

The Governing Board
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole
Summary of Local Governing Board Meeting
Held on Monday, 1st February 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Mrs P. Rushton (Clerk).

Headteacher's Report

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

- Catch up funding of £80 per child has been allocated to the school – total £31,000. A programme of catch up support is in place. Spending so far includes:
 - Read, Write, Inc. Spelling
 - Fresh Start
 - Two TAs to run Read, Write, Inc. programmes in the afternoons
 - A supply teacher to work with small groups in KS2 to address gaps in learning identified by class teachers.
- The progress of children will be carefully tracked to provide evidence of the successful use of the Catch up funding.
- Children are positively engaged with Google Classroom, with increased numbers of children posting to Google Classroom compared to the last lockdown. Children identified as vulnerable are attending school.
- Some children have received support and have been supplied with a Chromebook. These children are generally uploading their work to Google Classroom.
- Noted that some parents are finding it difficult to balance their work and supporting their children. Support is being provided by teachers where possible.
- Lockdown significantly impacted deployment of TAs, who are now working in different year groups or with different bubbles of children. Some are leading interventions, e.g. Read, Write, Inc., phonics or basic maths. Some TAs are working with groups on Google Classroom.
- The school has around 100 children in school.
- Monitoring is difficult at present, but ST is able to observe what is happening around the school and HA is monitoring Google Classroom.
- Teachers are planning for teaching using Google Classroom in such a way that the same lessons can be delivered in the classroom. Lessons are focused on English and Maths.
- School has good evidence that it is providing a good curriculum offer through the use of the engagement tracker set up by the Trust. There is an improvement in the number of children completing work in all subjects within the curriculum.
- Work on subject leaders knowing their subject continues. Link Governor roles will be considered. It was suggested that Governors use the curriculum partnership planning sheet and the curriculum questionnaire when having discussions with subject leaders.
- Pupil numbers are increasing. The numbers of children attending school during lockdown has increased and the school is having to ask for evidence of being a key worker to ensure that the school works within its risk assessment. The school has around 26% of children attending on a daily basis, although around 35% of children are in attendance at some time during the week.

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- So far only one bubble has been closed. All staff are following the risk assessment. Governors assured that the school is trying its best to keep everyone safe.
- Despite Covid creating additional expenditure, the school continues to operate within budget overall.
- Staff have commenced lateral flow testing and all results to date have been negative. Governors were assured that the school knows what to do in the event of a positive test.
- Five staff are doing their NPQML and one member of staff is doing a mentoring and coaching course.
- EYFS staff are able to evidence accelerated progress towards reaching national standards. As an early adopter of the new EYFS Framework, the school is in a strong position to move children forward.
- IXL uptake is 90-95%. This is in addition to what is being done on Google Classroom.
- The school has received 22 Chromebooks from the Trust and 14 from the DfE. The school has tried to give a Chromebook to all children using phones to access learning.
- Teachers are recording on the engagement tracker when children upload work to Google Classroom. Phone calls are made to parents if there are concerns around the level of engagement.
- School is making use of recorded lessons rather than live lessons to accommodate those that may have difficulty accessing learning at a specific time.

Governance

- Governors reported on any visits/conversations since the last meeting relevant to their Governor responsibilities.
- Governors reported on the training they had recently undertaken.