



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE OF ST SCHOLASTICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024 at 7.30pm

Members:

Name	Initials	Role / category of governor	Term of Office End	Attendance / Apologies
Althea Marshall	AM	Foundation/ Chair of Committee	01/05/2021 – 31/08/2024	Present
Sandra Brierley	SB	Headteacher	Ex officio	Present
Royer Vidal	RV	Foundation/ Chair of Governors	01/09/2023 – 31/08/2027	Present
Nick Blackham	NB	Staff	10/10/2023 - 09/10/2027	Present
Christina Boey	CB	Foundation/ Vice Chair of Committee	01/06/2021 – 31/08/2024	Present
Natasha Vock-Betton	NV	Foundation/ Co-opted	27/09/2023 - 26/09/2027	Present

Clerk: Jane Ware

Also present: Chandrika Sashidharan (CS), School Business Manager

ACTION LOG

Item	Action	Who	When	Status
27/09/23, 3.1.1	Governors to complete the declaration of interest with any interests either on paper at the Full Governing Body meeting on 18 October 2023 if not updated before on Governorhub.	All governors	18/10/2023	Completed
27/09/23,	Pre-meet before the meeting to agree the next meeting's agenda	Chair, Headteacher and Clerk	26/02/2024	Completed
20/03/24, 9.2	SB to arrange for governors to meet with subject leaders.	SB	Summer term	Pending
20/03/24, 11.1	Pre-meet before the meeting to agree the next meeting's agenda.	SB	Summer term	Pending

The meeting started at 19:30.

Part 1: Non-confidential

1.0	Welcome & Opening Prayer
1.1	All governors were welcomed to the meeting.
1.2	The meeting was opened with a prayer.
1.3	There were no apologies received.
2.0	Agreement to virtual meeting in line with GDPR regulations and School policy
2.1	Governors agreed for the meeting to be held virtually.
3.0	Committee Organisation
3.1	<u>Governors to declare any declaration of interest, pecuniary or otherwise</u>
3.1.1	No declarations of interest were raised.
3.1.2	SB advised governors to share declarations with the Clerk and update their profile on Governorhub with outstanding information.
4.0	Minutes of the Last Meeting
4.1	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 27 September 2023</u>
4.1.1	Governors considered the minutes within the agenda pack and APPROVED the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September as a correct record.
4.2	<u>Matters Arising</u>
4.2.1	CS confirmed that the fire risk survey actions have been completed.
4.2.2	The charging and remissions policy will be taken for consultation with parents, particularly around late collection.
4.2.3	CS confirmed that she shared the policy timeline with the Clerk.
4.3	<u>Actions Log</u>
4.3.1	The actions log was updated.
5.0	Review agenda and agreement of confidential items
5.1	There were no confidential items for discussion.
6.0	Urgent action taken since the last meeting – Chair to report
6.1	There was no urgent action undertaken since the last meeting.
7.0	Priorities - SB
7.1	<u>SIP Visit and KS2 statutory assessment tests (SATs)</u>
7.1.1	Highlights were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school improvement partner (SIP) visit was last Tuesday and SATs predictions and targets were reviewed.• The children are on track in writing, slightly behind in maths, and slightly behind in combined, which is down to one or two children, because it's 4%.• The school is confident that the children will attain their targets.• The target for reading was 79% and the current figure is at 75%.• The target for writing was 72% and the current figure is at 75%.• Maths was 72% and the current figure is at 68%.• Combined targets were 72% and the current figure is at 68%.• There are a couple of children who are not quite there yet, however there is additional support in place in maths and reading for them and there is also an Easter revision school from 2-5 April and it will be run by NB and the year 6 teacher.• The school won a national attendance award and early childhood diseases are prevalent so this is a real achievement.
7.1.2	QUESTION: What was the target for reading? ANSWER: The target for reading was 79% and we are currently at 75%. The target for writing was 72% and we are currently at 75%. The target for maths was at 72% and we are at 68% and our combined target is 72% and we are at 68%. Additional support is in place for those children and we are also going to be doing an Easter revision school. Easter school is a really good opportunity to work with the children.

7.1.3	<p>QUESTION: What is the position with children working at greater depth?</p> <p>ANSWER: At greater depth, we are at 30% for reading with a target of 31%, 28% for writing with a target for 28% and 35% for maths with a target of 38%. Combined has hit the target, which was 17%. Ambition for pupil premium children is around 69%, and we think most of them will get that. Two or three children will not, two of those are travellers and one has quite significant special educational needs. Last year we exceeded national averages and we are still on track to do that.</p>
7.1.4	<p>QUESTION: For children that have not made the attainment, what additional support is in place for them?</p> <p>ANSWER: There are already additional lessons in reading and maths during the week and Easter school as well. It is open to everybody and usually the uptake is really good so we are confident that all the children will attend.</p>
7.2	<u>Phonics Screening Check</u>
7.2.1	<p>Highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school anticipates that 80% of children will pass the phonics screening check. • Four children are on the cusp and they have been receiving additional support and they will be tested again before Easter break to check where they are. • They will have had an eight-week block of intensive phonics which should help them. • Each child is worth 5%. • There is strong phonics practice in early years and KS1, and the school's internal monitoring, observing and learning walks have shown us that. • Schools do not report on early years anymore, and there is no analysis on KS2 SATs multiplication times tables checks. • The move is to measure from early years and then at the end of year 6, but it will take some time for that process to come through. • KS1 SATs are not obligatory anymore but we will test anyway because it's really important to know where the children are and information will be shared with governors about that, and national averages on entry. • We assess termly anyway, but in terms of national outcomes, it's just the phonics screening check and there's no reporting on early years, it's just phonics and KS2.
7.3	<u>Attendance</u>
7.3.1	<p>Highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school won a national attendance award for schools that are in the top 10% and top 25% of schools nationally for the 2023-2024 return, based on schools with a similar context to us. • There has been lots of chicken pox and early childhood diseases so there have been challenges, but compared to where we were last year, traveller attendance has increased and overall attendance has increased as well which is really positive. • Today the school is at 94% and wants to be at 95% but if you take the travellers out, it's at 96.9%. The travellers as a group at 86.2%. This is an improvement on last year.
7.3.2	<p>QUESTION: Do we have an attendance officer?</p> <p>ANSWER: The attendance officer is in attendance and costs about £7k per year. We are trying to target reception children and the difficulty is that if they are not statutory school age, we can't really do too much until they turn five. We have three children in reception whose attendance is really poor but until they turn five, it's really difficult to make them come to school. It is good though, it is an improving picture and shows that the things we are doing are having some impact. We have a partnership with the Boxing Academy which is a Pupil Referral Unit and all the teaching is based around the discipline of boxing and they have offered a boxing coach and a young mentor on a mentoring programme and they come to the school once a week, targeting specific children as an incentive to come into school. This started in January and it has had a really positive impact on some children's attendance.</p>
7.3.3	<p>QUESTION: Is the Boxing Academy something that can be extended after the term if it is successful?</p> <p>ANSWER: Yes. They have four pillars in their curriculum and the last pillar is about mentoring and teaching others, so by having an hour session with our children they are getting that aspect of it and then there is the boxing. I know the headteacher well as we are part of the Hackney Schools Teaching Alliance and it is a reciprocal partnership.</p>
7.4	<u>Subject Leadership</u>
7.4.1	<p>Highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year SB started a course with the Ambition Institute, regarding curriculum leadership with curriculum leaders and preparing and supporting senior leaders with their curriculums. This included looking at the intention of the curriculum based around the school's vision, outlining the

	<p>purpose of education and then curriculum leads look at what their particular subjects should be about and the key knowledge that the children are required to have.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big topics and themes that run throughout the subjects are looked at. • SB has been supporting curriculum leads in relation to content, the order in which it is taught, progression maps that show what the learning should look like year on year. • Specific year groups and topics were discussed. • The SIP spoke to four of the subject leads and was very positive about the work that has been done so far. • NB spoke to the SIP who asked questions about the design of the curriculum and the intentions of how we ordered the subjects and why we chose specific topics for specific year groups, and it was a really in depth, positive conversation and the SIP was pleased and felt that we answered the questions well, which is good in terms of the upcoming visit from Ofsted. • Subject coordinators have to know their subjects really well and feel much more ready for Ofsted now. • Preparation for Ofsted has been in place since September. • Curriculum should be clear about how it is implemented, how it is taught and the path that is followed and the impact will be measured on the next visit. • This will include standards of the curriculum and what the children are retaining in terms of long term memory of facts and how the curriculum supports this. • The SIP is coming back in June and the next body of work will be about demonstrating the effectiveness of the curriculum. • There has been investment in the staff in terms of continual professional development (CPD) and they have been released for half a day per week from lessons to develop their subject area. • After half term this training will change into working in pairs, to further develop and gather information. • It was good to meet with the SIP, and strengths and areas of focus were identified. • SB will share the report with governors once it is finalised. • SB has joined the Falling Roll Advisory Committee. • SB will make a business case for a two year old provision and the school will need to consider the next year and the year after and the plan will be shared at the next Full Governing Body meeting.
7.4.2	<p>QUESTION: What was the training that the teachers did and do they feel more confident?</p> <p>ANSWER: Yes, they have been on a good journey, they know and they are able to talk about their subjects. I'm not worried about any of them speaking to anyone. Another focus is making sure that our curriculum links to our early years. It has been a really good opportunity for people to sit down and see how it links together across subjects and year groups. It feels like a really good team and everyone is moving in the right direction. There is really good morale at the moment.</p>
7.5	<u>Resources Committee Update</u>
7.5.1	<p>Highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Resources Committee we talked about the budget and CS predicts that there will be a small in year surplus, and overall there will be quite a large surplus again, however we need to forget that we have that money and focus on the here and now. • Here and now, the school is one pupil down on the census numbers from last year and some additional funding such as covid recovery stops at the end of this academic year, and the income will be slightly down slightly because of the numbers. • Difficult decisions will need to be taken, for example, a number of agency support staff are supporting special educational needs (SEN) children and that will likely stop and everything will be in house, curriculum budget will have to be cut, we really want forest school to stay and specialist teachers are a priority such as music, Spanish and computing. There is a five year projection in the resources committee folder and it shows a deficit coming. Lean times are coming, whilst there is surplus.
7.5.2	<p>QUESTION: What are the plans for the school, in terms of taking the send support inhouse? What does that mean in terms of workload for the staff?</p> <p>ANSWER: At present we have roughly one teaching assistant (TA) per class who do class based things and interventions. Two members of staff work with children 1:1 and they are employed externally. We can't do both any more so we are going to repurpose TAs and ask them to take on those 1:1 roles. Reception numbers are at 20, and if this doesn't change we need a plan. We don't have the luxury of being able to have permanent staff and agency staff. We need to try to cut our cloth from our annual income rather than fund staff from our surplus. We are awaiting three education health care plan (EHCP) decisions.</p>

8.0	Policies
8.1	The strategic timeline and policy schedule have been reviewed, with the new schedule for subject leadership, which does not need ratification by the Full Governing Body, they will come to SB for sign off
9.0	Link Governors
9.1	Governors were asked to do a report for their visits to the school.
9.2	<i>Action: SB to arrange for governors to meet with subject leaders.</i>
10.0	Decide whether any of the above should be confidential and if there are any new confidential items
10.1	None of the items above needed to be recorded as confidential and no new confidential items were raised.
11.0	Next Meeting's Agenda
11.1	<i>Action: Pre-meet before the meeting to agree the next meeting's agenda.</i>
12.0	Dates of Committee Meetings 2023/24
12.1	Committee meetings remain online, with Full Governing Body meetings in person.
12.2	<u>Future Committee date</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 June 2024

The meeting ended at 8pm

Signed by **Royer Vidal**, Acting Chair of Resources Committee

Date