

The Governing Board
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole
Summary of Local Governing Board Meeting
Held on Monday, 10th May 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mrs L. Culkin (Chair), Mrs H. Armstrong, Ms R. Granger, Mrs A. Harris, Mrs K. Houston-Kypta, Mr K. Jones, Mr A. Nightingale, Mrs M. Norrish, Mrs A. Swift, Mr S. Thomas and Mrs R. Webb.

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Miss L. Dann and Mrs P. Rushton (Clerk).

Pupil Premium Presentation

LD was invited to talk to Governors about Pupil Premium. Key points from her presentation:

- Pupil Premium children have been closely monitored over the course of the year.
- Lockdowns have had a significant impact on Pupil Premium children. 44% of Pupil Premium children were in school. All families of Pupil Premium were offered a Chromebook and 14 families took up this offer. Data packs offered to one family.
- All class teachers are in regular contact with the parents of Pupil Premium children by phone. The Pastoral Care Worker has also regularly contacted parents to provide support.
- BPVS assessment carried out when children returned to school on the 8th March. This gives an indicator of children's language skills and an understanding of children's attainment. BPVS showed that 20% of the children had a vocabulary below their chronological age and 35% had reading ages above their chronological age. 47% of the children had regressed during lockdown and 23% had progressed. There appeared to be no correlation between those who attended school during lockdown and those who received tuition at home. Teachers are conferencing those children that have regressed.
- Teacher assessments reported the regression of some children in Writing and Maths.
- The teachers know all their Pupil Premium children really well.
- The Write Stuff scheme has been a positive initiative.
- Interventions have restarted. These include Read, Write, Inc. in KS1 and Fresh Start in KS2.
- The PE Coach is doing a circuits session with the children in the morning. This is having a positive impact on their ability to learn in the classroom as the children have used their excess energy before coming into the classroom and are able to start the day focused and ready to learn.

Clerk's Update

PR confirmed that AN had been formally appointed as a Foundation Governor by the Bishop.

Headteacher's Report

The Headteacher's Report was sent to Governors prior to the meeting. Questions were invited. Mrs Armstrong and Mr Thomas advised:

- A request had been submitted for more staff laptops and this had been agreed. This has had a positive impact on staff. It was hoped that further laptops could be purchased next year.
- To date, 47 places have been offered for Reception next year. It was hoped that with the interest being shown that this will increase to 50 children.
- Attendance is around 98%. This is above the national average.
- The staff are coping well and are getting ready for the systems of scrutiny to get back to normal and are now working more formally with class visits and requests for paperwork.

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- The supply budget has taken a significant hit and has been reviewed to ensure that the additional costs can be covered by reducing expenditure in other areas. The budget will continue to be monitored.
- The school is not able to claim for additional expenditure in respect of cleaning, but as this was identified early on it has been possible to cover the costs by moving funds from other budget areas. Next year's budget has an increased allocation for cleaning consumables.
- Staff have looked at how the virtues can be incorporated into the curriculum.
- The school continues to have strong links with the Parish.
- Feedback on remote learning has been received from parents. It was felt that the current system was working and effective in the short term. Google Classroom will be retained as the main means of communicating with parents and will be used to set homework. This will enable the school to switch to Google Classroom in the event of a future local lockdown.
- Use of IXL has improved and is now at 79%.
- School Cloud is being used for parents' evenings and it was felt there may be benefits to continue to offer virtual meetings moving forward.
- Twenty children are receiving a Read, Write, Inc. intervention. Eleven of these children are SEND. TAs are doing an incredible job in delivering this highly focused programme.
- The children's stamina for work has improved. The teachers are giving the children a break when needed.
- Staff have got the new curriculum map to ensure full coverage of the National Curriculum. Caritas and the virtues have been built in to give the Catholic ethos. Subject leaders are producing knowledge organisers so staff know what they should be teaching. Some new topics have been introduced and others dropped. Rosenshine has been built in as this provides a good compendium of what good teachers have always done.
- There will be no SATs this year and there is no comparable data from last year. Teachers are using formative assessment, the Maths non-negotiable sheets and No More Marking to make assessments this year.
- The Trust is purchasing Insight, a new assessment system. It is expected to be live from September.
- All the children are now settled back into school and have got used to their classes and are enjoying their learning.
- Teachers are identifying gaps in the children's learning. Formative assessment and the Rosenshine principles are being used to identify where the children are in their learning and the next steps to move them forward.
- The Catch Up Teacher is being used to fill the gaps in the children's learning. The Catch Up funding will be carried forward into next year and this teacher will continue to be employed to support children.
- Stormbreak is a programme focusing on mental health that links with PE and movement. The programme gives children the strategies to enable them to thrive and to set them up for the future, e.g. through developing resilience, self-care, perseverance and improved confidence.
- The first set of lesson observations have been completed this year and staff responded well to these being done differently. A book scrutiny has been undertaken. Appraisal reviews have been done and subject leaders have submitted their subject plans.

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- The school's heating system is being replaced by the Trust at a cost of £50,000 and the electric gates need replacing at a cost of £10,000.
- Subject to the lifting of Covid restrictions, the school has planned a week of enrichment activities at the end of the school year, e.g. a book day, music day and art day. The school also has tentative plans in place for some school trips to take place.

Governance

- Governors reported on the activities they had undertaken over the last few weeks.
- Governors reported on the Governor training they had undertaken recently.