

Minutes of the Governing Body meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams 17th May 2021

Present

Ms S. Lewis, Mr C. Johnson, Ms E. Scourfield, Miss B. Hurlstone, Mrs C. Porter, Mrs C. Pearman, Mrs E. Brown, Mr M. Chorley, Cllr M. Wilson, Dr E. Warren, Mr J. Wilcock, Mr N. Beighton, Mrs L. Duffy

The Governing Body welcomed and introduced themselves to the new Community Governor Mr N. Beighton.

Apologies for absence

Mrs A. James

Minutes of the Previous Meeting
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A current record.

Matters Arising

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Nothing to report

• Headteacher Report

Ms S. Lewis informed Governors that the report has now returned back to the normal format but not all sections are completed under the current circumstances.

Ms S. Lewis explained that it has been a challenging time but it has allowed the school to work with cluster schools and develop blended learning both quickly and efficiently. We are currently in the process of creating questionnaires to send out to parents, staff and children to gather information on how they found blended learning and how we can improve it.

Ms S. Lewis thanked Governors and parents for all the help and support during this time. Nursery numbers continue to be low at the moment but the afternoon session are currently benefitting from this as there are some children with additional needs. The September Reception numbers are also low at the moment, unsure if this is due to a low birth rate, but it is always difficult to determine the final numbers.

Ms S. Lewis informed Governors that Mrs Kendall, ALNCO, is retiring this year. To ensure continuity another member of staff has already been appointed to work alongside Mrs Kendall. The member of staff is working additional days to help with the accelerated learning and already has lots of experience with children with additional needs.

Appendix A: confidential item.

There are still a few INSET days left and these will be mainly focusing on curriculum reform and wellbeing. Ms S. Lewis will be holding wellbeing meetings with staff soon, using questions provided by the Vale to ensure everything is ok and to determine what can be done to help and support staff.

The school hasn't had to officially set targets as there were no outcomes at the end of last year. However there has been lots of assessments within school for reading, spelling and also non-verbal tests. This is allowing teachers to benchmark and keep track of where children are and is helping to identify which children need extra support through the Accelerated Learning Grant.

Ms S. Scourfield questioned if a comparison has been made for where children are now compared to where children were pre-lockdown. Ms S. Lewis explained that there hasn't been a comparison in terms of whole school but they have compared data for individual children. This has allowed us to look at children as individuals and determine what help they need. There has been a fall in spellings but there are lots of positives, especially progress during lockdown with reading, showing where input has been.

Mr J. Wilcock queried what the children's behaviour has been like returning to a school day. Ms S. Lewis informed Governors that overall it has been very positive. The children have been excellent in terms of adhering to procedures and have settled in well. There are a few with additional needs and it has been quite challenging for them. Currently the playgrounds are sectioned to prevent bubbles mixing. Year 5 were finding this difficult, due to the Year 5/6 class and Year 6 class not being able to mix. It has now been agreed that Year 5 and 6 can create a bigger bubble outside as it is the Year 6's final term.

Dr E. Warren asked if the Vale have offered additional support for Mental Health. Ms S. Lewis informed Governors that the children have been completing SELFIE (emotional self-assessment) and generally all children have been fine and we are not aware of any issues specifically related to Covid. Staff have also been excellent planning weekly sessions focusing on wellbeing.

Ms S. Lewis explained that there has been some exclusions but these exclusions relate to children with additional needs where their behaviour could not be ignored. This has resulted in employing LSAs to help, which is a financial cost but extra support is needed.

Attendance is still being monitored regularly but no action can be taken currently. Punctuality is not great at the moment. The 20 minute drop of time was reduced to 10 minutes but there are still a lot of children arriving late. This has been mentioned on the newsletter and further action such as individual letters may have to be sent if lateness continues.

Mr J. Wilcock questioned about staff wellbeing and if professional development is relevant under the current circumstances? Ms S. Lewis explained that she is conscious not to overload staff at the moment but sometimes staff ask her if they can attend certain courses. The ALN bill is very time consuming but necessary, positive to currently have two members of staff to help support each other. Generally staff are keen to understand more on how to support children. They are conscious about the new curriculum and we will need to start focusing more on this.

Cllr M. Wilson queried if there are enough development days in the next academic year to help to prepare for the new curriculum? Ms S. Lewis advised that extra days are being put in next year and the INSET days will be mainly focusing on this.

É Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

É Governor Training

All Governors are up to date with mandatory training.

Mr N. Beighton has not received any information regarding training from the Vale. Mrs E. Scourfield informed Mr N. Beighton about what training is available and how to arrange this.

Teachers' Representative Report

Nothing to report Mrs A. James absent.

É Non-teaching Staff Representative's Report

Nothing to report.

• Committees

Leadership Committee met a few weeks ago and the budget was agreed. No deficit to be carried forward due to having saved funds and additional grants. New budget has just balanced with no surplus. Teaching resources is quite low which we will need to be aware of throughout the year.

Short discussion took place regarding if and when the committees should return to meeting.

Mr J. Wilcock suggested that the Leadership Committee should meet again in September.

All Governors agreed that it is difficult under the current situation for other committees to meet and therefore these will be discussed again in September.

Mrs C. Porter suggested that there should be another full Governing Body meeting before the end of the school year to focus on the new curriculum and the ALN bill. Ms S. Lewis will send Governors information to read through before the next meeting and will invite the ALNCOs to the next meeting to discuss the ALN bill.

• Disciplinary policy

All Governors agreed with the Vale of Glamorgan revised Schools Disciplinary Procedure.

• Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

Ě Health and Safety

Ms S. Lewis informed Governors that some of the outdoor equipment does need replacing and she will discuss with the PTA to see if they can help with the cost. Mrs E. Scourfield questioned if the PTA had any funds as they haven't been able to fundraise over the last year due to the pandemic. Ms S. Lewis informed Governors that the PTA did have a surplus at the end of last year. Fundraising events have been limited due to the pandemic but also conscious that some families have had financial difficulty over the past year.

Clerk to invite a member of the PTA to the first Governing Body meeting in the new school year for an update.

• GDPR, Data Breach and Cyber Security

Nothing to report.

Ě Any Other Business

Mrs E. Brown questioned if there are any updates regarding after school clubs restarting. Ms S. Lewis advised that guidance still advises to limit bubbles mixing and visitors to the school. For instance the hall can only be used by one class each day and could not be used again for an after school club. This could change for next year but currently there is no further information regarding when they can return.

Mr J. Wilcock informed Governors that he and Mrs E. Scourfield had a virtual meeting with a potential new Community Governor but haven't had confirmation if they would be happy to take the vacancy. Clerk to email to check if they are still interested.

Ě Matters deemed to be confidential for the publication of the minutes

Appendix A: Discussed in Headteacher Report

Ě Date of next meeting

Monday 28th June 2021

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date:

Minutes unable to be signed due to virtual meeting.
All Governors agreed a current record 28/06/21