

**Castle Vale Nursery School Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 6th July 2021**



MINUTES

Present:

Mark Phillips (MP)- Chair of Governors
Sally Leese (SL) – Head Teacher
Sue Martin (SM) - Co-Opted Governor
Tracey Quirk (TQ) – Co-Opted Governor
Kate Bateman – Staff Governor

In Attendance:

Christina Meakin (CM) – Deputy Head Teacher
Jackie McCorrison (JAMC) - Clerk

Apologies

Carli McCallin– Co-Opted Governor
Kirstie McElroy-Stringer (KMS) – Co-Opted Governor
Kerri Treasure (KT) – Parent Governor
Sarah Swords (SS) – Parent Governor

The Apologies were accepted.

1) Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

MP welcomed everyone and he thanked Governors for attending

2) Declaration of Business Interests (Pecuniary Interests)

There were no changes in Pecuniary Interests since the last meeting.

3) Minutes of Last Meeting 20th April 2021

The Minutes of the last meeting held on have been uploaded to the Portal and were approved as a true and accurate record.

a) Matters arising

At the last meeting SL was asked to update Governors about the Campaign via the Portal or at the next meeting, She reported there is nothing to report but there is an APPG meeting taking place in the Nursery and Jack Dromey is in attendance.

4) Feedback from the Personnel & Finance Committee

The Finance Committee have just met and MP fed back as follows:-

The School Budget Share carry forward balance has been officially notified as £316,863 surplus. This equates to 39.78% of the schools in-year funding.

There is an in-year surplus of £204,729.

The Committee had a discussion about the proposals for expenditure.

S&L Support.

The Committee acknowledged that the Sustainability Fund is a one off and it was agreed to recommend that school commit to purchasing support from the S&L Therapist for the next academic year.
This was agreed.

Work in the Nursery

SL has asked for a quote for replacing all of the carpet in the Nursery and getting a door from the Greenhouse to the current sensory room. The Governors agreed with this.

SL said that it was intended that some of the carry forward would be used on the work needed to change the health room into a staff room/meeting space and the current sensory room into office space.

She reported that this work will still go ahead but it is likely it will be funded.

Staffing

SL said that there is additional expenditure on staffing, there has been an in house recruitment process and we have a number of full time staff in place.

An additional NQT has been appointed (from September NQTs will be known as Early Career Teachers (ECTs))

Strategic Plan

Governors agreed to look at the CRISP funding and tie this into the strategic plan.

District Hub pilot.

There was a lengthy discussion at the Committee and SL was asked to draft some proposals for some of the surplus balance to be spent on this. The funding from the LA has not been confirmed and the proposal will fit in with the strategic vision of our school to be a district hub for SEND.

EYPP Allocation

SL said we have had an allocation of £16,631, there has been a decrease in working parents during the pandemic.

SL said that we have Ben for 3 sessions a week and there is a positive impact, particularly on the boys.

She recommended his time be extended to 5 sessions a week at a cost of approx. £18,000 max. He will also upskill another member of staff.

The Governing Body approved the feedback from the Committee and the recommendations made.

5) Head Teacher's Update

The HT Report has been added to the Portal.

SL gave an update on the Impact of **Birmingham EY network**.

Initially we were leading on the Erdington District Early Years Networks and sharing the Sutton District, however we are now solely leading the Sutton District, there are no maintained nursery schools in Sutton.

Through this we are supporting the Birmingham wide roll out of Wellcomm Communication and Language Assessment and Intervention programme. There have been a series of steering group meetings, the group is very strong and proactive and have very good networks. There is not a huge uptake, there are 3 sessions on offer including an evening session which is useful for the childminders.

This is going well and will hopefully support the district SEND work. We have Language Champions and their role is to support the EY settings in the district, if a setting has concerns over the S&L of a child they contact the EY consultant who brokers support from a S&L therapist or language champion.

Change of times for September.

SL reported that a decision has been taken to change the morning and afternoon times so children access their full 15 hours entitlement in their morning or afternoon sessions. This will help protect us if bubbles are reintroduced.

The new session times are:

Morning 8:50am to 11:50pm

Afternoon 12:20pm to 3:20pm

Full time 8:50am to 3:20pm

Although the requirement for children to be in bubbles will not be in place, there is still the option of teaching the children in smaller groups if needed. There will not be staggered start or end times.

There will still be a breakfast club from 8am, lunch club between 11:50am and 12:20pm and after school club until 4:30pm. We may need to review these with the increase of working parents due to the closure of Tiggywinkles Nursery.

SL reported that Tiggy Winkles is closing as of 31st July and Kickstart is opening a nursery over Castle Vale Pool.

We are full on the PAN but LA will not increase pupil numbers due to sufficiency.

Governors questioned this as the closure of Tiggy Winkles will result in a big reduction of places on the Estate.

SL has been informed there is a 2 term process to follow and she will pursue this as some of the local providers will not offer places to 2 year olds.

Action:- SL has been informed it may be possible to offer childcare without Ofsted registration and will look into this.

SL will also seek to increase the PAN.

SL discussed the **Maintained School Leadership Offer** (as detailed in her HT Report) she said the person who has been attending meetings in place of Nichola Jones will be invited to the EY Forum.

Transition was discussed and the Transition into schools considering the mitigation in place has been successful. 83 children have been allocated Primary School places (11 different schools). Schools have had guidance from Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health that all transition days for new intake should take place virtually. This advice is following a rise in cases in the city. Transition has started and there are a lot of virtual events.

At the last meeting Governors noted that the children have lost out on a lot of experiences due to Lockdown.

SL reported that staff are also very aware of this and have ensured the following:-

- Every child has received Forest School this half term.
- We have planned the Animal Man for the final week.
- We are going to the Farm.

- Each Bubble have taken responsibility for an area of garden, renovating it and then planting up with plants and wild flowers. Every bubble has grown and then are now harvesting fruit and vegetables.
- Each bubble had the challenge of researching and creating a bug hotel, wildlife water feature and wildflower 'meadow'.
- We are having a picnic party in the final week.
- The children have also been running a drinks/fruit station.

The New Curriculum

SL reported that we will be working to a new curriculum in the academic year 2021/22. The staff team discussed what we want our children to know and be able to do for the next stage in their education and invited a Reception teacher for input.

Staff then worked backwards to see the teaching and experiences the children need to move onto the next stage of their learning, looking at the Intent, Impact and Implementation. This is an ongoing discussion.

Ofsted are also changing and Inspectors will not want to see records and data analysis but will be speaking to all practitioners about their key children. Practitioners know their children well and how to support their next steps and will need to be confident in verbally articulating this at inspection.

Once we know what we want the children to know and be able to do, we can then plan the experiences and teaching to get them there. This will form the CVNS curriculum. We will continue to work on this throughout the year. Part of the CVNS curriculum will also be to improve Parental engagement in children's learning.

Safeguarding Update.

The Section 175 Safeguarding Audit has been completed.

Action:- Governors to complete Annual Safeguarding Training.

Speech and Language Therapy intervention

As reported at the last meeting, we bought in an additional Speech and Language Therapist to assess and carry out intervention work prioritising children due to start school. There were 13 children in total. After assessment the therapist carried weekly sessions individualised for each child. Kate was trained and repeated the Early Language groups so children could access another session of support.

Governors asked if our staff can be trained to do the assessments?

SL said that they cannot be trained to do the assessments, but they do Welcomm and SOGS assessments and the intervention work. SL reported that there are a number of children who are not making progress and it is difficult to identify why – this is where the S&L therapist support is invaluable. There are some children who are unable to form the words and make the correct sounds, and others who can speak but do not understand what they are saying.

Assessment Update – Christina Meakin.

The information has been added to the Portal and CM fed back the headlines as follows:-

July 2021 Leavers

- On average, the large majority of children are working at age expected levels.

- On average, the large majority of children are working at 40-60 months in the prime areas and in the specific areas.
- On average, the large majority of boys and girls are working at age expected levels, but boys are achieving marginally less well overall.
- The large majority of EYPP children are working at age expected levels. Overall, EYPP children are achieving less well.
- Most leavers who attended during lockdown are working at age expected levels compared with the large majority of leavers who didn't attend during lockdown.
- On average, children who attended during lockdown were more than double the amount on track on entry than those who didn't attend during lockdown. The staff have worked hard to enable these children catch up, they have offered targeted support and learning experiences. The majority have made at least 4 steps progress in the prime areas.
- On average, the large majority of children have made at least 5 steps progress since their Autumn baseline.
- CM referred to the average number for the prime areas and an average number for the specific areas by counting the amount of children who have made 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10+ steps progress since their baseline in Autumn 2020.

Governors asked if there is a similar picture for the returners?

CM said that the assessments are being moderated. More of the returners attended during lockdown. A number of the children only started in September and continued during the January lockdown. There will be a focus on the minority of children who did not attend and also the children who ought to have bene returners but due to the low confidence of parents caused by the pandemic, they will not join until September 2021.

CM gave a general overview of **Welcomm**.

- 16% fewer children are working at 3 or more sections below
- 11% fewer children are working 2 sections below
- 5% more children are working 1 section below
- 26% more children are on track

CM reported that the children working 3+ or more sections below have SEND.

If children score a green in their first WellComm screening (meaning they are on track), it is likely that they will only need to make 1 section progress to remain on track for their age at the end of the year.

- 65% have made 2 or more sections progress
- 35% have made 1 section progress
- This means that:
- All children have made at least 1 section progress.
- The large majority of children have made at least 2 steps progress

Governors noted it is positive that the staff will know the gaps and what can be done to support the children when they return.

SL said it will also identify the gaps for when the children transition into Reception which is positive as the Reception classes will also be using Welcomm.

Targeted Speech and Language Interventions

In the Summer term, all children working 1 or more sections below continued to receive daily WellComm Speech and Language interventions with members of staff.

Children were grouped by what section they were working at and worked in small intervention groups.

Areas that children needed additional support in were also planned into skills activities and child initiated learning.

This has had a positive impact with children's progress in WellComm.

Speech and Language Therapy Intervention

After lockdown, an additional 7 school leavers were identified as needing additional support alongside the daily speech and language interventions they were already receiving. These children had access to weekly Speech and Language sessions by a Speech and Language therapist.

Action:- Governors asked for the data that is presented in the future be broken down to show the attainment of the groups of children, e.g. EYPP, SEND, Boys, Girls, SEND etc.

Governors thanked CM for her feedback and noted that the data is positive and reflects the effort gone in to supporting the children.

SL said that parents were given access to a lot of learning stories and videos and stories to share at home. There was also differentiated resource packs sent home and this support has impacted on the outcomes of the children.

6) Strategic Vision

This was discussed.

The Governors looked at the strategic plan in place and agreed that this needs to be more succinct and relevant as it is referred back to it regularly.

It is important for the Vision, Values and Goals to all interlink.

Governors discussed the Vision Statement which is:- Making a difference. All of our children, all of the time.

The use of the word 'Our' was discussed and it was agreed that this shows that the Nursery is inclusive and it means any child we can influence change for.

Values were discussed and SL referred to the International Early Years Learning Report and one of the main things is persistence and the importance of persisting despite challenges.

Governors agreed that the values need to be punchier and include words such as, inclusive, curiosity, welcoming, perseverance, persistence and resilience etc.

Collaboration is also a huge part of the values – we collaborate with parents, families, each other, community groups etc.

Goals were discussed and the Governors agreed to have 3 well written overarching goals such as:-

- Preparing children for the next stage of their education in an enabling environment.
- Working with the parents and the community to ensure access to high quality provision, outreach and networks.
- SEND – to develop provision and pathways and partnerships to identify and support children and families with SEND throughout the community.

Once the goals are written then there needs to be detail added as to how they will be met, e.g. having more detail on the curriculum etc.

Governors discussed how we will know whether the plan has been successful and there will be some Outcomes Based Accountability statements for each of the goals.

Action:- SL to take the suggestions of the Governors and work on the strategic plan with a view to approval in the Autumn Term.

7) Approval of policies

The following policies have been added to the portal and were recommended for approval:-

- Educational visits Policy
- Behaviour Statement
- British values Statement

The Governing Body approved the policies detailed above.

The School Prospectus was discussed and this is being finalised.

Action:- SL to email the School Prospectus to the Governors when available.

8) Any Other Business

Format of the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10th November at the Nursery School. 12pm for Finance and Personnel and 1pm for Full Governors

Action:- Governors are invited to come earlier on 10th November to look round and observe in Nursery and/or meet with colleagues for their areas of responsibility.

Governor responsibilities - suggestions

Area	Governor	Staff member
Safeguarding	Kirsty McElroy-Stringer	Rachel Blackledge
SEND	Kirsty McElroy-Stringer	Helen Brennan
Health and Safety	Kerri Treasure	Niki Lynch
EYPP and LAC	Kate Bateman	Christina Meakin
Training	Sally Leese	
Prevent	Tracey Quirk	Sally Leese
Curriculum	Carli McCallin, Mark Phillips	Christina Meakin, Ruby Aylin
RRSA	Kate Bateman, Kerri Treasure	Christina Meakin

10) Date of the next Meeting

Wednesday 10th November at the Nursery School. 12pm - Finance & Personnel
1pm - Full Governors