

FULL GOVERNING BODY VIRTUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021 AT 7.00PM

Membership

Name	Type	Term expiry date	Attendance
Katy Jackson	Parent Governor Co-Chair of Governors	19/12/2021	Present
Helen Walsh	Co-opted Governor Co-Chair of Governors	14/09/2024	Present
Lucy Freestone	Parent Governor	01/09/2023	Present
Alison Vaughan	Co-Opted Governor	15/01/2022	Present
Deborah Smith	Parent Governor	31/07/2022	Present
Camilla Bolt	Parent Governor	12/11/2022	Present
Jo Yurky	Parent Governor	23/11/2024	Present
Sophie Papworth	Co-opted Governor	25/03/2022	Present
Fiona Doyle	Co-opted Governor Vice-Chair of Governors	21/11/2021	Present
Ally Tansley	Co-Opted Governor	31/08/2021	Present
Costa Constantinou	Co-Opted Governor	20/01/2024	Present
Pawan Dhir	Co-Opted Governor	22/03/2025	Present
Simon Green	Local Authority Governor	15/05/2023	Present
Sally Eustance	Staff Governor	19/10/2021	Present
Emily Gazzard	Associate Member	N/A	Present
Maria Panayiotou	Associate Member	N/A	Present
Adrian Hall	Headteacher	N/A	Present

Also in attendance:

Hannah Cleary – Clerk

Minutes (For the action log, see Appendix 1 attached to the minutes)

1. Apologies for absence

- 1.1. The Co-Chairs welcomed all attendees to the virtual meeting, particularly Pawan Dhir for whom it was his first meeting.
- 1.2. There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1. Annual declaration of interest forms 2020/21 had been completed by all Governors.
- 2.2. Costa Constantinou advised that Rhodes Avenue school staff had attended a training session delivered by Veema Education.
- 2.3. There were no other new declarations of interest in relation to any items on the agenda or gifts/hospitality.

3. Late items and order of business

- 3.1. There were no items of additional business.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

- 4.1. The minutes of the last meeting held on 9 February 2021 were approved as a true record.
- 4.2. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. Membership

- 5.1. The Governing Body appointed Pawan Dhir as a Co-Opted Governor with effect from 23 March 2021 for a term of 4-years duration. A buddy was assigned, and induction training would be arranged.
- 5.2. The Governing Body **appointed** Pawan Dhir as a member of the Resources Committee with immediate effect.
- 5.2. There were no other changes to membership or terms due to expire to note.

6. Co-Chair's Report

- 6.1. The Co-Chairs had circulated an update in advance of the meeting. The following additional points were highlighted:
- Governors briefing and HEP conference materials have been circulated to all Governors;
 - The Co-Chairs had attended the recent Chairs' forum with the main topics being wellbeing, Governor monitoring visits and admissions;
 - A letter had been sent to parents following the last meeting;
 - A short update would be provided in the next Headteachers update from the Governing Body.

7. Reports from Committees

- 7.1. The Governing Body **noted** the minutes of the Premises and Health and Safety Committee held on 19 March 2021.
- 7.2. The Governing Body **noted** the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 19 March 2021. The draft budget 2021/22 continued to be developed and would be considered and approved at the next meeting on 30 April 2021.
- 7.3. The Governing Body **noted** the minutes of the Curriculum Committee held on 23 February 2021. The next meeting would focus on the outcomes of baseline assessments.

8. Headteacher's Report

- 8.1. The Headteacher introduced the report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting setting out the current context; attendance; safeguarding; staff absence; summer assessments and Ofsted update.
- 8.2. The following points were highlighted:

- Full re-opening commenced on 8 March 2021; attendance was good and up to 98%;
- Some pupils had been kept at home where they had experienced possible symptoms;
- There had been a slight increase in mobility due to families moving abroad and elsewhere in the UK. There would be some vacancies in nursery and year 5;
- All 60 places for nursery have been filled and a waiting list is in place;
- Admissions into EYFS 2021/22: all places were expected to be filled with a waiting list;
- Recruitment for vacant posts continued, ensuring that arrangements were flexible to meet the changing landscape and uncertainty;
- Relevant policies have been updated to reflect the full re-opening arrangements;
- Extended day provision had now resumed, and staff had been un-furloughed. Some staff remained furloughed for the breakfast club due to take-up;
- Some restrictions were expected to be removed after Easter, including at break and lunchtimes. Changes could be made to revert to the previous arrangements if required and some measures e.g. social distancing and masks would remain;
- There are no new safeguarding cases following the partial closure. All existing cases continued to be closely and robustly monitored in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures. Interviews for the student social worker would be taking place next week and this role would be able to provide capacity and early support provision;
- Governors continue to receive updates on safeguarding including tracking of trends and patterns in relation to concerns;
- Some staff who had been absent through illness were expected to return on a phased basis after Easter. Each member of staffs' circumstances were considered on an individual basis;
- A second baseline assessment would be completed after Easter. Feedback would be provided to parents following a refresh of the report to give clear detail on progress against previous terms and whether pupils are working at Age Related Expectations. The reports would also highlight particular areas of concern. Provision to bridge learning gaps including teaching in smaller groups, interventions and use of other resources is already in place. Tutoring was already being delivered and would continue after Easter for some identified pupils in-school;
- Good support continues to be provided for staff wellbeing. Staff are continuing to work hard and as a team;
- The closure on Friday afternoons would not be required after Easter although arrangements would be kept under review given the ongoing and remaining uncertainty of the pandemic and frequent changes to guidance.

8.3. Governors asked **questions** as follows:

Q: Are you expecting any nursery applicants/places to be deferred?

A: There has been one application to defer admission into EYFS. All applications would be considered on an individual basis depending on circumstances and needs.

Q: Are pupils pleased to have returned?

A: Yes, pupils are pleased to be back, and routines have returned. Behaviour remains good and pupils are engaged. Support has been offered for wellbeing and concerns raised by parents are taken seriously.

Q: Are all pupils not attending accounted for?

A: They are not children missing education. Two families are currently from abroad although regular contact continues and participation in remote learning has also continued. There have been quite a few children required to isolate due to having travelled abroad.

Q: How will the tutoring work?

A: Tutors will support small groups of vulnerable pupils with specific learning gaps that pupils find challenging. Additional staff time has also been allocated to provide support for each year for those who do not meet the vulnerable criteria. The initial tutoring will take place on a trial basis and use school staff. Longer-term plans will include how the programme could be expanded whilst also offering a broad and balanced curriculum and supporting wellbeing.

Q: Has there been a significant focus on closing learning gaps?

A: The main focus has been on wellbeing and baseline assessment analysis will also take place to identify the best approaches to close learning gaps. Baseline assessment analysis will also inform the approaches used.

Q: Are pupils or families anxious about learning gaps?

A: There was more anxiety in 2020 than presently. Good progress was made during autumn 2020 although the impact of the latest partial closure remained unknown until the baseline assessment analysis is available. The recovery curriculum is not being labelled as 'catch-up' given the support and interventions are similar to those that would usually be put in place. The language being used to communicate with parents and pupils was also being used carefully.

Q: Will the baseline assessment results be provided for formal assessment purposes?

A: There are no formal assessments planned for summer 2021.

- 8.4. Governors **thanked** the Headteacher for providing a detailed update and asked that thanks and support be passed on to all staff for their continued outstanding efforts and dedication to pupils. Governors commended the strong leadership that continued to be demonstrated and the good levels of support available for all pupils and families.

9. Strategic Thinking

- 9.1. Governors were encouraged to review the training log and engage with relevant courses on the NGA learning link, HEP website, and other e-learning modules/webinars.
- 9.2. Governor visits: Governors considered possible methods to undertake monitoring. Lateral flow testing is available to support any in-school visits, although on-site activities continued to be limited due to social distancing. The potential to undertake pupil voice activities with the School Council would be explored by the Co-Chairs and

the Headteacher. Any Governors wishing to undertake visits should approach the Headteacher.

9.3. Governor monitoring:

Safeguarding: Lucy Freestone: Regular contact with the safeguarding lead at the school (Emel Ali) continued to be maintained.

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Alison Vaughan: undertaking a staff survey in summer 2021 to seek feedback on staff wellbeing would be considered.

Inclusion and diversity: Jo Yurky had spoken with the Inclusion Lead (Emily Gazzard) to agree monitoring priorities for visits from May 2021. The main foci would be how pupil wellbeing is monitored and measured and inclusion statement. Governors also noted the Inclusion Report.

BAME: Fiona Doyle: see item 8 above re the working group. Arrangements were also being made to undertake pupil voice activities to ascertain how pupils felt about the curriculum and seek feedback.

GDPR: Helen Walsh: no issues to report.

EYFS: Camilla Bolt: a meeting was due to be arranged to review the EYFS curriculum and possible changes/improvements.

9.4. Working group updates:

Fiona Doyle advised that the parent engagement event facilitated by HEP would take place in May 2021 where ideas for the curriculum would be discussed. A document would be provided before the engagement session to provide information for parents who might attend. Fiona had also attended a HEP BAME session that was very valuable, and the resources would be shared.

School name working group: A meeting was due to be arranged for the spring 2021 term.

Strategic planning: the work to develop the vision and values continued and would be shared with Governors.

9.5. Jo Yurky advised she had attended a 'strategically monitoring pupil wellbeing' webinar. Costa Constantinou would also be attending a training course: 'developing and monitoring the schools' vision'.

10. Policies

10.1. There were no policies presented for approval.

11. Dates of Future meetings 2020/21

11.1. The Governing Body **noted** the dates of future meetings as follows:

Curriculum: TBA

Resources/Premises: Friday, 30/04/2021 from 8am

FGB: Tuesday, 25/05/2021 at 7pm

Resources/Premises: Friday, 25/05/2021 from 8am

FGB: Tuesday, 13/07/2021 at 7pm

Rhodes Avenue Primary, London

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm

Signed..... Date.....

Appendix 1 – Action Log

Date added	Item	Owner	Date for next review
22/01/2019	Details of the impact and progress against the School Development Plan to be brought to each future FGB meeting.	Headteacher	Ongoing from Spring 2019
09/07/2019	Standing item 'Strategic Thinking' to be included on all agendas going forward.	Clerk	Ongoing from Autumn 2019