

STICKLAND'S C.E. V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

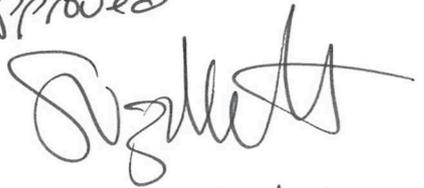
Aspire, Believe, Belong and Achieve.

Let Your Light Shine Matthew 5:16

Full Governing Body Meeting Minutes

Monday 25 November 2024 at 1 p.m

Governors	Position	Initials	Present
Ruth Adler	Headteacher	RA	Y
Nicky Bower	Parent Governor	NB	Y
Jax Comyn	Foundation Governor	JC	AA
Daniel Ingles	Foundation Governor	DI	AA
June Jach	Clerk to the Governors	JJ	P
Gay Lewis	Foundation Governor	GL	AA
Andy McAney	Local Authority Governor	AM	Y
Suzie Mutch	Foundation Governor (Chair)	SM	Y
Anna Low	Staff Governor	AL	Y
Emma Hodgkinson	Parent Governor	EH	Absent
AnneMarie Henham	Governor	AH	Y
Elizabeth Rendell	Governor	ER	Y

Approved

23/3/25

No	Item	Action
1	The meeting started at 1.00 p.m with an opening prayer from Suzie Mutch	
2	Present See register above	
3	<p><u>Organisational items</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Gay, Jax and Daniel Pecuniary interests. There were no changes to record Minutes of the previous meeting which was the AGM. The minutes were approved.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Standing matters</u></p> <p>Safeguarding - Owing to the snow, Gay was unable to conduct the safeguarding visit. This will be rescheduled and a report submitted. There followed general discussion relating to child and family support. The Chair asked if there was anything that Governors could do to assist and support. The Headteacher stated that she doesn't believe there is anything else that school can be expected to do. Social services aren't always able to provide support needed and this can sometimes be problematic.</p> <p>Wellbeing - The Headteacher said that following the Ofsted inspection, there's definitely a feeling of calm within the school. Anna said that the anticipation of the inspection really took its toll and added that no-one was really aware of the tension and anticipation until after the event. This is perhaps something to be aware of ahead of further inspections. The Headteacher said that at a recent HT conference the tension and stress regarding impending inspections was discussed at length.</p> <p>There had been some family bereavements within school. These do impact wellbeing across the school. In addition where supply teachers are necessary, this adds to the impact. It can be challenging integrating supply teachers both for children and staff.</p>	

<p>External Visit reports - Mike Randall visit Following the visit by Mike Randall, the Chair talked through his visit. His report has been posted in the Governors folder.</p> <p>GDPR - Compliance audit - The audit conducted was very thorough. There were recommendations that need consideration and that includes some relating to policies. The training provided was interactive with staff and was good with some ideas from the whole experience. The Headteacher said the audit was quite costly and so she is unsure whether this would be repeated on a regular basis.</p> <p>Governor visits The Chair stated that she plans to listen to reading by SEND children throughout the year. This will enable her to see the impact of interventions.</p> <p>Andy McAney stated that he has a report which is ready to upload. He commented that it was a very positive visit. General discussion followed and in particular regarding greater depth. The Headteacher commented that many children are coming into school with no ability to count or recognise numbers. The Chair asked if these are covid children. A Governor said that circumstances may have changed at home since covid and that may mean they have not been brought on as much. A Governor said that some children don't have the same level of language skills as previously. A Governor also commented that it's important to recognise that maths also needs good reading skills. A discussion followed regarding the impact of changes at home. There are possibly less board games and a greater use of games consoles, ipads etc. AMc said that he is working with Mrs Stone to find ways to address some of the challenges. Simple tasks such as telling the time on a clock with hands has become a challenge. It's easy to assume that with digital clocks and watches, telling the time is no longer required. However, it is still important for, for instance, reading timetables.</p> <p>A Governor asked whether it was possible to come into school for informal visits. There was general agreement that these are welcome provided governors check with school first to ensure that there are no clashes.</p>	<p>SM AM</p> <p>SM</p>
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	<p>Proposed Governor data protection guidelines -</p> <p>Proposed Governor data protection guidelines were discussed. It was agreed that these should be included in new Governor induction information.</p> <p>Policies for approval</p> <p>The attendance and absence policy was approved. Once signed, it will be uploaded to the school website.</p> <p>The Data protection policy was approved. Once signed, it will be uploaded to the school website.</p>	JJ
5	<p><u>Headteacher's report</u></p> <p>The Headteacher's report was 'as read' having been posted in Governors documents before the meeting. The Headteacher talked through equality and diversity. She stated that the OFSTED inspection had recognised that the school does this really well. However, she would like ideas of how we can expand this. It is challenging, in our rural area, to introduce different cultures and topics without it appearing to be tokenism. The school has a link with a school in Kenya and whilst this is excellent, it would be good to build on this.</p> <p>Eco update to follow</p> <p>The Eco update will follow in the next meeting</p>	

6	<p><u>Chair's report</u></p> <p>The Chairs report was as read, having been posted in the Governors area before the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Collaboration of Chairs who visited recently were very impressed with the school.</p> <p>Siams is not due this year. It is next due in 2025/6</p>	
7.	<p><u>SDP - School development plan</u></p> <p>The report was available before the meeting in the Governor folder.</p> <p>The Headteacher talked through the plan, providing further details. There is still some work around behaviour that needs to be done. Head has been looking into the work by Paul Dix and feels this would be beneficial to use within school. She commented that it's easy in some circumstances, to get sucked into conversations with a child around behaviour. She feels it would be beneficial to compile suggested scripts for various situations. This will be part of January INSET training.</p> <p>A Governor asked whether the SDP needs to go on the website. HT explained that as this is a working document and so, no.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Main Focus areas</u></p> <p>Data/results 23-24</p> <p>These were available before the meeting in the Governor folder. HT presented the details and talked through them. She stated that from a data perspective, there needs to be more investigation. With the exception of writing, school is improving. Writing is being looked at and changes have been made to the way that this is dealt with. A Governor asked if writing is something that pre-school should be addressing. HT confirmed this is already in place.</p> <p>There was general discussion around the data and in general HT is happy with how things are going. All are aware that GDS is an area that is below national. A Governor said that although there are dips, we need to recognise that we are consistently above national standards. In a small school losing one or two children can have a massive impact on greater depth.</p>	

	<p>Predictions 24/25</p> <p>The Headteacher distributed a print out of predictions and talked through the detail. What was not provided was a phonics prediction. However, this will be available at the next meeting. There followed general discussion and explanation around the predictions. A Governor asked if progress meetings are still being conducted in Early Years. HT stated that these have not happened since covid. However, these will start again shortly. The Headteacher suggested that it might be worth looking at what the standard is for key stage 2. It must be remembered that not everyone will be a greater depth child. She displayed the assessment used for Key stage 2 english writing, showing some examples.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Resources</u></p> <p>Finance update - Chris George distributed copies of the report and breakdown and talked through some of the detail. The Chair commented that this is in more detail than has previously been seen. She confirmed that the board is happy with this level of detail going forward. Chair asked whether there is insurance in place for the use of supply teaching. HT said that yes, this covers some though not all. General discussion followed around the number of support staff, emphasising that much of the support staff is funded. There is routinely some delay in funding coming through but it is guaranteed and so it does eventually filter through to school.</p> <p>There was discussion relating to wheelchair access and potential costs. County is being consulted regarding funding.</p> <p>The Headteacher said Chris had done brilliantly so far and that the report was very clear to read. Chris has had some of his required training with Budget training courses to follow. A Governor asked if we are on track with budgets and Chris confirmed that, that is covered in the report. Water costs are of concern as these have increased dramatically. This is being investigated. Money is due from Fossa for the 150 year celebrations and this has already been agreed. The Headteacher stated that staffing will change in the next year academic year and so budgets for staffing will need to be looked at.</p>	

	<p>H & S report for Autumn term.</p> <p>Chris related his discussion with Jonathan Parratt, surveyor from County. Jonathan had advised that there is a limited budget and that's why there have been delays in completing much of the outstanding works. Jonathan has promised that some things will be done including the play house and the window catch in Ravens. He will arrange for a new fire risk assessment. Once that's been completed, we will need to look at the outcome and any recommendations. There is concern that there may be an issue with the amount of storage in the upstairs boiler room. General discussion followed regarding storage and the challenges. JJ asked who would fund any recommendations following the fire risk assessment. Chris believes that costs would be covered by County. The Headteacher thought that some might be covered by diocese.</p> <p>Chris left the meeting at 13.33.</p>	
10	<p><u>Policies</u></p> <p>All policies as follows, were approved and will be put onto the website:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance and absence policy ● Data protection policy ● Fairness and dignity policy (previously complaints policy) ● Governor code of conduct ● Grievance resolution procedure ● Prevent sexual harassment policy 	
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>Updated or new photos - Following the school photos visit by Tempest, photos of Governors have been uploaded/updated though some are still required along with resumes. June will follow this up.</p> <p>An invitation has gone out to parents and volunteers for the Melbury House carol concerts.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all, particularly Ruth and all the staff, for all their hard work.</p>	JJ
12	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Monday 10 February 2025 at 1 p.m</p>	
	Meeting ended at 15.04	