



*As an inclusive community built on friendship and love, Christian values inspire us through faith in God and hope for the future.  
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We work together to ensure we achieve our aspirations and encourage independence.*

## Non-Confidential Minutes of the Governing Body Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 11:00.

Due to COVID-19, this meeting took place via virtual governance.

Governors Present: Mr. David Milham (DM): Chair,  
Mr. Tom Bird (HoS): Head of School,  
Mrs. Angela Matthews (AM): Consultant Head Teacher,  
Mrs. Chrystal Denys (CD): Vice Chair,  
Mr. Dan Freedman (DF),  
Mr Charles Low (CL)  
Ms. Eloise Symonds (ES),  
Mr. Simon Molony (SM),  
Mrs. Sarah Siddiqui (SS).

Clerk: Mr Nicholas Morgan

PROCEDURAL MATTERS			ACTIONS
1	<b>Welcome and Prayer</b>	The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and the AM led the Governing Body in prayer.	
2	<b>Apologies</b>	There were no apologies required as the Governing Body sat in full quorum.	
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT			ACTIONS
3	<b>Review of School Re-opening Plans</b>	<p>The HOS offered an update to the current arrangements and the progress of the attendance to date.</p> <p>7 days operation has run smoothly and children are happy to be back.</p> <p>Year 6 have been well prepared and have adhered to everything that's been asked of them</p> <p>Year R had found the return fatiguing but parents have followed everything that has been asked of them.</p> <p>Some parents had initially been apprehensive about the return but the feedback on the opening process and the measures that the school has in place has been positive and the children are happy to be back. This is reflected further as four more children will now be returning validating the processes the school has in place.</p> <p><b>Governors raised concerns about the limited numbers of disadvantaged children engaging in the reopening process and wondered what was being done to try and get more of these children back in education?</b></p> <p>HOS advised that some of those now returning would fall within the disadvantaged categories. Some parents had raised concerns about being in the school with children in key worker roles although this is becoming less so given the processes the school has in place so more are coming around to the idea. Planning has started for a September return for all children subject to official guidance.</p> <p><b>Governors asked whether there had been any issues with parents gathering outside the school site during pick up and drop off?</b></p>	



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	<p>Clear guidance has been given to all parents and no incidents been reported.</p> <p><b>Governors asked about the year R children and whether working with the need for social distancing had impacted their learning?</b> This was a concern of the teacher and the parents and will continue to be monitored and considered in the longer term. Most children are engaging with the work provided although some would benefit from the more traditional early years play-based approach still. The majority of pupils have been coping well with the more curriculum-based work.</p> <p><b>Governors had a question as to whether the behaviour policy had been adapted to the current situation?</b> The school used the Aquila model policy which has been updated for COVID and is following it.</p> <p><b>Governors had asked about Pupil Premium money and wondered what is happening with any remaining funds?</b> This has been allocated for the year and has been spent on specific interventions via Learning Support Assistants had not been furloughed and so have been paid using the funds for the year. These members of staff have continued to work in with the pupils remotely.</p> <p>HOS offered a further update on the provision for years R, 1 and 6</p> <p>Year 6- the proposal was to remain as is with 2 days but there is the capacity to increase to three days. They will be moved to the hall to help increase the group size. Year 1 – There is unlikely to be any more children coming back based on parent feedback and so it was suggested that the provision increases to three hours a day for three days for those attending. Year R – The plan is to split to the group and offer 2 hours for those that are engaging positively to the more advanced teaching approach, and those that are finding it more difficult will be offer 1.5hrs 5 days a week.</p> <p>Governors recognised the benefit to those parents in years 6 but there may be more of a need for other year groups to be able to access some provision. This should be considered when deciding whether to allow this group back for three days. Governors supported the intent of the plan to have more children from other years groups back in school and this is covered later in the agenda.</p> <p>The proposals are child-focused as some had struggled without the interaction of their peers. The school would continue to provide work for home as part of this more blended approach to learning.</p> <p>Governors discussed whether the time children had been out of education meant that they would come back being behind in their learning as per the headlines of some news outlets. It was agreed that they have not been taught</p>	
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		<p>elements of the curriculum more than not retaining information already taught meaning future good teaching would ensure all curriculum aspects had been covered.</p> <p>AM added that some children will get more support from home compared to others but good teaching can and will help all children catch up with their curriculum.</p> <p>With the plans working so well and there being space available the HOS proposed year 2, 3, 4 and 5 come in twice a week for 3 hours a day with class sizes restricted to 8 per group. Year 2 may need to ensure a clearer plan subject to the interest of parents.</p> <p>Year 5 will need support in getting mentally prepared for the Kent Test coming up but there would be no discrimination on this bases. Two groups would be created to accommodate those that wished to return. Governors highlighted the need to ensure year 5 started their preparation for next year regardless of the Kent Test as they will be sitting their SATs as the new year 6.</p> <p>Governors welcomed the proposals and that the school can provide more for the children than the current guidelines. It was a child-focused proposal to ensure no child is without some form of schooling between now and the end of the term. <b><u>The governors formally approved the proposal.</u></b></p> <p>The Chair offered that consideration should be given to the R rate in the area especially it this measure goes above 1. The LGB would need to restrict the movements in school again but right now the latest evidence from Public Health England is that the R rate is below 1. This must remain a safeguard for the future with more children coming on site.</p> <p>The HOS school would follow the Public Health England data to inform these decisions.</p> <p><b>Governors asked whether there was a need to incorporate communication to the wider community regarding the controls that the school has in place. A specific section on the website for these documents and communications for example.</b></p> <p>A separate section on the site highlighting the school's repose to the situation could be possible and this will be investigated. Communication of the school's plans would be crucial if the plans are different from other local provisions. Communications would need to be clear in light of the media attention that may be attracted with the wider opening.</p> <p>The trust has arranged for EW to undertake an audit of all the trust schools. The school will have theirs on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>NM advised that this is intended as a supportive review of procedures and should offer validation to the measures the school has in place.</p>	
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		<p>The governors discussed the tight budget and discussions is ongoing for next year. There will need to be some clear thought undertaken around the budget and a meeting has been scheduled to review this with the Marian Scally.</p> <p>A virtual monitoring of safeguarding will take place also.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>The Governing Body is next due to meet in 13<sup>th</sup> July 12:00pm</p> <p>Governors thanked the school for their work and during this challenging time.</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:45.

Signed: .....  
 Chair of the Governing Body

Dated: .....