



KENTISH TOWN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Excellent Teaching, Excellent Effort, Excellent Progress:
Every Child, Every Lesson, Every Day**

Love – Equality – Compassion

PUBLIC MINUTES FULL MEETING OF THE BOARD 18th OCTOBER 2023 at 5.30PM

In attendance:

Governor Role		Name	Present
Foundation Governors (7):			
Ex Officio (1)		Father Guy Willis	✓
LDBS (2)	Head Teacher (1)	Colin Reader, Chair	✓
	Teaching Staff (1)	Shirley Skrentny, Vice Chair	✓
PCC (2)		Beata Goodwin	X
		Rachel Wrangham	✓
Deanery Synod (2)		Gaby Chan Stroud	✓
		Nigel Palmer	✓
Non Foundation Governors (5)			
Staff (2):	Head Teacher (1)	James Humphries	✓
	Teaching Staff (1)	Karen Trussler	✓
Parent Elected Governor		Ellie Besley-Gould	✓
		Graeme Caul	✓
Local Authority (LA) (1)		Hilary Horton	✓
Associate Members (2)			
Deputy Head Teacher		Grant Jacobson	X
Support staff member		Sarah Haag	X
		Emma Benham	X
		Miriam Nadarajah	✓
Others Present (1)			
Clerk:		Pamela Ansley	✓
		Ryan Kirkpatrick	✓

	PART 1 – PUBLIC ITEMS	Actions/ Date
1	Opening Prayer, Welcome, introductions and Apologies for Absence	
	<p>Father Guy opened in prayer.</p> <p>Governors welcomed Ellie back from Chicago and apologies had been received from Beata.</p>	
2	Declaration of Interests and Register of Interest	
	There were no declarations of interest for today's meeting and Governors were reminded to complete their Register of Interests form.	
3 & 4	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	
	The Clerk advised that they had received a nomination for Colin and Shirley to remain in the respective roles for another year. The Clerk enquired if there were any more nominations from the floor. As there were none and Colin and Shirley were in agreement to stand again, Governors present voted by a show of hands – all in favour. Congratulations Colin and Shirley.	Action: Colin and Shirley were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair.
5	Membership of Committees	
	The Chair enquired if all Governors were happy in their committees. Everyone was happy so the committee membership list remained the same.	Action: No change.
6	Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference	
	The Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference for the year ahead were agreed by all Governors present.	Action: Agreed
7	Minutes of the Previous Meeting and matters arising	
	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record of what was discussed and therefore these were agreed.</p> <p>Matters arising: None.</p>	Action: Minutes agreed.
8	Governor Summary Presentation/Questions	
	<p>The following comments were raised:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attainment page was the same as the last few years? The Head advised that this was a fair comment and would be amended. What percentage of children in Year 5 were able to access the Paris trip? 22 children so c73% What does stability mean? The Head advised that this meant when a child had stayed with us from Reception all the way through to Year 6. 	Action: Attainment page of the Governor summary to be updated.
9	Heads Report	
	<p>The Head invited questions from Governors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regard to the child that has been removed from our role for home education - what are our responsibilities when a parent decides to home educate? The Head advised that whilst we have 	

	<p>no role whatsoever the Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance indicates that we should discourage it completely. We have to advise Social Services and the Pupil Attendance Service and relevant services will then pick this up from their end. The other child who is mentioned in the report has an EHCP and this involves a change of placement which has not happened yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Growth Mindset? The Head explained that this was a strategy that we employ to support children's resilience. • Section 5 – Is this correct? - the Safeguarding Report indicates different. At this point there was a discussion and it was agreed that this section of the Heads Report would be removed from further reports and we would refer to the Safeguarding Report for this information. • Place in Year 4 – why has this not been filled – is this unusual? The Head advised that this is not that usual we just don't have anyone on the waiting list right now. • New starters in Acorn/Oak Class – Miriam advised that she had been spending some time in Acorn and Oak and that ½ the cohort had been new children this year. There were four children in the resource base in Oak class and they were all settling well and all were now in full time. The Oak class teacher has also been doing some emotional resilience work with the children this week. There was a new member of staff in Oak class also. Miriam also advised that some children in the Acorn class were on a reduced timetable as they were not yet toilet trained. This can sometimes add pressure on staffing during times of breaks and lunches. • Is their speech at the level we would expect? Miriam advised that although the majority of children are where they should be with their speech and language some referrals have been made. • What about Ash class needs? The Head advised that we expect to have 8 children with an EHCP by the end of the year in Ash Class. • How are there four children with autism currently in Ash class when there are only two places per year group for this base? The Head advised that the fact that we only have two places per year group does not really matter. We either receive a Direction Letter from the Local Authority or a tribunal decides following an appeal that we have to take the pupil onto our roll. We really have no choice in the matter. <p>At this point the Head asked the Governors if they, or if they felt that the school community, had any anxiety or tension regarding the level of needs in our school? Governors advised that they were just asking the questions and none of them, nor did they feel that any of the school community, felt any anxiety or tension around this.</p> <p>SEF – this was our school on paper. It includes our strengths and key things to work on. Governors had the following comments:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the grades be consistent? Alpha or numerical? • Can this refer to the school being oversubscribed against our core provision? • How important is this document? The Head advised that whilst there is no provision to have a SEF it is recommended that you do. • What does the reference to NSPCC Pants mean? The Head advised that this was jargon associated with the topic of inappropriate touching. 	
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	<p>with the children this gives rise to the age appropriate curiosity of 5 year olds about each other's bodies. Marcia was following up on these with PSHE sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are network checks? The Head advised that these checks were carried out by Social Services when there are any concerns about a child or a child's sibling when a referral is made. • Why is there no-one on a CP Plan? The Head advised that we need to escalate some cases and challenge some of the decisions made at local authority level as our referrals don't always follow the path we hope. • A Governor commented that on a Camden wide meeting only 2 schools in Camden said that they were concerned about the lack of uptake of referrals that SS/MASH have taken up. The Head advised that two referrals he had made had been closed and he had been forced to re-refer. • Would there be any benefit to raise this in writing with them? The Head advised that he did not think that this would help as he had been referred to the complaints procedure when he pursued it. <p>The Safeguarding Governor reminded the Board that she was only in post until the end of the academic year and a new Safeguarding Lead would be needed. It would be good to get someone in a deputising role for the remainder of this year. This would come back to the November meeting for discussion.</p>	<p>Action: Deputy Safeguarding Governor to be discussed.</p>
11	Admission Criteria Review	
	<p>There were no changes recommended to the Criteria for 2025/26.</p> <p>The sibling criteria was discussed as was the ARB Criteria. It was also clarified that applications for places were held longer than the current academic year.</p> <p>The admission to the school out of chronological year was discussed and it was minuted that this was the heads decision. The Head would clarify this with Sarah and the LDBS Admissions Team and this will come back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Action: Applications held longer than the current academic year and admission to the school out of chronological age year to be clarified.</p>
12	Finance Update	
	<p>The Chair advised that everything was going to plan and there would be some figures to look at in November. One ongoing issue was the SLA money and an update will be provided when we receive one.</p>	
13	Questions regarding Committee Meeting minutes	
	<p>There were no questions on the Committee Meeting minutes.</p>	
14	Policies for Approval	
	<p>Behaviour Policy – Does the way we monitor the impact of our Behaviour Policy have an equal impact on all the different groups within our school? The Head advised that the impact is broadly monitored. With regard to children with SEN the expectation and adjustment are monitored depending on their level of need.</p>	<p>Action: Behaviour Policy and Child Protection Policy</p>

	Child Protection Policy – This was agreed.	agreed.
15	AOB	
	None.	
16.	Date of the next meeting	
	29 th November 2023 at 5.30pm	
	Meeting ended at 7.30pm	

Signed.....

Date..29.11.23.

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