

## KENTISH TOWN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL (CAMDEN)

## PUBLIC MINUTES FULL MEETING OF THE BOARD 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 at 5.30PM

## In attendance:

Governor Role		Name	Present
	Founda	tion Governors (7):	
Ex Officio (1)		Father Guy Willis	✓
LDBS (2)		Colin Reader, Chair	✓
		Shirley Skrentny	✓
PCC (2)		Fan Yeung	✓
		Rachel Wrangham	✓
Deanery Synod (2)		Tom Dumbell	✓
		Nigel Palmer	Х
	Non Foun	dation Governors (5)	•
Ctoff (2):	Head Teacher (1)	James Humphries	✓
Staff (2):	Teaching Staff (1)	Karen Trussler	Х
Parent Elected Governor		Ellie Besley-Gould	✓
		Graeme Caul	✓
Local Authority (LA) (1)		Fiona Lovering	✓
	Assoc	ciate Members (2)	•
Deputy Head	Teacher	Grant Jacobson	Х
Support staff member		Sarah Haag	Х
		Emma Benham	✓
		Miriam Nadarajah	Х
		Others Present (1)	•
Clerk:		Pamela Ansley	✓
Observer:		Rachel Davies	✓
		•	

	PART 1 – PUBLIC ITEMS	Actions/ Date
1	Welcome, Introductions and Opening Prayer	
	The Chair formally welcomed Ellie to the Governing Board and Father Guy then opened in prayer.	

2	Apologies for absence	
	Father Nigel, Grant, Sarah and Karen all sent their apologies.	
3	Helen Ridding, LDBS – Ofsted	
	Helen Ridding outlined the Education Inspection Framework. Her presentation is attached.	
	Helen outlined the two types of inspection that would happen in the event that we were inspected. A Section 5 or a Section 8.	
	She advised that there will be no grading and the school would remain outstanding and the subsequent inspection would be a Section 5 inspection in a 1-2 years' time if KTS is no longer deemed to be outstanding. If there were serious concerns eg safeguarding, the section 8 inspection would automatically convert to a section 5 inspection.	
	The following queries were raised.	
	GQ: How can school remain outstanding when they are dealing with a new curriculum? Helen reiterated that so long as the school was doing everything they needed to be doing the school would stay the same as before unless a Section 5 was triggered due to a safeguarding concern.	
	Helen advised that the judgment areas have changed.	
	Governors were also encouraged to ensure that they know as much about the school as possible beginning with the vision, the strapline etc.	
	Helen advised the Governors the process that would happen when the school received the phone call. There would be a lengthy discussion with the headteacher and the inspection would happen the next day.	
	GQ: With regard to the point of "Leaders ensuring that children complete their programs of study" - what happens when they are leaving the class every day for additional phonicshow do we ensure that this happens? Helen advised that by making sure what they miss when they leave the classroom, is followed up in subsequent lessons, and that they know their key knowledge of the subject this would be fine.	
	GQ: Is there a different definition for disadvantaged children rather than just FSM children? Helen advised that they could all be grouped under the heading of vulnerable.	
	The presentation ended and Helen was thanked for her attendance.	
	Fiona, Rachel and Helen at this point left the meeting.	
4	Minutes of the Previous meeting and matters arising	
	The minutes of the meeting were agreed with the amendment of paragraph 14 to read "may place considerable additional pressure on schools".	Action: Minutes of the meeting where agreed.
5	Reaction to falling pupil numbers	

This was discussed at length. Key points being:

- We needed to think what could trigger the closure of the nursery.
- When we would make that decision.
- Ways of working to ensure viability in a collaborative way.

It was decided that the Resources Committee would investigate what the trigger point would be and bring this back to the next meeting for further discussion. Currently we will have 21 children (possibly 23) in the Nursery by February half term and this could potentially change the provision and the staffing.

GQ: What about offering a 2-year old provision? James advised that this was something that we had in fact consulted on back around 2015/16 and that it had not been financially viable at that time.

A Governor enquired whether or not reception applications would drop if we did not have a Nursery as a lot of our Reception children come through from the Nursery? This would be a real possibility and is one reason why we wish to retain the Nursery if possible. And also whether we would levy a charge for non-disadvantaged pupils? James advised that we had sought financial contributions from some parents last year and would do so again this year.

GQ: Would it be worth talking to those people who did not take a place in our Nursery to find out why? James advised that some families did not take up the Nursery offer due to the fact that it was term time only. Any change of this description to our provision would have a massive impact on staffing arrangements.

James advised the Board that Sarah had enquired about changing the point of entry to the school to Nursery class instead of Reception but it could not be done.

GQ: Could we federate resources ie sharing large outlays between two sites? Colin advised that we do this already with our music provision.

GQ: Could we share after school club with another site? James informed Governors that he had previously worked in a school that had shared the club provision and it was quite tricky for the school that sent the children to another site. Staff had to collect all the children, walk them to the site and parents had to collect from the other school. He also advised the Board that the current climate makes collaboration difficult.

James advised that numbers attending after school club has risen massively after lockdown, breakfast club is filled with pupil premium children and every single child in the ARB had a slot to attend the after school provision at some point during the week.

GQ: Should we promote the fact that Nursery children can attend after school club as some schools do not allow them to attend until they are 5 years old. Producing a video of the school was also discussed and it was decided to go ahead with this.

GQ: Is the fact that we have spaces in the Nursery on the website? The Clerk advised that it is on the Carousel on the home page and there was still the banner outside to alert the wider community

It was agreed that, as outlined above, we would continue to develop our thinking on these issues and would have a further discussion at the March

Action: It was agreed that the Resources Committee would look at what would be the tipping point for no . Nursery Class and come back to the next meeting with this and also by then we would know the numbers for Nurserv and Reception for the upcoming year.

Action:
Governors
agreed to the
production of
a view
promoting
the school.

	FGB.	
6	Camden Education Strategy	
	This document was also attached to these minutes. James ran through a few key elements of the presentation and drew everyone's attention particularly to the Entitlement Pledge. James advised Governors that this was very difficult to achieve for our SEN children as they could not access all of this without the funding to make it happen.	
	GC: Does this not place an unreasonable burden on headteachers? Do we want to reply to this strategy individually or jointly? This was discussed and the Strategy would be circulated as it had the link for Governors to follow to do this. Rachel agreed to draft one to be sent on behalf of all Governors. She would send this to James and Governors for approval.	Action: Rachel to draft a joint response.
7	Finance Update	
	Colin advised that there was nothing to report. We were exactly where we thought we would be at this point in the year.	
8	Questions relating to the Head's Report	
	GQ: Training – there was nothing in the report about staff training?  James advised that Grant and himself were enrolled on training for Race Identity and School Leadership and advised that a detailed list of staff training is always laid out in the Spring and Summer Heads Reports.	
	GQ: With regard to Quality and Inspection – is there a crib sheet that Governors could have? James advised that there is lots of information about the school on the Governors Summary Presentation document presented to the last meeting and advised that he would produce a crib sheet for the 4 spotlights as set out in Helen Ridding's presentation.	
	GQ: Are we combining the PP grant with the catch up funding to maximise results? James advised that we were doing this and these are also being used for arts and enrichment. Every class was now receiving some form of catch up provision and all tutors have been chosen by us.	
	GQ: Under the heading of reading "the EBI of lowest 20% of pupils reading books matched their phonic attainment" – what does this mean? Emma advised that the children needed to be taught through phonetically decodable books. Emma explained that children also needed another book for them to read that was not phonetically decodable for enrichment purposes.	
	GQ: What is the plan for those not reaching the threshold? Emma advised that in July the percentage was 35%. The strategy is that daily phonics revision will be taught for 6/8 weeks for gap filling purposes and catch up sessions. Emma is reassessing all the children now and after Christmas those who have not reached the threshold will continue with the sessions until July next year. Current assessments suggest 70% plus of the children in Y2 will meet standard in the phonic threshold test.	
	GQ: Writing – provision is good but there is some spelling/punctuation that is not automatic. What are we doing there? James advised that we are going back to where we were before the pandemic. A lot of children did very little writing during that time as lots of lessons where online/virtual. Hilary Horton is coming in to lead staff on spelling/feedback and marking and there would also be a handwriting session in January.	

	GQ: In terms of safeguarding concerns and support – has this improved?	
	Have numbers gone up or down? James advised that numbers fluctuate and we are picking up that children and parents are struggling sometimes. In terms of access to services, social services are overwhelmed still and lots of concerns are going straight to Early Help where parental engagement is optional.	
	GQ: What about the Leadership Team – do you have enough support? James advised that he and Grant are part of coaching groups which have been provided by the LDBS. Helen Ridding is always at the end of the phone as is Colin (CoG) and Bavaani Nanthabalan. James advised that the biggest challenge at present is staff sickness and staff's reactions to their own sickness.	
9	Questions regarding the Committee Meeting minutes	
	There were no questions on the committee meeting minutes.	
	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	
11	Date of the next meeting	
	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 5.30pm	
12	A.O.B.	
	Colin advised the Board that this would be Tom's last FGB meeting as he was moving on. Everyone thanked him for his contribution and he was presented with a card. Tom told everyone that it had been a great privilege being on the Board at Kentish Town CE School.	
	The Chair thanked everyone for their time and the meeting ended at 8pm.	

Signed	Date
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Colin Reader, Chair of Governors Kentish Town C of E Primary School Governing Board