



SHIRLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Standards Committee
held at 4pm on Tuesday, 26 January 2021**

Present: Louisa Meynell (LM) - Chair
Jenn Abecina (JA)
Giselle Dunn (GD)
Sally Birse (SB) (part)
Ian Glover (IG)

Also in attendance: Suzanne Wernham (SW)
Diane Mitchell (DM)
Andrew Pulham (CK) - Clerk

**The Chair started the meeting at 16:05
The meeting remained quorate throughout**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from John Cattermole (JC), Rhiannon Evans (RE) and Mark Broadbent (MB) and these were recorded as authorised.

The absence of Iman Ibn Tahaikt was recorded as not authorised.

2. Declarations of interests

None were received.

3. Notification of urgent business

JA notified her fellow Governors of her family's likely emigration to Australia in the coming months, at which point she would of course need to stand down as a Governor.

4. Minutes of Standards Committees

- **28/01/20**

These were agreed on a unanimous basis, without amendment.

- **03/11/20**

These were agreed on a unanimous basis, without amendment.

5. Matters arising from 03/11/20 not on current agenda

In respect of the action agreed under Agenda Item 7 (communications strategy) Governors agreed that due to current pressures of work, this should not be regarded as a priority and would therefore be carried forward.

In respect of the action agreed under Agenda item 11 (EYFS introductions), it was reported that a Governor had been able to attend each of the three virtual introductory sessions and that each had gone well.

6. School reports on provision in respect of Covid-19

- i) In school: staffing, key worker and vulnerable children

SW took Governors through her reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

SW updated Governors on the number of pupils currently attending in person and explained how the "bubbles" currently operate. The process by which parents arrange a place for their child(ren) was also explained as was the daily reporting requirement placed on the school. A breakdown of a typical school day was also offered.

Governors asked a number of questions as follows:

Q. How does the 21% attendance rate at Shirley equate to the national picture?

A. This is in line with the national figure of 20%.

Q. Are numbers similar to those during the first lockdown in 2020?

A. Numbers attending are significantly higher than during the first lockdown in March/April 2020 where the attendance on a typical day was around 12 pupils (3%).

Q. Does it feel safe operating at these higher numbers?

A. Yes. Where necessary we can spread a bubble across two classrooms. Appropriate spacing is being maintained and staff are content with the current arrangements.

Q. What percentage of our vulnerable pupils are attending in person?

A. Approximately 50% are coming in to school. Follow-up is always undertaken when a child in a vulnerable category does not come in and appropriate remote learning arrangements are put in place. In respect of EHCP pupils, a risk assessment is undertaken relating to their attendance at school, which is lodged with CCC.

- ii) At home: Remote learning and live learning

DM took Governor through her reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Governors noted the steps the school was taking to make remote learning as interactive and engaging as possible and that the staff had risen to this challenge with enthusiasm. Ways in which the school had learned from and built upon its experience of the first lockdown were also explained. The practical out-workings of this include:

- A strong focus on writing and maths
- The creation of a private You Tube account, accessible by parents and pupils, where storytelling videos can be accessed.
- Provision of audio powerpoints and videos of teachers modelling key areas of learning.
- Provision of video PT workouts.
- Posting resources to all children in Reception, Y1, Y2 and some children in KS2.

DM confirmed that the 'Remote Learning Information' document would be populated with images and posted to the school's website. This would give pupils and parents a clear indication of the remote learning provision they could expect when necessarily absent from school.

Governors noted the completed DfE Framework and its role as a self-evaluation matrix for schools. Particular note was made of the improving situation in terms of pupils emailing completed work to their teacher (now at 70%) and pupil engagement in live lessons (also at 70%). Governors agreed that the practice of

contacting families each week is definitely boosting engagement as well as enabling the provision of more targeted follow-up and support. The increased provision of devices to pupils, including those provided by the DfE, was noted and welcomed.

Governors commended the staff on the thoroughness of the work they are undertaking at this time and on the enhanced quality and quantity of remote learning the school is now able to offer. They praised also the significant improvement in engagement with parents. The processes the school has implemented to review and update its plans on a regular basis, in order to drive improvement, were also commended.

Governors asked a number of questions as follows:

Q. What provision is being made for pupils for whom English is an additional language?

A. This is a recognised barrier and the school is taking a number of steps to overcome it, including pressing into service those members of staff with individual language skills. Videos have been made to support parents in accessing remote learning.

Q. The DfE Framework does not make provision for parents to be asked how *they* think remote learning is going. How can we find this out?

A. The school will be undertaking structured surveys using 'MS Forms' and is looking to schedule some community-based events. At present the school is able to benefit from much informal feedback from parents.

Q. What is the uptake of the You Tube videos?

A. The figures are available and will be issued to Governors.

(Sally Birse joined the meeting at 16:37)

7. Monitoring of standards

In JC's absence, SW and DM took Governors through his report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

i) Attendance and mentoring meetings

a) Attendance

Governors noted that at 21% attendance the school is in line with the national figure of 20%. They noted also the measures the school is taking to promote attendance where this is appropriate and to remain in contact with those not currently attending in person.

Governors asked a number of questions as follows:

Q. Is there liaison between schools where families have a child attending more than one school?

A. This would not happen unless a family elected to volunteer information or there was the need for professional involvement for some reason.

Q. How are the practicalities of pupil attendance in school working out?

A. This is being managed well across all year groups, with two classrooms being used where needed. The school remains able to observe the 2m spacing requirement at all times. Pupils are now very used to complying with such requirements.

Q. What is the cut-off in terms of the numbers the school could accommodate whilst maintaining necessary controls?

A. Some physical capacity remains and should a growth in numbers require further adjustments, the school will of course respond as necessary.

b) Mentoring

The success of the recently introduced mentoring scheme discussed and supported by Governors at FGB in December 2020 was discussed. Its use in the setting of targets and the preparation of progress reports using a 'RAG' approach was also discussed. The initiative was welcomed by staff who found the process of meeting with individual pupils immensely beneficial. The opportunity had allowed pupils to discuss their learning over the term and discuss areas to focus on during the Spring term.

Governors asked a number of questions as follows:

Q. Is it the case that no pupil can yet achieve a 'green' rating for attainment?

A. It would not be possible yet to award this rating because the whole curriculum has not yet been taught. This explanation will be given during conversations with pupils and there will be an opportunity for parents to discuss such matters following the issuing of a child's report.

This personal development scheme is also seen as important in terms of the child being encouraged to take ownership of his/her progression and is aimed at motivating them accordingly.

Governors suggested that effective communication with parents would be essential to explain this new approach. SW confirmed that a full explanation would be provided, including in the form of an information sheet to be issued in conjunction

with each pupil's report. It would also be possible to discuss pupils' 'RAG' ratings during parents' evenings.

Governors continued to express their support for the new scheme and asked that NQTs in particular be supported to explain it to parents. SW confirmed that such support is in place and that staff will receive coaching which will include provision of a script.

ii) Inclusion

Governors noted the measures the school is taking to promote inclusion, many of which had been discussed in-depth at the meeting of the Standards Committee on 3 November 2020.

Particular note was taken of the school's approach to mental health provision and Governors were updated on the training the staff have received in this area. In response to a question from Governors it was confirmed that the 'Blue Smile' scheme remains operational and in use at the school.

Governors commended the considerable effort that is being gone to by *all* staff to promote inclusion at the school.

iii) Data

Governors noted the areas in which the new lockdown had and would affect the formal testing of children in 2020/21. DM confirmed that the school would be opting into the Y4 multiplication check.

Governors commended the progress evidenced by this report, especially in the area of Y2 phonics which showed significant improvement.

8. Policy reviews

i) Remote Learning Policy

The Remote Learning Policy as amended was adopted on the basis of a unanimous vote.

9. Governor visits updates

i) EYFS

JA updated Governors following her virtual visit, with GD, on 10/12/20. A lot of positive observations had been recorded and these will form the basis of a written report to be submitted shortly.

ii) Maths

IG updated Governors following his virtual visit on 19/01/21. Again, a lot of positives had arisen from the visit, particularly the school's use of breakout rooms during virtual tuition and these observations will again be recorded in a written report to be issued shortly.

10. Urgent business accepted under agenda item 3

None submitted.

11. Updates from CCC

CK confirmed that the most recent update issued by CCC was the circular dated 12 December 2020 which had been sent out to Governors at that time and which had also been issued in conjunction with the current meeting.

12. Date and time of next meeting

CK confirmed that unless it was felt necessary to insert an additional meeting during the spring term, the next meeting of the Standards Committee would be held at **4pm on Tuesday, 16 June 2021.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 17:45

I confirm that at a meeting of the Standards Committee held on _____ these minutes were approved and signed as being a true and fair record.

Signed -----

Position -----

Date -----

Summary of actions (not part of minutes)

Agenda Item	Action	Lead	Due By
Item 6	Update Governors on the uptake of the school's You Tube videos.	SW/LM	ASAP

N.B. In respect of the above action point it was confirmed after the meeting that as of 26 January there had been more than 3,890 You Tube views and that a total of 226.6 hours of content had been watched.

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