



Ormesby Village Schools Federation

Ormesby Village Junior School
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Ormesby Village Infant School
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Headteacher: Mr Bradley Young

Virtual Full Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 24th March 2022 at 4.00pm

Name	Initials	Role	Present / Apologies / Absent
Lizzi Angel	LA	Staff	Absent
Carla Brightman	CB	Co-opted	Apologies
Dean Crosbie	DC	Parent	Present
Lauren Gardiner	LG	Co-opted	Present
Julia Hawkins	JH	Vice Chair, Co-opted	Present
Annette McMyler	AM	Co-opted	Present
Anthony O'Connor	AOC	Co-opted	Present

Craig Robertson	CR	Co-opted	Apologies
Clive Sillitoe	CS	Chair, LA	Present
Karen Wacey	KW	Parent	Present
Bradley Young	BY	Head Teacher	Present
Rebecca Blakeway-Long	RBL	Clerk	Present

		Action	By whom
1. Opening formalities	<p><i>1.1 Apologies and attendance</i> The Chair welcomed all, including the new temporary Clerk. The Chair noted apologies from CR. CB sent apologies towards the end of the meeting. The Chair will email CB to determine whether she would like to remain on the GB.</p> <p><i>1.2 Acceptance of apologies</i> Accepted</p> <p><i>1.3 Pecuniary Interests relating to an Agenda item</i> None</p>	AP1. Email CB re GB membership	CS
2. Minutes of meeting dated 10.2.22	<p><i>2.1 Refer to Action Point List</i> <u>10.2.22</u> AP1. Partially completed. The Clerk will finish updating Gov Hub. AP2. The skill's audit will be presented at the next FGB, once DC has had a chance to return his audit.</p> <p><i>2.2 Matters arising</i> None</p> <p><i>2.3 Agree the Minutes</i></p>		

	<p><u>Governors agreed</u> the Minutes</p> <p><i>2.4 Sign the Minutes</i> The Chair will sign the Minutes.</p>	AP2. Sign the Feb Minutes	CS
3. Governor membership	<p><i>3.1 5 x Co-opted Governor vacancies</i> The Chair noted that potential new Governors have been approached. He asked all Governors to think of ways to encourage a more diverse range of Governors to join the GB. JH suggested that the Fundraising Group could be contacted.</p> <p><i>3.2 1 x Parent Governor</i> DC has now been appointed as Parent Governor.</p>		
4. HT's Report	<p>The HT supplied a written report in advance of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Policies</u> The HT thanked the Clerk for her assistance with the Policy Review Schedule. He stated that the Federation now has all Policies in place, with the exception of Governor Allowances. Some of the Policies need to have their review dates amended. The HT is also ensuring that both Schools have identical Policies, amended to the circumstances of each site.</p> <p><u>Lease</u> The HT explained that part of the Infant's School was leased to the pre-school by the Local Authority (LA). This Lease has now expired. The LA has stated that the HT and the GB have no authority to either renew the Lease or to give notice to quit. The HT explained that the pre-school has the use of a number of rooms on one side of the School. The very final room, the IT suite, remains under the demise of the Infant's School. However, the infants are unable to access this room internally, as the pre-</p>		

school rooms block the way. In order to access the IT suite, the children have to leave the main building, cross the playground and then enter this room.

Chris from the LA Estates Team visited the Infant's School, viewing the accommodation leased to the pre-school and the accommodation held by the Infant's. The pre-school had been using the IT suite and the furniture had not been moved back after use. The pre-school has also been using an Infant's School corridor, the mobile and the School Hall. These areas were not included within the Lease. Chris suggested a room swap with the pre-school, so that they use the IT suite, releasing another room back to the Infant's.

After Chris visited the Infant's School, he received an email from the pre-school complaining that he had not provided notice of his visit.

Subsequently, a meeting was held between 5 members of the pre-school, Chris and the HT. Chris suggested amendments to the accommodation, but these were not accepted. The pre-school stated that they are experiencing increasing numbers of children with special educational needs (SEND), so they are in need of additional room. However, the HT noted that these children will move up into the Infant's School, so the Infant's will also need increased accommodation.

4.30pm – DC joined the meeting

This item is subject to a confidential Minute.

Budget

The Junior School Budget is showing a surplus at the end of the financial year. The carry forward is expected to be in the region of 11%. The LA allows an 8% carry forward, but they do accept larger carry forwards if there is an anticipated deficit in year 3. Currently the Budget is showing a year 3 deficit.

The Infant's School Budget setting is due to take place tomorrow.

Governor Challenge – has any more thought been given to combining the Infant's and Junior's?

HT response – the Budget contains a line for “lump sum” and another for “split sites”. This amounts to £117k. If we were to combine, then this money would be lost. However, cost effectively, if we do not receive a substantial influx in pupils, there is the risk that we will have to combine the sites.

Roll and Admissions

Pupil numbers across the County are falling. The HT has been working to improve the profile of the Schools. He has also contacted the LA Admission’s Team, who informed him that 42 children have been allocated to the Federation in the next academic year. There are 47 children in the catchment area, but only 27 children of these will be joining the Schools. The other 15 children are from outside the catchment area. The 20 children in catchment who are not joining the Federation, amount to around £60k of lost income.

Governor Challenge – why are these 20 children not coming to Ormesby?

HT response – some of the catchment areas overlap and it might be that the children have siblings in other schools. I have received emails from families who have just moved into the area.

Governor Challenge – is there any work that we can carry out to discover why the children are going elsewhere?

HT response – I can ask the LA Admission’s Team for a break down of the figures and then we can target families. The social media presence of the Federation has improved considerably in recent months.

Governor Challenge – is there an event that we can put on?

HT response – we could hold an Open Day. My concern is that we put a lot of effort into an Open Day, for no one to turn up.

Governor Challenge – what is the progression from pre-school to the Infant’s School?

HT response – the majority of the children do come through to the Infant’s School.

Governor Challenge – do we know why the children who don’t come through from the pre-school go elsewhere?

HT response – it is likely that they are not in the catchment area. As the pre-school has almost the only provision for the under 3's locally, people do come from outside catchment in order to access the pre-school.

Attendance

Both Schools have attendance of over 90%, which compares favourably to the current national average of 89%. A watching brief is being kept on attendance, although fresh Covid cases are ongoing. Letters have been sent out to some families, which has provoked a response from a few parents. A meeting has been held with one family and they have been informed that medical evidence will be required for future medical absences.

Governor Challenge – how does the Federation compare to other schools?

HT response – from what I can gather, we are on a par with other schools.

Monitoring

Weekly reading meetings are being held in order to look at books and the recent Challenge Day had reading as its focus. Reports have been received from the Challenge Day and changes have already been implemented as a result of this feedback.

Governors discussed assemblies, noting that whole School assemblies are preferable, but virtual assemblies also have their benefits.

Behaviour

The HT informed Governors that the Junior School behaviour has been particularly challenging. A nucleus of children in some classes appear to be causing the most issues. Some pupils are on their second behaviour contract and additional support and strategies are being considered. Some behaviour is so severe that fixed-term exclusions may be the only recourse.

Governor Challenge – have some of the older children with challenging behaviour been a problem since they were younger?

AM response – yes, some of them have been challenging since Infant's.

	<p>Governor Challenge – although we appreciate that some children need reasonable adjustments in order to meet their needs, the other children also have a right to expect a good education and support.</p> <p>HT response – yes. The level of disrespect and disruption from some children means that we may have to use the last resort of fixed-term exclusions. We have had meetings with some parents and they are involved with our ongoing discussions. During the recent Bikeability training, 2 children were not allowed to ride on the road due to fears for their safety. When the parents brought this up, they realised that it was not the School who had prevented this, it was the Bikeability instructors.</p> <p>Governor Challenge – are the children accessing the nurture provision?</p> <p>HT response – yes, it operates on 2 afternoons each week. However, I don't want it to become a "dumping ground" for all children who are causing difficulties.</p> <p>NB The Clerk lost her internet connection for 2 minutes.</p> <p>We do not want to deny children the opportunity to participate in the provision, but we do need to ensure that risk assessments are in place for some children. Staff are currently discussing the residential trips, considering whether some of the pupils are safe to stay away from home overnight.</p> <p><u>Data</u> Data is being collated this week and will be available at the next FGB meeting.</p>		
5. Safeguarding and attendance	See item 4 above		
6. Finance	See item 4 above		
7. Feedback from Committees	The Chair noted that although Committees have been suspended temporarily, it could be worthwhile to continue with the Finance Committee.		
8. Governors	<i>8.1 Training</i> Not discussed		

	<p><i>8.2 Monitoring visits reports</i></p> <p>JH and DC attended the Challenge Day. DC watched an assembly. He noted the advantages of a live assembly, rather than virtual. JH has completed SEND write ups and is due to submit an Infant's safeguarding report. During her safeguarding visit, JH looked at causes for concern, the tightening up of some procedures, new staff and Operation Encompass. She noted that not all the Operation Encompass reports are coming through to the School. The HT is looking into this. The HT stated that Subject Lead deep dive interviews were carried out. The report is on Gov Hub. It was noted that the Subject Leads were competent. Areas for improvement were identified.</p> <p><i>8.3 Challenge Day feedback</i></p> <p>The written report is on Gov Hub.</p>		
9. Policies and Procedures	None		
10. Meeting reflection	Governors have considered the strategic direction of the Federation, with regards to pupil numbers, financial considerations and best use of the premises.		
11. AOB	<p>The Chair stated that it would be good to invite a Subject Lead to talk at the next FGB meeting.</p> <p>The Chair formally welcomed DC to the GB. All Governors introduced themselves.</p>	AP5. Add Subject Lead talk to next Agenda	RBL
	<p>The meeting closed at 5.50pm.</p> <p>Next FGB meetings: Wednesday 26th May 2022 at 4pm</p>		

Signed by The Chair

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