



St Paul's CE Primary School
REMOTE Governing Body Meeting
Summer Term: Wednesday, 17th June 2020 at 6.00pm
Minutes

Present

Anita Amin	Foundation Governor (<i>PCC</i>)
Mrs Liz Bayliffe-Smith	Parent Governor
Mrs Hils Corcoran	Foundation Governor <i>Ex-Officio</i>
Ms Josie Hewitt	Co-opted Governor (<i>staff</i>)
Dr Brendon Jones	Foundation Governor
Ms Abi Lee	Staff Governor
Ms Paula Millward	LA Governor
Mr Matt Shanahan	Co-opted Governor (<i>Chair</i>)
Ms Jan Sorohan	Head Teacher
Mr Robert White	Co-opted Governor

Apologies

Mrs Jane Walter	Parent Governor
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Absent

Aydin Djemal	Parent Governor
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In attendance

Penny Crinson	Assistant Headteacher
Jenny Power	Assistant Headteacher
Ms Kathy Crotty	Clerk

Any text in red bold italics represents Governor question (Q); challenge (C); Governor and/or clerk support (S). Black bold upright represents decisions and actions.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Governors were welcomed to the meeting by the chair of the GB Mr Matt Shanahan. The clerk had received no apologies.

2. Declaration of Non/Pecuniary Interest

There were no pecuniary interests other than those declared on the website. Matt Shanahan has one child at the school; Rob White has two children at the school; Jane Walter has two children in the school; Liz Bayliffe- Smith has one child in the school and Aydin Djemal has one child in the school.

3. Declaration of Any Other Business

There were not items of any other business.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Remote Meeting held 13th May 2020 & Matters Arising

Governors formally approved the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held 13th May 2020

There were no actions from this meeting

5. Approval of Minutes of the Remote Meeting held 4th June 2020 & Matters Arising

Governors formally approved the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held 4th June 2020 subject to amending page 5 and adding Jenny Power in the attendance list.

Matters Arising

Action: Rob White, the SEND Governor will meet with Jenny Power to discuss the SEND provision.

This has been actioned.

6. Verbal Headteacher's Report - Update on school closure issues

Update on current school provision including pupil numbers

- The school has had a successful week, 78 children are in school out of 180. There are 24 Yr6 children who have returned and 23 are in school. There are 21 children in reception; 18 children in Yr1 and 15 in the KW/V (Key worker and vulnerable) children bubble. The school will fill the reception bubble with nursery children, and is surveying parents tomorrow to identify demand for places. There will be 13 children in these bubbles to meet the nursery ratio of staffing. Other year groups will be invited to fill up places in existing bubbles.

Q: Will there be other designated groups?

The guidance from last Wednesday states schools can now invite other groups if they have capacity.

Q: How will you approach inviting the other year groups?

There will be a priority for the nursery places which is children with a sibling in school as this might help parents return to work. The next group is children due to join the school in September. Parents will be asked if there are any other reasons why they should be considered for a place. Additional Yr2 and Yr5 children will fit into existing bubbles. Yr3 and Yr4 children will not be offered a place as there is an issue with staffing. South Manchester has a similar take up of places and the north of the city has a lower take up.

Q: What do you think is the reason for some children not returning to school?

The majority of children are not returning for shielding reasons. There are three children in Yr6 with "other reasons". The vulnerable children tend to have other family members who are also vulnerable.

Q: Given the advice changes daily, will you be filling the additional places on a phased approach?

Yes, there will be no spare capacity, so the aim is to fill up existing bubbles. Parents will be asked a 'yes' or 'no' and their place will be given away. KVV children will always be a priority.

- The children who have returned are enjoying their time and praise was given to staff for this.

Q: How are children managing the social distancing?

Penny Crinson reported the basic premise was young children would not socially distance but remain in their bubble with the same adult. The classrooms look different and much learning is outside. Children cannot cross bubbles as they are fenced off. The children are doing much handwashing, limited resources are used and washed. The school is taking a relaxed approach. Governors asked the school to provide photographs of some of the changes. Photographs will be included in the newsletter.

Vulnerable children and safeguarding

- There are more children eligible for FSM (free school meals) since lockdown began.

Staff welfare and staff update regarding Covid-19

The school has undertaken separate risk assessments for staff from the BAME community and staff with health conditions. The 'at risk' staff are in smaller bubbles or with younger children to minimise risk as much as possible. Two staff are extremely vulnerable, and three staff are absent due to ill health. There are pregnant staff and staff who live with vulnerable people. The Headteacher was aware one school has 70% of staff not available so this school is doing well. The insurance scheme taken out with the LA has been a useful resource for staff. There is a 24/7 helpline with staff available to answer all calls. This service is being promoted among the staff.

S: Governors noted the school took a sensible approach with the risk assessments and staff are aware of additional support.

Governors noted BAME staff are not more at risk of catching Covid-19 but the illness affects BAME people more significantly.

7. Covid-19 Risk Assessment - updated

C: Governors had asked in advance of the meeting if Governors need to review the risk assessment from Manchester Fayre?

This has been received by the school and there are no issues of concern. The school are satisfied with the risk assessment.

Q: How often does the school receive guidance from central government?

This seems to be daily and the school is waiting to see what the plans are for the summer programme and for September 2020.

The Headteacher reported are four scenarios for September.

- (1) The school is open as normal with no restrictions.
- (2) The school has all children back with full classes in bubbles of 30.
- (3) There are bubbles of 15 attending school on a rota.
- (4) If social distancing is reduced to one meter the school might be able to admit more children.

Q: Where are these scenarios from?

This has come from speaking to other Heads and from social media information. Option 2 would be difficult for this school even though this is normal for many schools.

Q: Is there any guidance regarding a second wave of the infection?

There has been no information provided nationally but the LA is discussing potential localised lockdown. Manchester seems to have a lower rate than some surrounding areas.

Q: Will you have plans for your local area?

The school will follow all guidance.

Q: What is local, is this determined by postcode?

This is not known and it cannot be envisaged that a whole region is locked down. When the R rate rose above one, there was specific data for local authority areas. This is why Stockport, Bury, and Tameside delayed admitting more children on the 1st June. Track and trace might make a second lockdown even more localised. Schools are expecting to only close bubbles.

8. Curriculum

Governors asked in advance of the meeting:

Q: Of the children who do not return for the next seven weeks, how are you going to keep them motivated and engaged?

Q: Are any changes being made for teachers to connect more to children who are not in the groups attending school?

Abi Lee gave a presentation for this agenda item.

Home learning – Google classroom

- The school has attempted to follow the normal curriculum as close as possible. Google classrooms was shared to illustrate how children access their learning. All staff have kept to their planning and the school has used various online resources included the DfE recommended Oak National Academy online learning. There is no new learning. The foundation subjects are included in the learning. There are packs for families who could not access online learning.
- Staff have given feedback online if they felt comfortable. The advice for staff was to not engage in too much conversation and dialogue with children due to how this could be interpreted, this is a safeguarding issue. Feedback has tended to be typed. There has been an online assembly which dealt with e-safety.
- There have been pre-recorded lessons uploaded for children. Live and remote learning was reviewed and rejected following advice from different sources. There is also the problem of digital equity as many families have to share a device. The age limits in many platforms also preclude primary age children. There are also issues with staff using their own devices. The safety of platforms in sharing information was a concern. Staff are in school with their bubbles and not available for online learning.

C: Is there any research that suggest live classes are effective?

There are benefits to live classes but the staff felt the negatives outweighed the benefits.

C: Is there any instances where there is minimal risk of using online learning following the four scenarios?

If there is part time schooling in September, work will be set for the children when not in school.

The current offering in schools was shared. Nursery and reception children are following the same themes at home but not as much.

Yr1 & Yr2 have three levels of work set. Yr3/4 can use google classroom for the three sets of learning. Yr5/6 have online lessons for those not returning to school. KW/V children have been following a theme-based curriculum following a timetable including some online learning. All children will receive Friday work whether in school or not.

Recovery Curriculum – September 2020

Q: Has there been an announcement about catch up learning from the government?

Catch up learning will only start when all children are back in school. Government advice will be followed. MCC will provide a curriculum and this will be adapted to the bespoke St. Pauls curriculum. The priority will be well-being and the skills of learning. Baseline assessments will occur with all pupils. Previous years objectives will be carried forward and some curriculum will be suspended including music. PE will focus on fitness as this is an issue. Science will focus on investigative skills and not knowledge. There will be children who have not accessed much work during the lockdown.

C: Are you in discussions with other schools about how the return to school and catch-up process might occur?

All staff work collaboratively with other schools and the LA is working with school leaders. The QA advisors are working with schools on the priorities. Up to now the emphasis has been to work with families to return children to school. The same topics will be delivered but the content will change. Teachers in this school always plan work based on previous years learning. Staff in this school already differentiate with the mixed age cohorts.

Action: Abi Lee to post this presentation (home learning and the recovery curriculum) on google drive

9. SRE (Sex & Relationship Education) Policy

Governors were informed the SRE new curriculum introduction has been delayed until the summer of 2021. Staff have reviewed this policy and curriculum during lockdown and the scheme of work has been written and is ready for this autumn.

Q: Will you start this in autumn 2020 or delay

The school is ready and this is planned and given the priority of well-being, this is an appropriate curriculum. There is work about viruses contained in the learning. Hils Corcoran is the link Governor for this area.

Q: Is there an intention to include parents in the approval of this policy?

Before lockdown, parents were going to be invited to a curriculum roadshow including the PHSE which incorporates SRE. This will be rescheduled when permitted.

Governors formally approved the SRE Policy

10. Approval of GB meeting dates for 2020/21

Governors formally approved the meeting dates for 2020/21

11. Policies and Procedures – review and approval

Complaints Policy and Parents Version of the Complaints Policy

This policy was adapted from the NAHT policy and is now the template policy provided by the DfE.

Governors formally approved the Complaints Policy and Parents Version of the Complaints Policy

12. Draft Committee Minutes – for information only

Finance Committee held 10.06.20

The chair of the committee gave a summary report. P12 closedown, underspend by £23,000 due to a staffing underspend. Nursery places have been reduced for the 2020/21 budget due to declining demand. The pay grant has not been included in the new term. The budget was approved with an in-year deficit which will have to be addressed in year. The budget for this year is manageable and there are still unknowns. The 2020/21 budget projects a Year End Surplus of £71,376

Governors formally ratified the P12 closedown and the 2020/21 budget.

13. Governing Body Matters

There were no GB matters to report. The CoG meets regularly with the Headteacher and invited Governors to raise any questions directly with her.

14. Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business.

15. Date of remaining 2019/20 FGB Meeting

Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 6.00pm.

Governors agreed to the earlier time for this meeting. This meeting will focus on arrangements for September 2020

Signed..... Date.....
Matt Shanahan (Chair)

Meeting closed at 19.30

Summary of actions

Action: Abi Lee to post this presentation (home learning and the recovery curriculum) on google drive