

# St Catherine's Church of England School

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Moorland Road  
Launceston  
Cornwall  
PL15 7HX

Central Office Tel: 01566 772198  
E-Mail: [governance@andaras.org](mailto:governance@andaras.org)  
Executive Head Teacher – L Hussey  
Head of School – P Warner  
Chair of Governors – J Wonnacott

30/06/2020

## **Minutes – Summer Term – 2020** **Local Governing Board; St Catherine's Church of England School** **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020/1pm remotely via zoom**

### **1. Join Meeting**

It was confirmed that all participants had audio and video.

### **2. Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** James Wonnacott (Chair), Margaret Young, Brendan Maguire, Connie Smith, Libby Phillpotts, Pippa Warner (Head of School), Louise Hussey (Headteacher)

**In attendance:** Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

TM noted that TS has resigned as parent governor on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 due to family and work commitments. The Chair noted that he had written to thank her.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for giving up their time, and opened with a prayer.

### **3. Declarations of Interest Relevant to this Agenda**

JW is no longer working for company providing ICT support to the MAT. TM will amend register of interests.

### **4. Confirm Minutes of LGB last meeting (5<sup>th</sup> March 2020)**

No actions. LGB agreed the minutes and a copy will be provided for Chair to sign when normality resumes.

### **5. Current Situation Update**

The Chair stated that he cannot put into words the amount of work, planning, organising and flexibility that has been needed to achieve what is in place now, and he gave heart felt thanks to LH and all the staff.

LH noted the latest weekly review made available to governors that contains a great deal of detail on the current provision. Keyworker provision was quite low on the uptake initially so provision joined with other town schools. As numbers increased, provision reverted to individual schools. Since re-opening, LH gave an update on the initial uptake and the current numbers in each year group. The numbers are increasing and the working practices seem to be going well. Children are being encouraged to return to school but it remains a parent's decision. The school has offered the year groups that the government has required – nursery, reception, Yr 1 and Yr 6. There is a limit on the nursery as there was not enough staff to manage the legally required ratios. The guidance included not having groups above 15 so LH took the decision to go to an A and B group to allow for increase in numbers while maintaining bubbles. But due to classroom space, availability of staff and the need to provide cover, the provision was for A

groups on Tuesday and Wednesday and B groups on Thursday and Friday. It is difficult to provide anything more while sticking to the guidance provided.

Initially there was a little anxiety and the first day back felt like the first day of term again, but the children are all happy to be back and enjoying school again. This will continue for 2 weeks and then the school will start the transition process. Weather permitting, it is intended to have a socially distanced picnic on the school field with Yr 5 parents and children, with their current class teacher and their new class teacher.

LH briefly discussed the remote learning provision and what is in place. There is a core of children accessing it very well. The staff are always interacting, messaging, calling, popping around and providing paper alternative packs. If the teacher has no response from the parents, LH then gets involved. LH confirmed that there are no families that they have not had contact with. There have been some individual zoom sessions or one to one sessions in school for those that have needed it. Parents have been very appreciative and supportive of what is in place; feedback is always very positive.

With regard to staff well-being, there has been some anxiety about how provision will be managed in reality. However, there have been regular meetings and good communication, and therefore it has been managed.

The next challenge will be planning for September when the requirements are not yet known and seem to change regularly. LH noted some leaked guidance that seems completely impractical in terms of space, time, resources, cleaning and staffing. It is likely that this guidance will need scrutiny as does not seem possible to follow.

A governor questioned whether we are keeping track of the additional expenditure due to Covid 19 protocols. TM confirmed that we are tracking this expenditure and will be claiming it but will have to see whether additional funding is actually received.

The governors noted that the weekly updates have been excellent and kept the governors fully informed, although they are conscious that it eats into the Head's time to produce these updates. LH noted that the staff have epitomised the church school values and have just got on with it, and didn't publicise it. It has been difficult but staff have not done it for praise, they have done it for the children. It was noted that the feedback from the Chair of the Trust Board was considered to be unreasonable, unwarranted and the nature of it was not compatible with constructive challenge. It was also considered that this negative criticism came from a position of not knowing everything that is being done or understanding the individual circumstances of the children and their families. Everyone is in a different position and blanket provision does not work for everyone.

LH explained some of the individual approaches that have been taken and the Chair noted that it was a wonderful example of the ethos at St Catherine's school. LH noted the approach to learning on return – no judgements, no blame, taking account of the fact that every child's home circumstances are different – and the fact that the children are not used to doing a full days learning. Nurturing and support is needed, not rigorous assessment and pushing the children as this will do no good for their well-being. It will not be easy to catch up with 6 months of learning and it needs to be carefully managed. A governor noted that the teachers' well-being is also important in all this catch up work. LH noted that it is difficult for children to concentrate for protracted periods of time, so there is only so much that can be done. It was also noted that the Government have confirmed that teachers will not be required to work over the summer.

The Chair passed on a huge thank you to LH and the staff, and noted that they have handled a very difficult situation with hard work, pragmatism and exactly the ethos that is expected at this school. It was noted that classrooms will need to be put back together and furniture moved in July in preparation for September. It was noted that situations like Leicester may also affect decisions going forward and whether there will be any further lockdowns or closures.

**6. Future Plans**

Awaiting government direction before planning can start in earnest as the requirements need to be assessed. LH will keep governors informed and things might change over the summer. Discussed further in item 5 above.

**7. Staffing Matters**

LH liaising with staff who haven't been in school to look at possible returns into school. These staff have been working from home and contributing a great deal but if the school opens fully in September, staffing will need to be considered. LH noted 2 new staff will be starting in September and also a new staff member for the nursery has been recruited. Staff have been using their time to also continue with CPD and LH highlighted a number of teachers who will be doing some further qualifications, such as LP has applied for the National Professional Qualification for Headship.

**8. Any Other Business**

Date of next meeting will be confirmed once TM has put the MAT meeting programme together and we know more about the situation in the Autumn term. It is intended to revert back to a working group in first half of term and main meeting in second half of term, with monitoring visits if safely possible but meetings can revert back to remote meetings if need be.

The SEN local offer has been approved and will be published on website.

The Chair thanked everyone and the meeting closed at 14.05pm

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

**Distribution List:**

J. Wonnacott – Chair/Foundation Governor

M. Young – Foundation Governor

B. Maguire – Foundation governor

C. Smith – Parent Governor

L. Phillpotts – Staff Governor

L. Hussey – St Catherine's Head Teacher

P. Warner – St Catherine's Head of School

W. Hermon – CEO

G. Barriball – Chair of Board