

**The Governing Board**  
**St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole**  
**Summary of Local Governing Board Meeting**  
**Held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Apologies:** None.

**In Attendance:** Mrs P. Rushton (Clerk).

### **Chair's Business**

LC advised that Mrs Kus Kwiatkowska had resigned as a Governor. Governor recruitment underway.

### **Admissions**

Meeting held. 46 offers made to parents for Reception in September 2021. Current Year 2 is now full. Spaces are available in the current Reception class and Year 1.

### **Headteacher's Report**

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

- Currently, 400 children on roll compared to 389 back in January 2020.
- Around 25% of children attending school at any one time with around 40% of children attending school at some point. This is a mix of vulnerable and key worker children.
- Attendance around 98%, although sickness absence is starting to increase.
- School has active Twitter account and has recently launched a Facebook account. The school continues to advertise in the BCP Magazine.
- Two teachers shielding due to Covid and are teaching from home.
- School's ICT is challenging with some laptops no longer being fit for purpose. The Trust have recently provided eight whiteboards and four laptops.
- Staff sickness absence is increasing and this has impacted on the school's supply budget. It is hoped that these costs can be covered by reducing expenditure in other areas of the budget.
- A member of staff holding a TA and MDSA contract has resigned. An agency TA will be employed pending the transfer of a TA from another school.
- AN and HA discussed RE and Catholic Life. Noted the school has its values embedded and the next step is to develop staff understanding of the virtues.
- HA is leading liturgies on Monday and Friday each week. It is hoped that after Easter HA will lead the Monday liturgy with year groups leading the Friday liturgy.
- The RE Leader is doing lots of work to ensure communication within the local community. The RE Leader has recently had a book published in America. HA has recently attended an RE Conference.
- The school has restarted Live Life to the Full, the school's RSE programme.
- Pupil conferencing is being used to assess the children's well-being. Some children are coping well with others finding the last three months very challenging, having rarely left the house.

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- Lockdown has had a mixed impact on disadvantaged children, with little correlation between those children who were attending school during lockdown and those who were receiving home-schooling.
- £80 per pupil Catch Up Funding has been received. The Catch Up teacher is assessing progress. A baseline is being used where appropriate.
- Google Classroom and IXL being used. Phone calls home being made. Good communication and levels of differentiation in place.
- Current focus on English and Maths. Formative assessment being used throughout each lesson. Gaps in learning being identified by teachers. Some formal assessment taking place, e.g. in Read, Write, Inc.
- Children's stamina for work is an issue with many children becoming tired in the afternoons. Staff are prioritising the more demanding work in the mornings and focusing on well-being in the afternoons.
- Videos are being produced to show the social side of school and it was hoped that this would encourage the children to be excited about coming back to school.
- HA thanked ST for managing the children and staff and being 'hands on' in school.
- Two budget meetings held this term. One to discuss the current budget and the other to discuss the budget for next year. Budget allocations have been adjusted as needed to account for areas of additional spend and reduced income.
- The school has been able to meet the Trust's KPIs in respect of its budget.

#### **Governance**

- A temporary Schedule of Accountability is in place for Governing Boards for the Spring Term. Questions have been included on the Schedule of Accountability which can be used to form the basis of a conversation with school staff.
- Governors were assigned to each area of the Schedule of Accountability.
- Governors reported on any activities they had undertaken over the last few weeks.
- Governors reported on the training they had recently undertaken.

#### **Any Other Business**

- The school is currently procuring hot meals and Governors were requested to support this process.
- A bid has been submitted for a school dog to provide pet therapy. Funding awarded to provide for two hours each week for 12 weeks.