



WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 6.30 pm

MINUTES

Governors present: Martin Brown (MB – CHAIR); Patty Congedo (PC); Jane Green (JG, Head); Jessica Lechner (JL); Anne Morten (AM); Kasia Piwnicka (KP); Lisa Wakley-Davies (LWD) – arrived at 6.40pm

Also Present:

Helen Andrews (HA, Clerk)

Agenda Item	
1.	Welcome & Apologies MB welcomed all to the meeting, especially to AM who brings a wealth of educational expertise to the Committee. The meeting was fully attended and was quorate. Governors met remotely using MS Teams.
2.	Declaration of Interests in Items on the Agenda: No declaration of interests in items on the agenda were declared.
3.	Minutes of Previous Children's Committee Meeting, 24th November 2021 Governors agreed to an amendment in Item 9 – Assessment Link to replace English Lead. The minutes of the Children's Committee meeting, dated 24 th November 2021, were submitted, and will be signed by the Chair as soon as C-19 pandemic restrictions permit.
4.	Matters arising and actions There were no matters arising from the previous meeting, dated 24 th November 2021. All actions from the previous meeting have been completed and closed.
5.	Teacher-led Presentation The Chair explained that he was hoping to invite CF to talk about the focus on vocabulary acquisition, as discussed at the last meeting. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this has not been possible at this meeting. It is hoped to reschedule this presentation for the next meeting.

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<p>6</p>	<p>C-19 Update</p> <p>JG gave a verbal update; a parental communication has been sent about the recent changes to C-19 guidance. As of 27th January 2022, face coverings are being dropped and restrictions are being further relaxed. Currently, these changes are too new for any formal response to changes in guidance. An LA update is anticipated tomorrow. The school will react to this information once it is received. Governors will be advised of the school response to these changes at FGB on 2nd February 2022.</p> <p>Parents are really struggling to keep up with all the guidance as it changes so frequently at the moment.</p> <p>LWD arrived at the meeting at 6.40pm due to technical difficulties.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked, how was staff morale. JG reported that staff are fine right now as they are rested and rejuvenated from the festive break.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor, referring to the latest school newsletter discussing the school's response to staff illness, asked for an update. JG advised that, at start of term, 5 members of staff were absent. It has been frustrating for staff who have not experienced any symptoms as they still must abide by the isolation rules.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked how the school was finding supply staff from agencies. JG felt that supply was adequate so far, but agencies are becoming very depleted again due to rising C-19 cases.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked about child absence. JG explained that attendance is not brilliant, no data was requested by governors for this meeting. School attendance figures are doing well against the county average. Lots of children are in and out of school relating to PCR tests. The Head Teacher Report at the next FGB meeting will contain a full breakdown of attendance figures.</p> <p>The Chair thanked JG for her update.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Focus on Committee Priorities</p> <p><u>Inhouse tutoring</u></p> <p>A report on school-led tutoring was shared ahead of meeting. All financial details are provided within the report. In summary, the school has 3 trained tutors, all doing 2 groups of 3 children each. 2 tutors have been assigned for Yr. 5 (maths and writing), who are working with teachers to work on gaps to bring them up to speed. They are using SHINE and Rising Stars to plug gaps. JG confirmed that school-led tutoring started last week. The third tutor is</p>

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working with Yr. 2 focussing on their weakness around reading. Arrangements for the next set of groups of children will take place shortly. JG reports it is going well so far.

Challenge: A governor asked when school-led tutoring takes place. Governors were advised that sessions take place after school. Government have advised schools not to run these sessions during school day. Schools are required to provide 18 sessions which not possible within a term of only 12 weeks. Sessions are created for 90 minutes with breaks in between.

Challenge: A governor asked if it was felt that parents will maintain their child's attendance at these sessions. JG explained that these interventions have been sold as very rare places; parents must dedicate their child to the whole session. 11 out of the 18 children from this phase come from vulnerable groups.

Challenge: A governor asked what would happen if someone became a persistent absentee at these sessions. JG agreed that she would have to see how it goes; these sessions are in a trial stage at the moment. She was not sure if another child could be allocated in an absentee's space currently. Governors noted that it did, in fact, provide parents with free childcare for an hour and a half at the end of a school day.

Challenge: A governor asked, who planned the sessions, are the teachers able to plan or do the tutors take lead. Governors were advised that the tutors do plan sessions but, they are based on information from teachers. Teachers are using Shine materials from Rising Stars to identify gaps.

Challenge: A governor referred to the report confirming that 3 TAs had received training. Training for what? JG explained that it was the training for the TAs to be able to deliver the school-led tutoring program. It was 11 hours on the DfE site that a concluded with a certificate. Without the training, they couldn't provide tutoring under this scheme. 2 are HLTAs, they other is training to become one. All three TAs have strong experience of planning and leading interventions in school with children already.

Challenge: A governor asked if school leaders will be logging progress for evaluation of the tutoring scheme. JG confirmed that data will be logged on Provision Map for reviewing effectiveness. Evidence will be requested by the DfE at some point.

Curriculum

JG shared the presentation on curriculum themes presented at the last inset day for the benefit of governors. JG explained the EET guide to

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	<p>implementation. The Curriculum Overview was explained, which provides a high-level view of the entire curriculum offered at Waterbeach PS. This is available on the school website. Curriculum themes were explained to governors; this tailors the curriculum solely around the children who attend the school. Senior Leaders are putting together progression documents going forward. Three themes are complete so far. School will be working on last theme at next staff meeting. Governors thanked Subject Leads for their dedication to this piece of work.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor shared that it felt like school stakeholders had a sense of ownership of the new curriculum Governors agreed that it was very impressive how much work has been put into this piece. The Chair hopes that the momentum can be maintained.</p> <p><u>Accessibility of the curriculum for parents and associated work around curriculum captures</u> JG shared the updated school website to governors. JG is keen to run in-person Curriculum Workshops for parents when it is possible to do so.</p> <p>Governors congratulated JG on the updated photos now published on the school website.</p> <p>JG drew attention to the curriculum tab on the website, which includes the high-level curriculum overview and details of curriculum themes. Curriculum captures will be updated termly and explain the minimum key knowledge the children will learn. English and Maths are large subjects and will be updated next. LO is leading the English capture.</p> <p>Governors were advised that Curriculum Workshops are only in the planning stage currently. However, they will be fully accessible by all; there are plans to record them so all can access the information if they are unable to make the dates.</p>
8.	<p>PPF Update (SI) LWD and JG have met as part of the monitoring arrangements for PPF. JG has provided an overview of PPF at Waterbeach PS, the statement is now published on the website. The PPF Link felt that the school is in control of monitoring and re-evaluating spend of the PPF; a report will be provided at the next meeting. The monitoring meeting concluded with no flags for concern. LWD confirmed that financial allocations are robust and easy to decipher. In the event of an Ofsted, there are clear reports showing the allocation of funds.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked if the school has an obligation to indicate value in terms of efficacy and value for money for PPF.</p>

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	<p>Governors were advised that the PPF Statement is the government's response to school reporting their PPF spending. It is a statutory requirement that schools publish this data.</p> <p>JG confirmed that there are 91 children currently in this cohort, however, this figure changes all the time. The school is above the national average for this cohort.</p>
9.	<p>Other Link Governor Reports</p> <p>MB provided a verbal update concerning his visit with the Assessment Lead, discussed at the last meeting. A paper report had also been circulated ahead of the meeting. Governors discussed the questions raised in part three of the report.</p> <p>No other reports were shared at the meeting.</p>
10.	<p>Policy Review (SI)</p> <p>Copies of all policies under review at this meeting were shared ahead with the agenda and other papers.</p> <p>10.1 <u>EYFS Policy</u> Ratification: Governors unanimously approved the EYFS Policy pending the necessary checks for typos and formatting errors.</p> <p>10.2 <u>RSE Policy</u> Parental consultation took place during lockdown, led by the PSHE Lead. The policy comes from a local authority PSHE model which has been personalised under consultation with parents. The policy was reviewed by the PSHE Lead in a recent monitoring visit and recorded in the report.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor queried a challenge around how the policy links with the school's visions and values. Governors noted a minor amendment needed to the vision and values referenced at the front of the document.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor queried what defines the expected educational outcomes in section 3.3. JG explained that this was detailed within the national curriculum. JG would evidence this through assessment, observation, pupil voice and Subject Lead statements for governors to reassure themselves of compliance.</p> <p>Ratification: Governors unanimously approved the RSE Policy pending the amendment to the vision and values and final checks for typos and formatting errors.</p>

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	<p>10.3 <u>Exclusion Policy</u> This policy derives from a The Key model. JG advised that this was a new policy for the school; it used to be part of the Attendance Policy. Governors were advised that it is good practice to have a separate policy for exclusion.</p> <p>A discussion took place on governor involvement in the process. A disclaimer to refer to County guidance on conducting pupil exclusions is to be included in the policy.</p> <p>Re-integration meetings were explained to governors. JG takes notes at re-integration meetings as this is an operational issue.</p> <p>Action: The Exclusion Policy is to be reviewed and approved at the next FGB meeting on 2nd February 2022.</p> <p>10.4 <u>Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures</u> Challenge: A governor asked how governors would know that staff have the appropriate training. Governors were reminded that Epi-pens and allergies are covered by monitoring undertaken by the H&S Link. It would be possible to link appropriate training with the medical conditions of pupils across the school.</p> <p>Ratification – Governors unanimously approved the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures pending the necessary checks for typos and formatting errors.</p> <p>There were no further policies for review.</p>
11.	<p>Safeguarding JG advised of some anonymised challenging safeguarding issues experienced by DSLs over the last week. JG felt that CP issues are on the rise currently. JG doesn't believe that they all relate to the impact of the lockdown.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked if social services were supportive, do they have the capacity during the pandemic. Governors were advised that support is limited and sporadic. The Social Care system is experiencing a high turnover of staff which doesn't make it easy. This week has resulted in JG finding the system challenging.</p> <p>Governors discussed the fact that certain areas of police seem more responsive than social care currently.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor asked why the police are not responding to CP issues at school swiftly.</p>

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	<p>JG is following this up with the local authority as a priority. School staff need to feel safe. Police have a responsibility to protect children against safeguarding issues.</p> <p>JL is planning another SCR visit this week with the School Business Manager. These meetings are very useful and an opportunity to flag issues as they arise. A report will be provided at a future meeting. Visits will continue to take place every half term. The Safeguarding Audit will be arranged with JG in due course.</p>
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There were no strategic items of any other business raised at the meeting.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.</p>
	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>The next Children's Committee meeting will be on 16th March 2022 at 6.30pm.</p>

Actions from the meeting, 19th January 2022

	Action	Owner	Deadline
10.3	The Exclusion Policy is to be reviewed and approved at the next FGB meeting on 2 nd February 2022.	GOVS	FGB, 2/2/22

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