

MINUTES

Full governing body meeting 15th September 2022 at 17:00

Governors

Mark Chesher (Chair of Governors) - CoG	Y	Marwa Batah - MB	Y
Jemima Wade – Head teacher (HT)	Y	Kareen Baker – KB	Y
Laura Brown – LB	Y	Vidya Venkatram	Y
Chloe Naja – CN	Y		
Sultan Fazel – SN	Y	Will Young –(Associate Governor) WY	A

Others present

Corinne Irving, Bursar	Y	Lena Seed, Clerk	Y
Bernie Musaka, DHT	Y		

** Y attended, A apologies approve, NA no apologies.*

Clerk: Lena Seed

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	WELCOME/INTRODUCTION	
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>The CoG welcomed Sultan Fazel to his first meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Vidya Venkatram for the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>Kareen Baker and Bernie Musaka were not present at the beginning of the meeting</p>	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p>Governors were invited to declare business interests against any agenda item. None were declared.</p> <p>Governors were reminded to update their annual declarations of interest on Governor Hub</p>	
3.	Notification of any other business	
	None	

4.	Governance	
1	Election of Chair Mark Chesher was elected chair for the Academic Year 2022/2023	
2	Election of vice chair Laura Brown was elected Vice-chair for the Academic Year 2022/2023	
3	Parent Governor appointment The Governors noted Sultan Fazel had been appointed as parent governor on 7th July 2022 and welcomed him to the governing body <i>Bernie Musaka joined the meeting at 17.09</i>	
4	APPOINTMENT The Chair proposed the appointment of Will Young as Associate Governor for a period of 1 year which was APPROVED	
5.	LA Governor Appointment The Clerk reported the position of LA governor had been posted with the LA in July and no candidates had been put forward. She noted this was not uncommon and the LA had advised it may take around 6 months to fill the vacancy <i>Kareen Baker joined the meeting at 17.11</i>	
6.	Standing orders The Governors received the Standing Orders and agreed the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term for appointment of Chair & Vice Chair to be updated to 1 Academic Year. • Pay Committee to be included. Actions: Clerk to table Standing Orders at the next meeting Clerk to check when skills audit was last completed	
7	Governor's code of conduct APPROVAL The Code of Conduct was approved. The Clerk reminded governors to record their approval of the code of conduct on Governor Hub.	
8.	Safeguarding training & Reminder to read KCSIE & Update on Governor Hub. Governors were reminded to complete the online safeguarding training. Action: Clerk to circulate the link to governors	
9.	Link Governor roles were agreed for 2022/23: Safeguarding (Mark Chesher) Health & Safety (Kareen Baker) SEND (Laura Brown)	

	<p>Priority 1: Disadvantage (PP), attendance and curriculum (Sultan Fazel & Vidya Venkatram)</p> <p>Priority 2: ECTs and staff wellbeing · (Marwa Batah & Kareen Baker)</p> <p>Priority 3: SEND (Laura Brown)</p> <p>Website & compliance (Chloe Naja)</p> <p>It was agreed that each pair of governors would spend time in school with HT & SLT.</p> <p>The following reports were scheduled for Meeting 2</p> <p>Safeguarding ·</p> <p>Health & Safety</p> <p>Priority 2: ECTs and staff wellbeing · (Marwa Batah & Kareen Baker)</p>	
5	Chairs update	
5.1	<p>Key Outcomes of strategy days 18th July & 12th September</p> <p>The Chair thanked governors for attending the 2 Governor Days. He noted the 18th July Governor Day had focused on the school's aims, ethos, strategy and feedback from staff on those aspect. Governors concurred the Argyle Code and the new SIP reflected their aims & ambitions for the school .</p> <p>Governor Day two had been attended by all governors and had focused on understanding data and results and reviewing SIP priorities. A session on Ofsted Experiences had also taken place.</p>	
5.2	<p>Any chair's actions</p> <p>Headteacher's appraisal</p> <p>The Chair reported he and the Former VC had completed the HT appraisal.</p>	
6.	Minutes from previous meetings	
1.	<p>The minutes from previous meeting of 30th June 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of that meeting and were approved.</p> <p>Actions carried forward :</p> <p>Chair to recruit co-opted governor</p> <p>The clerk to table discussion of inflationary risk and Teacher pay/strikes</p>	
2.	Minutes from PFFPP 19th May 2022 were approved as an accurate record of that meeting..	
3.	Minutes from TLPC 5th May 2022 were approved as an accurate record of that meeting.	
7	SIP 22/23 for discussion & approval	
7.1	<p>Governors noted the SIP had been discussed in detail during Governor day 2. She noted the Link Governor roles would now be reflected in the SIP and the approval was therefore carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p>HT to update with Link governor initials</p> <p>Governor to review final SIP</p> <p>Clerk to table for approval at next meeting.</p>	

8.	SEF	
8.1	<p>The HT reported the revised SEF reflecting the current school data and noted the Quality of Education was always trickier at the beginning of the academic year but that it was expected to return to excellent once routines had been embedded and the teaching was back to usual</p> <p>The HT noted entry level for Reception was exceptionally low and baseline assessments were now taking place to establish detailed information about levels on entry.</p> <p>The HT noted the ongoing issue with discrepancy between DfE and Camden Pupil premium numbers which do not always match. However, our most recent DfE data indicates that 52% of our pupils are eligible for pupil premium funding.</p> <p>The HT confirmed the funding received was not affected by the discrepancy.</p> <p>Governors noted the focus on wellbeing and the work the school had conducted since lockdown. The HT noted whilst Ofsted would be interested in staff and student wellbeing, this needed to be balanced with data/achievement and that what is seen in class and books must be outstanding.</p> <p>Governors noted children’s behaviours and parental expectations had changed since lockdown and that the school was working in a different context with less strive and ambition amongst parents and potentially amongst staff. The emphasis on work life balance and looking after yourself conflicted with achievement at all cost.</p> <p>The HT noted the school maintained the focus on doing what is best for the children. She affirmed that the right thing for the children who were new to English and who negatively affected the data, had been to admit them when they were living in hotels and had no access to education and that the school continued to admit children who had just arrived in the country and who were often quite traumatised. These children can only be discounted from published data in Year 6.</p> <p>The HT was also pleased to reconfirm the richness of the curriculum across the board and the excellence in reading delivery.</p> <p><i>VV joined the meeting at 17.49</i></p> <p>Q: Is the demographic profile the same as it was pre-pandemic?</p> <p>The HT reported the profile had changed. Pre-Pandemic the children had predominantly been Bangladeshi followed by Somali with 2 % white British. This had been a reasonably stable population where increasingly the parents had gone through the education system and were increasingly able to support and engage. Since the pandemic the population had been much more mobile with lots of families in temporary accommodation. These families were from a variety of back grounds with some highly educated finding themselves with significantly changed living circumstances and limited knowledge about the English education system with very limited resources and space to support.</p> <p>Additionally, pupils already living in the area had been impacted by significant time at home in some cases affected by parents struggles with mental health. The Bangladeshi community had also been very badly affected by Covid and lived with a great deal of fear during the pandemic so some of the youngest children coming into school had been particularly badly affected by this and had very limited life experience.</p>	

	<p>Q: were families also affected by very limited resource such as IT during lockdown?</p> <p>The HT concurred, although by the second lockdown each family had been provided with one device and had 3 live sessions per day. She noted however, that the aim of those lessons had been to keep children happy and engaged rather than working at the same pace as would have been possible in school.</p> <p>Q: How does our focus around digital skills compare to leading schools?</p> <p>The HT reported a computing curriculum scheme of work was in place from year 1 -4 providing a sound programme with strong use of technology in the classroom</p> <p>Action VV to attend a computing class.</p> <p>Q: Can we benchmark our SEF with schools' evaluations found outstanding.</p> <p>The HT reported that the Camden Professional partner had reviewed the SIP and SEF and had found them to be robust and well triangulated. Most schools do not publish their SEF and SIP.</p> <p>Q: Apart from Covid is there any other reason why attainment at the higher level is stubbornly below national.</p> <p>HT noted this comment related to a previous Ofsted priority which included improving attainment at the higher standard and greater depth. Nationally 30% achieve greater depth and many Argyle children may have higher barriers to learning and further to go from their starting point She noted that an able child from the most disadvantaged background with the right support could expect to achieve GD, but the context was that the overall the journey for the Argyle children tended to be longer so fewer reach GD.</p> <p>The HT further noted that GD has been controversial with the adoption of the mastery curriculum and noted there was some confusion as to whether school s were still working to GD or were meant to be more focussed upon bring children up to the expected standard. This year for example, the children's results at year 6 were only labelled as expected standard or not at standard. No results were labelled GD. Camden analysis counted scores of 110 or more as GD.</p> <p>Overall, the key would always be to send pupils off to secondary school working solidly and able to access secondary education.</p>	
9	Teaching & Learning	
9.1.	<p>SATs Data</p> <p>Governors noted SAT's data had been discussed in detail on Governor Day and there were no further questions.</p>	
9.2	<p>Numbers on roll</p> <p>NOR 349</p> <p>The HT noted that of the 349, 62 children were currently living in temporary accommodation and that were they to leave the NOR would fall below 300 which was exceptionally low. This may mean a return to mixed year groups which had</p>	

	<p>been trialled pre-Covid and had not been liked by parents, however, this may once again become necessary.</p> <p>Falling roll was an issue across the country but particularly in Camden. Camden's place planning agenda considered the current school structures to be unsustainable and is encouraging schools to be forward planning to create Federations with at least 3 or 4 schools sharing an executive headteacher. This also related to the Government's White Paper envisaging that all schools should be part of MAT by 2030.</p> <p>The HT noted Argyle was quite unique and served a particular demographic and Camden had talked about supporting other nursery and child care providers but these changes take time. She noted that whilst the school was well supported by Camden it was not immune from the changes nationwide.</p> <p>Q: is there a threshold below which you become vulnerable</p> <p>The HT noted that even with full schools the pressure would remain due to the financial pressures meaning all schools would be pushed towards alternative models. The HT reminded governors of the upcoming conference on this matter for headteachers and governors.</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>2 children & 2 families with CP 3 children with family CIN 3 undergoing assessments. 15 from 9 families supported actively supported by Early Help</p> <p>The HT reported that following a very quiet period a lot of families were now being supported by outside agencies.</p>	
10	Headteacher's verbal update on any significant changes or events	
	There were no further updates	
12	Policies	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEND 2. ECT 3. Child on child abuse and sexual violence and harassment 4. Safer recruitment & staff conduct 5. Allegations against staff 6. Safeguarding & child protection 7. Disciplinary Policy 8. Searching, screen & confiscation <p>APPROVAL The policies were approved.</p> <p>The HT reminded governors of their safeguarding responsibilities and reminded them to read KCSIE as well as policies 3, 4, 6 and 8.</p>	

14	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	
	None	
15.	Dates of next meetings	
	18 th October 29 th November 17 th January 23rd March 2023 18th May 2023 27th June 202	

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chair thanked those present for attending and closed the Meeting at 19:21

Minutes accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

Mark Chesher, Chair of Governors Argyle Primary School