

The Governing Board
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole
Summary of Local Governing Board Meeting
Held on Monday, 16th November 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Apologies: Ms R. Granger and Mrs M. Kus Kwiatkowska.

In Attendance: Mrs P. Rushton (Clerk).

Chair's Business

Mr Hayward has resigned as a Governor.

Headteacher's Report

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

- The school is unable to establish whether recent advertising has been effective in generating admission enquiries as applications are sent direct to the Local Authority or completed online.
- Liturgies are being done via Zoom. Issues around photo permissions prevent the sharing of these.
- Examples of the RE Leader working with the RE Advisor were given. The school is working on the new RE Scheme and the school's RE Leader has been invited to support a CAST wide bid.
- Cluster work continues with a focus on science and computing for this term. The EYFS Leads for St Mary's and St Joseph's will meet as early adopters of the EYFS strategy. Schools are sharing their strengths within the cluster.
- Staff continue to attend staff meetings using Zoom and staff are accessing CPD. CPD has recently been undertaken on the Rosenshine principles, speech and language, safeguarding and The Write Stuff.
- Children on the 'cusp' comprise two groups: those currently working towards and moving to expected and those at expected but who need close monitoring. These groups make up 8-9% of children. These children are given additional support, e.g. extra phonics or writing support. Teacher conferencing or small group work is being undertaken.
- An explanation of the Rosenshine principles, No More Marking and The Write Stuff was given.
- There is a correlation between those engaged in home learning and those achieving ARE and ARE+. There were instances where issues with technology needed to be addressed before the children could access online learning.
- The school knows which children are self-isolating and these children access learning on Google Classroom. This learning covers the same learning intentions as those taught in class. Children in F2 use Tapestry to access their learning. Sometimes teachers will share PowerPoint presentations and sometimes IXL is used. Live streaming of lessons is not in place as there are issues around camera set up. If a bubble is to be closed, then lessons would be delivered using recorded content. Asynchronous teaching is used to reduce the pressure on families to access lessons at a specific time.

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- Staff will be using the Rosenshine principles to understand where children are in their learning and to identify gaps. The March assessments will be done using teacher judgements.
- Maths No Problem is especially difficult on Google Classroom. Maths concepts are being taught using IXL where the methods used are the same as those used in school.
- The high levels of apparent persistent absence are inevitable at this time of the year given that a week's absence will push children into the formal definition of persistently absent. There is currently only one child of concern around attendance.
- SLT and staff recognise that we are experiencing a national emergency and this requires extra effort. All staff are doing the right thing and there is absolute teamwork in place.
- Everyone is working hard to ensure that the school is a safe place. All staff are following the risk assessment.
- Additional expenditure arising from Covid is being tracked. If the school budget were to dip into deficit, then this could be explained.
- The school is not using parent reading volunteers at present. Professional visitors are still coming into school.
- Take up of the after school club is down by 13% on last year and breakfast club is down 24%. The later slot for after school club is not running.
- Sports clubs are on hold in line with Government advice.
- The school is in the process of renovating laptops for pupil use. Chromebooks have been applied for. It was considered that there was a long way to go with access to devices for remote learning.

School Improvement Plan

Mrs Armstrong advised:

- The new strategy around pastoral care has released more of the Pastoral Support Worker's time and reduced the number of children using the Hub. No children are missing out as a result of the change and work is becoming more focused.
- Future evaluations of the SIP will be colour coded so Governors can see the progress that has been made.

Governance

- An Autumn Term schedule has been produced to guide Governors' monitoring activities. This replaces the Schedule of Accountability.
- Changes were agreed to Governors' roles and responsibilities.
- Governors would seek to recruit to the Curriculum and Standards role – advert to be produced.
- Governors reported on visits/conversations that had been held since the last meeting relevant to their Governor responsibilities.
- Governors reported on the training they had recently undertaken.

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Policies

- Governors approved the Blended Learning Protocol.
- Governors noted CAST policies covering:
 - Health and Safety
 - Absence Management
 - Staff Code of Conduct
 - Teachers' Pay
 - Coronavirus
 - Special Leave
 - Data Breach.