

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malmesbury Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting in school 12 January 2023 at 6.30pm, *via Teams*

Governors present

David Bryson - Chair (DB)	Colin Kershaw - Vice Chair (CK)	Sue Woods (SW)
Dave Talkowski (DT)	Lorna Howarth (LH)	Steve Croft (SC) from 6.40pm
Theresa Adams (TA)		Nicki Warne (NW) – Clerk
In attendance:	Alastair Vella-Sultana (AV)	Val Cleaver (VC) from 6.40pm

	Minutes	
1.	 Welcome, opening prayer and apologies DB opened the meeting with a prayer. Apologies Kieron Lillis (KL) – accepted. Governors were informed that Rachel Copeland (RC) had resigned as Parent Governor effective 03/12/22. Alastair Vella-Sultana and Val Cleaver's appointments had been confirmed by the Diocese on 05/12/22 and they would be full governors with voting rights once their DBS checks had been returned. Both were present at the meeting as observers and were welcomed by the Chair. DB welcomed new governors and thanked them for offering their services. 	
2.	Register of Business Interests + Governor Code of Conduct AV and VC to complete the Business Interest form for 2022-23 and sign the Code of Conduct.	AV, VC
3.	 Minutes of last meeting The minutes of the FGB held on 1 December 2022 were accepted as a true record. a. Matters arising & carried forward The chair confirmed that actions from the last FGB were complete with the exclusion of those carried forward below and with the following notes and comments: The Budget and the School Fund Audit had been signed off the Chair. SW informed governors that the requirements for Energy Sparks was more than was expected, and involved working with the children, lessons, school assemblies and a school council type group and has added to the workload and therefore paid staff overtime needed to be factored in. 	
	 Carried forward: TA to complete outstanding link governor visit report form. DB to follow up with the Diocese about talking governors through MAT options. TA and DB to undertake their Safer recruitment training. 	TA DB TA, DB
4.	Notification of AOBa) Attendanceb) Pupil Premium and SEND governorc) Staff governor update	

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5.	 Strategic Leadership Clarification of Task Forces: Community Engagement & Expansion had become Values & Vision, Community Engagement & Expansion (VV, CCE): TA, LH, KL (LH lead) Strategic Direction – It was agreed that SW would begin this with the LA and bring to VV, CEE when ready. Admissions Panel – TA, LH, KL, SW All other task forces remained the same: Ofsted: DB, KL, CK, AV (CK lead) HT performance management – DB, KL (KL lead) Pay Panel – DB, DT, CK (DT lead) Finance monitoring – SC and DT b. Admissions Policy 2024-25 (In Year Admissions and Admissions meeting) The clerk explained that this is a common admission policy from the Diocese, which had been updated for dates. The Governors agreed to adopt the Admissions Policy for 2024/25 with an unanimous vote in favour. NW to upload to the school website. 	NW
	would be meeting with Bill from the Diocese the following week to discuss. TA, LH and SW confirmed their availability for the Admissions meeting on	
	23/02/23 at 10am.	
	 c. Health & Safety CK explained to governors the scope of his role and that he would be planning a visit in Feb to undertake a health and safety audit. SW explained to governors that a couple of walls were unstable (on the playground and the Land) and the Diocese had been informed. A governor raised the issue of the gate at the bottom of the Land. Sue reassured governors that she had chased the Diocese about it. TA agreed to follow up. SW to forward the contact for this. A governor asked whether there was a risk and issues log. SW explained that these was documented in the HT report which was produced three times a year. SW confirmed that the school now had H&S cover with Wiltshire Council until April 2023. 	TA / SW
	d. Parent Governor elections The clerk informed governors the nominations were being invited for parent governor with the deadline of 26/01/23. Governors agreed to appoint the clerk as Returning Officer should elections be required.	
	e. Policies for adoption or adaption The Appraisal Policy and the Gifts & Hospitality Policy had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Governors voted unanimously to adopt both policies. A governor enquired about whether the Gifts & Hospitality Policy was new. SW explained that it was and that it had been recommended by the finance monitoring group.	
	f. School website complianceSC explained that this was ongoing.	SC
	g. KCSIE updates & annual safeguarding training for governors The LA's 'Safeguarding Training for All Governors' had now been completed by LH and DB. This remained an outstanding action for CK and KL , and would also need to be undertaken by VC and AV . h. Chair of governors update	CK, KL VC, AV

	No updates to share.	
6.	Vision and Ethos a. Task Force update: Values and Vision, Community Engagement & Expansion (LH) LH explained that they had been working with SW on developing the school's vision and had formed a working group with the aim of getting some external feedback on the vision to ensure that it resonated with the town's wider demographic and that it would be helpful in raising the reputational profile of the school. SW explained that the views of the staff, children and parish had been collated last year and she would share those with the working group. SW explained the urgency of finalising the school's vision, after being asked to delay presenting it to governors by the LA earlier in 2022. CK confirmed that Ofsted would ask governors about the school's vision and how governors were monitoring it in the school. SW, DB and LH agreed to take the conversation offline.	SW
	 b. Section 48 review DB asked whether the school was ready for section 48. SW updated governors on the work going on in school with this regard. DB enquired whether the school needed strategic support from the governors. LH agreed talk to HL and determine whether a working group needed to be formed. c. Agree next steps for Ethos development SW explained that the staff had reviewed this at the previous staff meeting. The staff feel that they have a good grasp of the ethos but want to share it with parents and get them to buy into the ethos and vision and how the school wants to work as a community. This would be part of the launch night for the Vision, Values and Ethos, which would be planned for the future as soon as the Vision is finalised. 	LH
7.	 Accountability for Educational Improvement a. Headteachers' report and data No updates, but the next HT report would be circulated before the next FGB. b. Safeguarding There were no safeguarding concerns to report and SW informed governors that the numbers of disclosures had dropped in the past few weeks. Appoint safeguarding governor AV agreed to become Safeguarding Governor and would begin the training as soon as possible. c. LA progress review update The report was ready to be shared and DB would send to NW to circulate with the minutes. SW explained that the LA were pleased with how the school had progressed and there would be a further review in due course. d. SEF – self-evaluation form This had been circulated in advance of the meeting. SW explained how the document worked and how it was updated, under guidance from the School Improvement Advisor (SIA), as preparation for Ofsted. No questions were raised. e. SCA bid – update DB explained that the SCA bid has been signed and submitted. SC raised the option of submitting for further bids based on issues raised in the last property survey report. Namely, LED lights and fascias/soffits. He explained that there was ringfenced money in the budget to cover the school's contribution should a bit be successful. It was agreed that DT and 	DB

	 SC would work with SW and Anita Druce (AD) on this and look to submit further bids before the deadline at the end of January. CK agreed that anything the school could do to reduce energy use was vital. SW stated that if the Diocese recommend an SCA bid for the pointing needed to the external walls she will agree that with DB and submit a bid for that as well. f. SIA Reporting No reports at this meeting. g. Task Force update: Ofsted CK explained that he had met with SW and was working on this. SW offered to meet with the whole task force and it was agreed that this would be scheduled for the beginning or end of the day. h. Curriculum & learning DB explained that this was a standing item on a rolling agenda. More detail would come out of the HT report at the next meeting. 		
	i. Updates from Link Governors Safeguarding – AV H&S – CK SEND – KL Curriculum implementation including RE – LH Phonics – DT PP – VACANT Maths – DT Wellbeing – TA, CK Science – CK Website – SC LH needed to schedule a meeting with HL after an earlier cancellation. DT also to schedule a visit, which would coincide with a maths monitoring learning walk.	LH DT	
8.			
11.	the end of March. SC and DT to update (including amendments to reflect the circle model) and circulate to CK and DB for inputs before sharing with SW and AD. AOB a) Attendance SW explained that, after a hiatus during Covid, the DfE had informed schools that they should be enforcing their attendance policy, which includes issuing penalties for unauthorised absences. Parents had been emailed		
	 issuing penalties for unauthorised absences. Parents had been emailed about this. SW and Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) meet termly (DfE guidance) and school attendance meetings are held with parents of children with persistent absence. b) Pupil Premium and SEND governor – DB to follow up. c) Staff governor update There was a discussion about how to encourage staff representation on the governing board. SW explained that she had invited staff to observe a meeting. SW would continue to raise with staff and TA and CK to also raise during staff contact. SW agreed to plan a date for a governor / staff breakfast (AV offered to help with this). 		
12.	The meeting closed at 20.05pm.Date of next meeting:a. FGB – Thurs 2 February at 6.30pmb. Admissions – Thurs 23 February at 10amc. Date for diary: Safeguarding training – 01/09/2023		