

GLADSTONE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY & SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Wednesday 24th June 2020 1.00pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present:

Mr G Johnson	Headteacher
Ms J Pepper	Chair of Governors
Mr R Williamson	Chair Resources Committee
Ms C Govan	Chair School Improvement Committee
Mr T Drake	Vice Chair of Governors
Mrs C Sarney	Business Manager
Mrs H Halliday	Deputy Headteacher
Mr T Sulman	Governor
Mrs J McLeod	Governor
Mr P Southward	Governor
Mrs K Hill	Associate Governor
Mrs M Livingstone	Y5/6 Phase Lead (Governor from 1.9.20)
Miss V Lewis	Clerk

1. Updates from School

GJ: Pupils from EYFS and Y1 who had requested a non key worker place are all now attending. We have 100 children in school daily more or less out of a possible 133 allocated places but this is to do with parents' shift patterns. 60 Y6 pupil places have been requested. HH has done an excellent job and I have relied on her expertise and dedication enormously

I had thought I would be able to return from 1st July but this has been extended to 1st August. However, I really want to be in school for at least some time before we end for the Summer. Will be meeting with SLT to discuss in the coming weeks. Though rest assured the school and children are in very safe hands!

HH: children have been really happy and pleased to come into school. Very happy and skipping in. The EYFS Bubbles children are having free flow and are not adhering to social distancing as their awareness isn't there however this is allowed in EYFS and staff are happy with this. All the staff understand it is different in EYFS and there has been no resistance. Full complement of EYFS staff from next week, all very positive. One had been anxious but having seen the set up throughout the school is now much more positive. Y1 children have adapted really well, they are probably missing the more social aspects but all seem happy. No concerns received about children. Key worker bubbles are growing daily and we are running out of space unless we create more bubbles. By 6th July with the new Y6 bubbles and additional EYFS / Y1 places already allocated from the survey monkey questionnaire we will have 19 bubbles. Quite an achievement. Staff, SLT and Phase Leaders have been such a solid team. Everyone has worked very well together.

JP: really good to see how everyone has pulled together. Carry momentum forward into whatever comes next.

HH: would also like to mention the office staff also. They can get overlooked but they have worked so hard throughout, taking phone calls, communicating, running social media, sending letters, emails, home learning, administration of bubbles etc. They have been brilliant.

Action: None Required.

2. **Governor Visit – JP / RW**

JP: hopefully the governor report says it all really. Was really helpful to see physically what's going on and how everything is working. The level of complexity and organisation is immense. Massive amount of work gone into setting systems up. Children did seem very happy and accepting. Genuinely benefitting from being in school.

RW: appropriate for governors to look at these issues, teachers etc are going in to school so its important governors can give first hand experience. Perhaps conduct a follow up after the changes at the start of July.

JP: yes, agreed.

HH: from 4th July because social distancing is reducing to 1m+ there will be up to 15 in each bubble which will be very helpful.

JP: tried to make it clear that governors fully support the fact school will have a summer holiday. Staff cannot continue to work at this same pace through summer and not suffer issues. Plan as much as possible before school closes in July so staff can have a clear break and breathing space.

VL: Rainer said that many staff at Scalby and other schools have commented at the really positive and well managed way that Gladstone Road has managed the lockdown, home learning and other issues. Very nice to hear.

Governors all accepted the report as approval of the school's compliance with the risk assessment.

Action: Arrange follow up visit after Y6 Bubbles open

By: JP, RW, HH

3. **Next steps**

Hopefully looks like we will be back from September without any need to arrange alternative venues etc. Presumably there will be guidance with continuing staggered times etc. There will still be a lot to look into and sort through.

HH: our limited outdoor space is our biggest stumbling block - with staggered outdoor times this would mean some children were having very early and very late lunches! If 1m+ still in place we'd need to operate some sort of rota.

RW: what struck me when we visited was that although we're doing our best to socially distance in class, children are interacting more closely outside. The reality is we can't achieve the separation in September that we have now. Hopefully whatever guidance that comes will recognise this.

JP: risks are different outside. We'll just need to wait for detailed guidance for September.

JP: the governor bulletin gave some useful questions to ask and we seem to be doing a lot of this. However, we do still need to consider those pupils who aren't accessing and haven't been accessing the online / home learning. There will be impact on social, emotional, behavioural needs of pupils. We need to recognise there will be a period of resettling for children in September before their learning needs can be reassessed. There may be a very broad range. September will likely be challenging for the physical sense and also educationally.

GJ: in terms of transition teachers have handed over details to next teachers who are making contact this week. There have been newsletters home with lots of interesting information. Curriculum is well on the way to being mapped and planned (would have been this term anyway). Steph and Vicky with Phase Leaders are driving this and is on track. The first priority for half term 1 is getting children in, settling them, working out where they are compared to their pre-lockdown baselines. Really need to plug at phonics, reading, writing and maths for the first term and then include other subjects.

KH: Y6 extravaganza planned. Going to do a class each day to the McCarthy Theatre at the SJT for a celebration assembly with a video, music, presentation of scrolls, speeches and then they will watch Greatest Showman at the cinema. Parents can't be invited due to space. Just staff and pupils but will be very special. Thanks to SJT who are paying for the licencing and all fees. Also all getting a leavers' hoodie! Parents to be informed hopefully by the end of this week with full details of arrangements, times etc next week.

HH: not many schools have managed to pull anything together for the Y6s before the end of the year. Its brilliant we can do this for our children.

JP: Y6 to secondary transition?

KH: different schools are doing different things. Scalby have sent out packs to parents, Graham has done an online video tour and offered small tours to all families. We have arranged specific tours for those with additional needs. St Augustine's wanted to do zoom transition for all pupils but for us to arrange it. We have said this might exclude some children from accessing transition and have said that if they wish to arrange zoom they can but we won't be organising it. Hopefully St Augustine's will be coming in to do talks in July (if children aren't in they could be invited as one off). Haven't heard much from Lady Lumley's and Pindar yet.

JP: majority go to Graham and Scalby?

KH: yes

TD: the pack from Scalby is the same as the usual one with forms etc. Nothing additional. Do realise they have their own restraints but it is disappointing for the children.

JM: been in touch with counterparts at secondaries and have passed on relevant information. All usual paperwork will be going as usual.

JP: sounds like we're doing all we can do.

GJ: under pressure from Matt Blyton re SDP. The SDP will be submitted before we break up. Need to finalise meeting dates before the end of term – will circulate via Clerk for her to confirm.

JP: allocated responsibilities according to deep dives, perhaps needs to be revisited re priorities.

GJ: will arrange a date to have meeting in school with Chair.

RW: the government announced additional funding for perhaps private tuition?

HH: yes, it equates to about £80 per child. Looks like there are private companies who have tendered to provide activities for disadvantaged pupils over the summer. Separate to schools. Nearest companies are Newcastle and Leeds.

RW: use the total to target a smaller number of children as an additional resource.

HH: not being paid etc until Autumn so we have time to consider.

JP: we need to have them in and assess their needs before we can move any of that forward. Opportunities Area money not spent this year will be rolled forward. Will keep in touch with GJ and HH re funding opportunities from the OA funding pot. Spend and plan strategically to offer the best and most effective support.

JP: Friday pm Opportunities Area board meeting. It isn't just private tuition, it is about identifying effective strategies. Any additional provision can't be put in place until we know the status quo of children in September. OA will be able to help.

JP: have noticed that some holiday providers may be able to open over the holidays but limited info.

GJ: Playcentre may be open but not confirmed.

JP: childcare providers probably waiting for guidance.

HH: think LA are working on something as they have requested info from schools about known clubs, out of school groups etc.

GJ: will be attending a meeting organised by the LA on Friday about a more collaborative way of running in September.

JP: much contact with other heads?

GJ: there is a round robin email that goes round sharing practice. HH also following schools' websites etc for their offer. Most only got Y6 in or keyworkers in at present.

HH: yes. Some of the smaller ones have got EYFS, Y1, Y6 and keyworker but this is a total of 20 or less in many cases. We've done a well planned provision whilst also planning for the future.

HH: free school meal vouchers over summer? The voucher site has been problematic, what happens over the Summer for parent queries?

CS: most are now ok with the vouchers. They will have to contact Edenred helplines. Sending a 4 week and 3 week not weekly.

HH: worries me that school is closed and parents will blame us.

CS: we can inform parents of their order reference and send them an email etc with contact info for them to use if having issues.

JP: easier to do just one voucher for 7 weeks?

CS: if it works re length of expiry etc this would be easier.

Action: Arrange meeting with Chair / Clerk etc face to face

By: GJ

Action: Set & circulate dates of meetings for 20/21 to all governors

By: GJ, JP, VL

4. **Next meeting**

Date of next meeting agreed as Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 10.30am via zoom.

Action: Circulate zoom meeting link and documents by

By: VL

Ended at 2.15pm