there is a strong possibility that it will change from the current model.

2.SHANGHAI and SINGAPOREAN MATHS-How long will the trial continue and how will its impact be measured? Why are able children having a problem with this approach?

This approach will be trialled for at least 2 terms in year 5 and 6 with regular updates to the LGB. Outcomes will be measured in the following ways:

- Year 6 SATs test results.
- Hodder Test scaled scores each term.
- In-year progress against National Curriculum objectives
- Pupil conferencing

Able children have at times found this way of teaching a challenge as in its purest form all children work at the same level and there is no differentiation of ability or task so they have to wait until the whole class is ready to move on. Mrs Johnson has been able to adapt this way of teaching to take account of the needs of the able children.

Questions from Alan Bosley

1. Maths stands out as the area we are likely to be questioned on at Ofsted inspection. I accept that there were four children who did not perform to their full potential in the 2015/16 Y6. Looking at the scattergrams though it does seem there could have been a general weakness in maths. Our SIP should and indeed does acknowledge that effort must be directed at that. When will we be able to see if we have pulled up on this?

2. How about inviting Tim Peake to visit OV and then Pilton? I was thinking this may put maths and planets into a real scenario. I think he is doing the round of schools. It would appear that applications to be involved in the UK Tim Peake Primary Project have closed. However, there is the opportunity to register interest in future projects. We can pass information to Sue Manley to see if she can organise.



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3. I am concerned that Pupil Premium may be cut for the future. Our record with PP pupils is extremely good and the school has received acknowledgement from Devon Education and although invited to apply nationally for recognition we did not have success, the outcomes for these children is a matter of satisfaction for staff involved. The sort of cuts we have feared may be in the pipeline would threaten our ability to maintain or even progress this achievement. Ryan's financial report may help us understand what funding we receive for PP in future. Can HOS shed any light on this and are there any reassurances?

We are not aware of any proposed cuts to PP funding. It is an area that the government have said they will protect for the foreseeable future. As governors are aware, all PP funding is devolved back to schools in its entirety. Whilst it is not currently shown as a discrete line in the accounts, it should be easy to request this information from the Finance Office.