



Headteacher: Mrs Carol Dunne

**MEETING OF FULL GOVERNING BODY
TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017, 7:30 PM**

Meeting held in school

Present:

Carol Dunne (CD); Helen Wigginton (HW); Nicola Gladwell (NG); Janice Markey (JM); Natalie Sands (NS); Catherine Kimber (CK); Alan Ford (AF); Clare Willetts (CW); Lloyd Czaplewski (LC); Victoria Middleton (VM); Phil Cooke (PC); Graham Robinson (GR)

In attendance:

Rose-Marie Smith - Clerk (RS)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah Calow and Linda Butler. The meeting was quorate. NG welcomed Phil Cooke and Graham Robinson as Local Authority and Co-opted governor respectively, and introductions were made.

2. Declaration of pecuniary interest in any agenda item

None declared.

3. Items for any other business

None declared.

4. Minutes of previous meeting/matters arising

Meeting held 2 March 2017; document circulated prior to meeting

- Governors' 'Learning Walk' – CD confirmed that this has been arranged for the morning of Friday 19th May, with the purpose of helping improve opportunities for monitoring the SDP, and offer support and challenge. CD will arrange a timetable, to include a pupil conference, and feedback to staff afterwards. GR asked if staff are likely to feel uneasy about a governor presence; CD said she would hope not, as staff recognise the importance of maintaining a transparent and co-working relationship with governors.
- Defibrillator – NG asked if any governors were willing to volunteer to push the community project forward; JM and GR both agreed to be part of a working party. Long Furlong Community Association,

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Christ Church on Long Furlong, Badger Club and the school are all keen to support the initiative.

- The SDP had been uploaded to GovernorHub.
- The self-evaluation document will be discussed later in this meeting.
- Training – RS to arrange online Safeguarding training for CK via the NSPCC
- NG thanked all those who were able to make themselves available at the most recent parents' evenings to speak informally to parents
- HSE stress survey – **ACTION POINT:** AF to collate results, feed back to committee and staff before end of summer term
- Antibullying – CD and HW meeting on 26th May.

AF

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Head's Report

Document circulated prior to meeting

CD again apologised for the late distribution of the document. Agenda items 5 and 7 were discussed together.

CD commented that 'Self Evaluation Form' (SEF) used to be a document required by OFSTED in a pre-set template, but is not now required. Self-evaluation by school leaders is essential for informing the School Development Plan.

CD commented that the Head's Report highlights how busy school life is! Attendance remains good overall, and will continued to be closely monitored, particularly if there are concerns about safeguarding issues.

NG observed that although Reception class attendance is lower overall, which may be because parents have less reluctance to take non-statutory school age children out of school, dialogue has been had with all parents about expectations of regular attendance.

LC queried the inclusion of class-by-class data on the front page of the report; NG stated that it can be useful in understanding context.

NG asked if it is only the Early Years Foundation Stage that is being moderated this year; CD confirmed that this is the case.

6. Update – School Development Plan

NG commented that the Teaching, Learning and Pastoral committee takes responsibility for much of the monitoring of the SDP. **ACTION POINT:** RS to upload the updated plan to GovernorHub.

RS

CD commented on a handful of points within the plan:

- Knowledge of statutory assessment (Reception, Y1, Y2, Y6) – some staff are experienced in statutory assessment, others are familiarising themselves with processes.
- Senior Leadership Team 'terms of reference' are in place
- Partnerships have been established with Rush Common and Dunmore; work will take place around joint moderation and mutual support

7. Update – Self-Evaluation document

See agenda item 5.

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8. School Budget 2017-20

NS advised that the Strategy and Finance committee have examined the draft 2017-20 budget and associated self-evaluation checklist, and recommend the budget for approval. There were no queries from governors, and the budget was approved.

9. Discussion Focus: National Curriculum Tests

AF led discussion around National Curriculum Tests, highlighting a variety of views and opinions:

- A recent media article highlighted the possibility of union action to protest tests in their current format
- The DfE is currently consulting on Primary assessment and the implications for accountability; the consultation was launched in March, and closes on 22nd June, and suggests a Reception baseline on which progress measures are based
- Overall teacher view appears to be that the 2016 tests were too difficult, causing stress to pupils and stifling a love of learning
- Headteachers feel that schools should be about a broader remit than testing
- Parent view – there are several websites such as ‘Let Our Kids Be Kids’ which express strong support for a move away from testing at Primary level
- Some commentators have expressed the view in the media that difficult tests are needed to prepare children for future life, and the fundamental purpose of a school is education

AF expressed his personal opinion that his hope for his children in Primary schooling is that they are happy, safe and well; it is, of course, important that they are prepared for the transition to secondary school.

NG enquired whether a response to the consultation is being prepared at school or partnership level; CD replied that she was not aware of any plans to do so.

VM asked if there any changes to the format of this years’ tests; CD advised that as far as she is aware, all will be similar to last year. She commented that ‘accountability’ is an important word to highlight when discussing the issue of testing, as attainment itself is not as important. Testing can be an unreal situation for pupils: all prompts have been removed, and they are unable to use physical resources.

NG commented that testing is a measurement of the school, not the pupils, and she is confident that school staff do their best to make the process as low-key as possible.

ACTION POINT: CK to lead discussion on ‘Support for Vulnerable Pupils’ at the next meeting.

CK

10. Standing Items

- Training – GR has undertaken the Governor Induction course
- Governor visits – the learning walk has been arranged; HW and NG to attend a School Council meeting
- FOLF – have generously agreed a £10,000 donation towards the cost of touchscreens in each classroom, to replace the existing

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SmartBoards. The Governors expressed their thanks for this large donation.

- Nursery – CD advised that 6 pupils have joined the Nursery this term, taking the number on role to 20.

11. Any Other Business

None discussed

Next meeting: Thursday 6 July 2017, 7:30 pm

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