

St Catherine's Church of England School



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Chair of Governors – J Wonnacott

11/03/2021

Minutes Spring Term 2 – 2021 Local Governing Board; St Catherine's Church of England School Thursday 11th March 2021 1.30pm remotely via zoom

1. Join Meeting

All participants had audio and video.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Present: James Wonnacott (Chair), Brendan Maguire (Vice), Margaret Young, Libby Phillpotts, Pippa Warner (HoS), Louise Hussey (EHT)

In Attendance: Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened with a prayer.

3. Declarations of Interest Relevant to this Agenda

None declared.

4. Confirm Minutes of LGB last meeting 2nd Feb 2021 and matters arising

- Complete SSS on-line safer recruitment training (JW, MY). *Carry forward.*
- Arrange a pupil voice meeting for MY with key worker children before the next meeting (LH). *This will be done week starting 15th March with MY – see item 8.*

LGB agreed the minutes and a copy will be provided for Chair to sign when normality resumes.

Apologies with given by BM, and accepted, for not attending the last meeting; it had moved dates and he omitted to change his diary.

5. Current Situation Update

Children are back in school and have settled quickly. LH has conducted a learning walk and reported that the children are engaged and excited to be back. Attendance is excellent; no children shielding and no parents refused to send children back as they consider the school to be a safe environment. LH highlighted the recovery plan to gather information on where the children are academically, and what the children's emotional, physical and educational needs are. Interventions will begin on 15th March during the school day and after school. Pupil progress meetings will produce a grid to highlight the needs of each child and what can be done. In terms of the curriculum, it is based on what absolutely has to be covered to ensure the children can progress to next year. Curriculum coverage will include every subject but with reduced content; LB is working on a plan for history. **Have you employed extra staff to support this work?** There was a tutor who has now left, so currently it is all being done within the current school staff. LH explained how the staff were being employed and the plans for additional tutors. **Have you received additional funding to help with catch up?** LH noted the

previous promised funding from the government has yet to be received but further funding has also been promised. However, the school has had access to additional MAT funding from the reserves to cover extra provision.

The governors sought reassurance that teachers and LH will not be working over the Easter and Summer holiday? Extended school days are not beneficial as children cannot concentrate for that length of time at primary age, the teachers don't just work the school day anyway so they need time to mark and prepare lessons and the like. Also the staff need time off to recuperate. The additional pressure on the leadership and teachers was discussed, but LH confirmed that everyone is keen to 'crack on' with it and help the children get back to where they should be. It is also important to get back into a normal routine as the children prefer this. Physical health has been taken into account too as the children have been less active during this lockdown due to the weather. LH noted that the staff at St Catherine's have been excellent and gone above and beyond.

A governor noted the results of the pupil surveys regarding the remote learning were interesting and showed differences between children's views of what was easy at home and harder at home. How is the catch up on reading going to be dealt with? LH explained.

6. **Future Plans**

NTS assessments will be used internally, phonics screening and SATs (but not externally). All external assessments are cancelled. Academy Improvement Officer will look at the recovery schedule and produce a report in the last week of term for governors.

7. **Safeguarding**

S157 is being worked through at the moment and MY will be consulted on this. New school fencing is being erected.

8. **Governor Monitoring**

Parental feedback has been sought for specific matters but a proper parental survey will be done later in the year. Governor monitoring prior to next working group is:

- **Chair's meeting with CEO pushed back to week starting 22nd March.**
- **Chair meeting with LH on Wed or Thurs – date TBC**
- **Pupil conferencing week starting 15th March (MY)**
- **Consult on S157 safeguarding return (MY)**
- **Data protection & recovery plan (BM) – note the Academy Improvement Officer report at end of term.**

All this will be discussed at the working group in the first half of term.

9. **EYFS**

The school is an early adopter and therefore trialling a new framework that will be statutory from Sep 2021; all compliant. LH noted a teacher leading on EYFS on a voluntary basis. **Is it not appropriate for this teacher to be paid for the leadership role?** LH will be looking at this when the budget is reviewed.

10. **Any Other Business**

LH noted staffing structures and the plan to move staff around next year. Staff are currently on board for these changes. LH noted that the school will be getting a school dog and explained the

process. The governors are in favour of this. The governors discussed mental health in young children.

11. DONM

Working group on zoom on Thurs 20th May 2021 at 1.30pm. The next main meeting is Thursday 8th July 2021 at time TBC (either 1.30pm on zoom or 5.30pm in school (TBC).

The working group will cover recovery plan, feedback from online safety, safeguarding, data protection, and pupil conferencing monitoring, and recruitment.

Meeting closed at 2.40pm

TJH Martin
ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

J. Wonnacott – Chair/Foundation Governor
M. Young – Foundation Governor
B. Maguire – Vice Chair/Foundation governor
L. Phillpotts – Staff Governor
L. Hussey – St Catherine’s Head Teacher
P. Warner – Head of School
W. Hermon – CEO
Trust Board