

**Didsbury CofE Primary School
Local Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 7.30pm – remote meeting
Minutes**

Present:

Catriona Arundale	Foundation Governor
Simon Ball	Head of School
Kate Catling	Parent Governor
Abbie East	Foundation Governor
Paul Good	Chair (MDBE)
John Janulewski	Foundation Governor
Sam Morgan	Staff Governor
Philip Robinson	Parent Governor
Joyce Thom	Foundation Governor
Matt Whitehead	Executive Headteacher

Apologies

Augustine Ihm	Foundation Governor
Matthew Lee	Foundation Governor

In attendance

Kathy Crotty	Clerk
Kathryn Thompson RE	Yr1 class teacher RE Lead (<i>Until 8pm</i>)
Liz Gandee	Reception teacher and & EYFS Lead (until 8pm)

Any text in red bold italics represents a Governor question (Q); challenge (C); Governor and/or clerk support (S). Black bold upright represents decisions and actions.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Opening Prayer

Governors were welcomed to the meeting by Paul Good. Paul Good led the opening prayer

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Augustine Ihm and Matthew Lee.

3. Declarations of Non/Pecuniary Interest

- Catriona Arundale; Phillip Robinson, Kate Catling, Abbie East, and Matt Lee, all have children in the school. Paul Good has one grandchild in the school and John Janulewski has two grandchildren in the school.
- There are no other declarations other than those listed on the school website.

4. Presentations - RE; Art; EYFS

EYFS – Liz Gandee

- The presentation outlined the new EYFS framework and the different age cohorts. There are 17 ELGs (early learning goals) for the children to be assessed against by the end of reception. The differences in the new curriculum were explained with the links to the various subjects. This framework provides more detail for teachers. The biggest change is in the area of communication and language which now underpins the whole curriculum. The new framework requires quality interactions and practitioners are expected to model. There is a focus on a new vocabulary and the different emphasis was detailed. There is an expectation to now cover dental health.
- Baseline assessments are now statutory, this school trialled baseline assessments so are now more familiar with the processes. The assessment will be made against all 17 ELGs. The staff only now record significant observations, this gives more time for practitioners to engage with the children. The school will continue to track children who are exceeding. Assessments are tracked on Tapestry
- There is more emphasis on teachers using their professional judgement without the onerous paper trail. The broad and balanced curriculum is ambitious and lays the foundations for KS1.

S: Formal thanks were given to Liz Gandee for this informative presentation

Q: Governors asked what is Tapestry?

This is an online learning journey app; staff use an iPad to record their observations, and this can include photographic evidence. This is time consuming so this will occur less often.

Q: How do you manage the children in reception who have not been at nursery, are there many differences between the children?

All children enter reception with different levels of experiences and development. Prior to the children starting school teachers speak to parents and previous settings. There are three sessions prior to starting school which are used to get to know the children. By this time of year, all children have found their place within the class.

Q: Do parents understand the new assessment system of birth to three and three to four year olds?

Clear descriptors were shared at parents' evenings. This can be difficult for some parents with children with SEND needs. The new system does make sense. Some parents question why the children are working a three to four years when they are aged four, and there is clear guidance for parents to explain this.

Q: Has this new framework had the desired impact on your workloads or is this too early to assess?

The observations and recording on Tapestry still requires extra work. Other subject leaders have been shown the curriculum coverage and this is time consuming. Staff are mindful of the need to spend time in the classroom with the children.

Religious Education – Kathryn Thompson

- The action plan for RE is to review the policy in line with Diocese, implement visits to local places of worship, deepen the subject knowledge and re-establish the ethos group. Assessment in recent years has focused on GD (greater depth) being aligned with English. At one point only 1% of children were attaining GD in RE whereas for English this was nearer to one third. This was improving but dipped during the pandemic despite much online learning, impacted by the disruption. Higher numbers of children attaining GD is expected this academic year.
- The focus this year is to continue with enrichment activities and to build links in the community such as visits to West Didsbury Mosque. Food packages are collected.
- The application for accreditation with Christin Aid Global Neighbours has been delayed and this will be a priority.
- Book scrutiny is occurring and shows the children are learning about RE across the curriculum and there is much evidence of this. Staff have implemented the new scheme. Pupil Voice indicates children enjoy RE lessons. Overall, the ethos group is now up and running and this aims to help children understand Christian values. The school has introduced collective worship value cards, and last term the theme was generosity. The ethos group is working on a display in the reception area, this will be a tree from the parable of the mustard tree.

Kathryn Thompson attends meetings online and informed Governors the church school links need to redefine the purpose. The Christmas passada activity for Yr1 children will be undertaken if this can be done in a Covid safe way. Collective worship was maintained during the pandemic and this is now being reintroduced into schools.

S: Formal thanks were given to Kathryn Thompson for this comprehensive presentation

Q: Governors asked about the ethos walk?

The ethos group will walk around the school to look at how ethos is displayed across the school. For example, every classroom should have a bible and the group will look at wall displays to see if these can this be improved.

Q: How often will the ethos group review the school displays?

The walk is planned annually and may occur more frequently to check the progress of areas identified for improvement

Q: Governors asked for more information about the Global Neighbours programme

Global Neighbours is a Christian Aid initiative which provides accreditation. This started after the SIAMs inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which was pre-pandemic. The school is working towards attaining the bronze award. The curriculum provides the opportunity for children to look beyond their own community. Advocacy is part of this, the scheme aims to empower the children. The school will aim to progress to the silver award after review of the bronze award.

Art – Simon Ball presenting for Charlotte Lagonegro

- The Head of School (HoS) explained the school has many job-share staff, and they can present and reclaim lieu time or give the prepared presentation to the HoS. Charlotte Lagonegro opted to give the presentation to Simon Ball to deliver to Governors.
- The Art staff have prepared an expectation folder which is like a portfolio of examples. This folder of evidence of the children's art work will be useful for any inspections. All subject leads have been given an opportunity to review EYFS work and for Art this has shown the huge range of opportunities for art work.
- Charlotte Lagonegro has been developing "end points", these are the expected ARE objectives which can be achieved by the children. Every class studies an artist, craft person or a designer and a multi-cultural and diverse approach is taken when selecting.
- Every two years the school contributes to the Didsbury design competition.

Governors noted the cross curriculum approach is already in place. The RE is important in this school and Governors were pleased the children are enjoying this subject. The art sessions are delivered by some very talented TAs and the standard is quite exceptional.

Q: Governors shared comments from the children about the sessions on hat making with an outside expert. Is there the opportunity for outside practitioners coming into the school to work with the children?

The hat making was free, the school is keen for outside practitioners coming into the school this but subject to budget.

The HoS reported in the autumn term the children study current affairs and the children responded well to the plight of Afghan refugees and children raised money. Governors praised the children for their efforts.

5. Minutes of Previous in person Meeting held 5th October 2021

The minutes of the meeting held 5th October 2021 were approved as an accurate record

Action: The clerk will contact new Governors to offer support to complete the declarations.

This has been actioned and the clerk confirmed all Governors at DCE have now completed their required declarations on Governor Hub.

Action: Augustine Ihm will be asked about the link Governor role for Health & Safety / Premises

Governors agreed to carry forward this action, Simon Ball will ask him tomorrow

Matters Arising

John Janulewski was appointed as the vice chair of this LGB.

6. Head of School Verbal Report including

Covid risk assessment protocols

New information has been sent to parents to explain how the school can operate as normal as possible, and the minimisation of risks. The CoG reported a discussion with the HoS about live events. The current intention is to allow parents into school but

circumstances might change. Decisions about visitors to the school are operational and the situation can change quickly. Covid rates in Manchester remain high.

Assessment

Autumn term baseline assessments are being conducted and some data was shared. Many children are on track despite the pandemic disruptions.

Year 6 target setting SATs 2022

The Yr6 class has 11 out of 32 children who have not started on the Yr6 assessments. SATs are expected to return in 2022. The Yr6 cohort has many children with SEND needs. The predictions based on previous SATs thresholds show the children are doing well. There are some new children in KS2, and this includes EAL children. There are 10 children with EHCP or support plan in the Yr6 cohort. This cohort also has PP children and children with social and emotional needs. This cohort benefits from an experienced TA and there will be booster groups in the spring term. Progress is being made.

C: What scores did the current Yr6 achieve at KS1 as the progress will be measured from this? Was this cohort below the expected attainment at KS1?

This information was shared last year. Ofsted will look at the ISDR and this year group were in the third quintile whereas all other cohorts tend to be in the top quintile. There has been much mobility in this cohort and progress is expected to be “good” and not “outstanding”.

Pupil premium strategy including Recovery premium allocation

The Pupil Premium Strategy was shared in advance of the meeting and the report uses the DfE template as required. The Pupil Premium funding is for disadvantaged children defined by entitled to FSM (free school meals) or P/LAC (Previously/looked after children). The spending is based on EEF research (Education Endowment Foundation) and this recommends firstly a whole school initiatives on teaching. The second strand recommends targeted academic support with interventions. The third strand recommends providing wider experiences and to provide richer experiences for deprived children. This school has the lowest rates of pupil premium children in the whole of the LA (local authority).

In the last academic year, the DfE provided a catch-up grant and this year the grant is called the Recovery Premium. This is only for pupil premium children and £141 per child is awarded, the grant is only approximately £2,000 for the school. This school does not have many children who are deprived but does have children with complex needs.

Governors formally ratified the Pupil Premium strategy statement

C: If you are using pupil premium funding across the school, how can you demonstrate this is closing the attainment gap of pupil premium children?

The second part of the plan refers to output (impact). The mock SATs last year provide some data for the school even though this is not official. 80% of pupil premium children are achieving their AREs.

School Led Tutoring update

The first national scheme using private tutoring organisations was unsuccessful, there were quality issues. This new initiative provides 75% of the funding to schools and allows schools to find their own tutors and is only for PP children. The funding is for 15

hours of tutoring outside of the school day. (The school last year run interventions during the day). This funding can be clawed back if not used. The school is expected to pay 25% of the tutoring costs. The teachers are running the after-school sessions, as the teachers know the children well.

Premises Update

The HoS and the Executive Headteacher have met with the site manager and all checks are being undertaken, these were detailed in the HoS report.

Q: The grant funding for recovery learning has dropped from £16,000 to £2,000, how will this meet the needs of the children?

The national average for each school is £6,000. The children in this school have made more than one year's progress. The recovery premium can be added to the pupil premium and interventions are occurring. This school has experienced TAs running these interventions. This school has children who are resilient and there is much parental support.

S: One governor observed an English lesson, and she was impressed with the collective worship. The progress was noted as extraordinary.

S: Governors were aware the Yr6 children have great compassion towards diversity and the high numbers of children with complex needs has had a positive impact on the whole cohort. Governors were aware the children rise to the challenge in this school. The tolerance respect and understanding were commended.

S: Governors gave Simon Ball formal thanks for the excellent report.

Term dates 2022-23 for ratification

The dates align closely to MCC (Manchester City Council) recommended dates with variations for INSET dates. There is one significant change, MCC recommends term ends on the 16th December 2021 which is nine days before Christmas and returning early in new year. DCE like other schools in the Trust will work closer to Christmas and will return slightly later in January. (School crossing patrols and school transport no longer are an issue for DCE).

Governors formally approved the term dates for 2022/23

Governors were informed Allan Torr the QA will be in school this week reviewing the Manchester priorities which include the EYFS new framework and reading.

7. Behaviour and Safety update

A safety audit has occurred by the Executive Headteacher. Some children were interviewed and reported they feel safe. CPOMs is used regularly, and the SCR (single central register) is up to date.

The CoG reported he was involved in a parental concern and all issues were satisfactorily resolved.

8. Executive Headteacher updates

Finance Update

The original budget projected a £20,000 surplus and then the government announced increases in NIC (National insurance contributions) which impacts for five months of this budget. Inflation and rising energy costs were also not in the projections. DCE has

spent more as many SLAs (service level agreements) are paid in advance. Income is higher than projected due to Kids Club. Staff costs are as expected.

Q: Are energy costs fixed for five years?

Yes this was renegotiated on a five year deal which ends in 2023.

Q: Is there specific figures for Kids Club?

The manager Lisa Burns has reported the invoicing and the flat fee is working well. The school has invoiced for £17,000 which was the largest amount ever. The calculation of actual profit (income less costs) will be undertaken at the end of term and will be reported to the spring term meeting.

The school has had to employ some agency staff to work with children with challenging behaviour and staff costs are expected to rise.

Q: Will the deputy manager for Kids Club be replaced?

The current manager is covering and reviewing the situation, and a new person will be employed in January 2022. Capacity to manage the situation is a key risk. There will also be senior Kids Club Playworkers

S: The CoG on behalf of the GB gave formal thanks to all the SBMs (school business managers) for their managing of the school finances.

9. Governing Body Matters including:

Declarations update on Governor Hub

The clerk confirmed all governor declarations have been completed on Governor Hub

Any training undertaken

Governors were reminded to include training undertaken on Governor Hub.

Link Governor Reports

John Janulewski has met with school staff to talk about the broad curriculum. The next plan is to observe lessons.

Cat Arundel has met remotely with the SEND coordinator and reviewed the SEND action plan which is linked to the SIP.

Action: Clerk to share the link Governor template

10. Policy approval

Teaching statement

The document had mistakenly not been uploaded onto Governor Hub so approval will be sought via the Governor Hub portal and approval of the Teaching Statement can be ratified at the next meeting.

British Values

C: is there any change or links about peer on peer abuse?

The peer on peer abuse changes are in the Child Protection Policy and KCSiE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) and not this policy

Q: Who is the nominated Governor? This is mentioned in the policy.

Governors agreed this needs to be removed from the policy as a link Governor for British Values is not required.

Governors formally approved the British Values

School Code of Conduct

This will be changed later this year and brought back to the LGB

Governors formally approved the School Code of Conduct

11. Date & Times of 2021/22 Meetings

Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7.30pm (remote)

Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.30pm

Tuesday 28th June 2022 at 3.30 (meet the children)

Signed..... Date.....

Mr Paul Good (Chair)

Meeting closed at 21:30

Summary of actions

- Carry Forward Action: Augustine Ihm will be asked about the link Governor role for Health & Safety / Premises
- Action: Clerk to share the link Governor template