

GLADSTONE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY & SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Wednesday 10th 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
Mr P Southward	Governor
Mr T Sulman	Governor

Mrs K Hill	Phase Leader / Associate Governor
Mrs M Livingstone	Phase Leader

Miss V Lewis	Clerk
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1. **W/C 01.06.20 - Bubble update**

GJ: a reminder that we decided to stick with opening for child care only for key worker and vulnerable pupils but put all the required measures related to re-opening re cleaning etc in place. Wanted to roll with it and then think about next steps. It has gone really well, positive feedback from staff.

KH: To help with organisation and logistics there is a phase Leader in every day as well as a member of the SLT. The phase leaders support their phase bubbles and also assist with any tricky children / situations throughout the school.

ML: Inclusion team staff are in daily and checking in with children etc to ensure running smoothly.

JP: it doesn't take much for an issue to arise in these intense contexts.

GJ: we have some specific children with behaviour difficulties and they have risk assessments. We are liaising with social services about trying to ensure they come back to school at the right time and not just straight in.

ML: we are trying to keep staffing for the vulnerable pupils a bit more consistent in the bubbles.

KH: communication between staff at the end of each day has been much stronger.

JP: the nature of vulnerable children is that they need stability and this level of change is difficult for them.

KH: indeed, they probably have a chaotic home life too. They aren't always coping with the intense bubble situation very well. It's a challenge.

GJ: we have not put any restrictions on key worker eligibility, we are supporting families on request but we do check that parents have no other option before allocating a place.

RW: you ask them their occupation?

GJ: yes.

GJ: We have got 100 key worker children on the daily register but not all in all the time due to parents' shifts etc. So usually approx. 60 each day. Bubbles are all around 8-10. We don't have them all in every day.

Action: None Required.

2. Plan for wider opening

GJ: sent out a survey monkey to parents of pupils in YR, Y1, Y6 last week, had a reasonable amount of responses. We asked them if a place became available on 15/6, 22/6 or in July would you send your child back - trying to do things in 'start date waves'. Had 20 replies for Y1 for a place in June so we decided to open two more bubbles for them to begin attending from 15th June. EYFS is a bit more difficult but the guidance is now that we can use those classrooms. If we were to open for all those in YR, Y1 and Y6 who indicated they would send their children back for all waves in June / July we would have 180 children in total including key worker and vulnerable children. This would be 18 bubbles. On Monday 15th we will have 12 bubbles. In terms of space we feel we could manage to operate 18 bubbles now that we have reopened the lower school building however if the number of key worker children increases further we would possibly need more bubbles still which would have staffing and other logistical impact. Schools now don't have to fully open in July. Waiting for more guidance for the Summer, really feel the staff are going to need a break after working solidly throughout lockdown, over holidays etc.. Need to seek guidance about key workers and the widening eligibility. RW: it would be hugely beneficial for school place to be available for children if parents are returning to work. However we need to make sure the guidance is being followed in terms of opening so we don't open ourselves up to issues if a potentially ill child is sent in because mum has to go to work etc.

RW: do we think there will be more places requested gradually or in bulk as more shops are opening?

GJ: as things are reopening we are finding that non key worker parents who have taken on childcare responsibility at home are now having to go back to work. Grandparents can't look after children etc. Numbers are going to increase.

JP: it sounds that we are gradually widening our provision and increasing numbers but then observing these changes for a period to check how things are going before taking the next step which is sensible. There are also issues with 'who is vulnerable'. Risk assessment is about minimising the risk of transmission. I assume its within union guidance. School are taking a professional, but gradual response, to reopen safely.

GJ: childcare needs when parents return to work falls to schools. We are reliant on key worker families telling us the truth regarding needs.

JP: I remain concerned about the number of children who are not attending school but are also not accessing home learning. I am so pleased with the home learning offer and provision we have in place but for those who either can't or haven't accessed it we do need to look at long term because they are going to be negatively affected. Do we know the proportion of children who are and aren't engaging?

GJ: The frequency of pupils' has reduced but the number of pupils logging in at any point is broadly the same.

GJ: Just finished speaking to Matt Blyton who has sent me an audit tool to allow us to track children's engagement. Looks like it will be a useful activity. GJ to send to JP.

ML: from 22/06 teachers will link in with their September class alongside the current teacher on online learning so this might freshen it up for children and cause a bit of renewed buzz.

JP: we don't want children to lose their sense of community in the school. Some parents are really engaging – but how can we ensure this is as wide as possible.

GJ: it's such a shame we can't have some more informal activities for those who don't need to attend such as phonics sessions or craft afternoons but at this point we can't. I do think we need to be able to offer places to anyone in YR, 1 and 6 who wants to send their child into school but we need to be able to do it in a safe way.

GJ: if social distancing was to be reduced to 1m we would be able to double up and have 20 per room etc.

RW: still going to be short of space. 1/3 of the school won't be able to attend due to lack of space. It would seem that the LA is going to need to look at wider options and think outside the box – other venues such as Raincliffe?

GJ: the next step for the LA is to consider additional options such as portacabins etc but we need more guidance before that can happen.

JP: big challenge re transport!

RW: doesn't have to be Raincliffe – perhaps there are some more local options?

KH: had a conversation from Chief Exec at SJT offering space but it isn't necessarily a useful teaching space. Any other venue is a huge challenge logistically for potentially a short amount of time.

RW: thinking more for September. Haven't received a single email from LA giving governors guidance.

JP: I've had some as Chair just signposting us to the government guidance. Will share it with governors. There isn't a lot out there.

GJ: updated risk assessment for widening opening – needs to be ratified by governors. Governors confirmed they had accessed the original document and agreed it. They will also receive the updated version for the wider opening from 15/06 (to circulate latest risk assessment with Minutes from this meeting).

Action: Send Matt Blyton engagement tool to JP

By: GJ

Action: Send updated Risk Assessment to Governors

By: VL

Action: Send information from county to Chair to other governors

By: JP

3. Further action / next steps

CG: what about using tools such as zoom for the children?

KH: we have discussed this in phase leader meetings – for use with the children but also as an aid for transition. However, it is felt that some members of staff would be unwilling to do this as it can be a bit of an invasion into your home environment.

CG: we've just started doing this at the SJT – there is a basic risk assessment on our website which gives simple guidelines about how to run a zoom activity from home safely, without impacting your privacy etc.

KH: the children would love to be able to see one another – you can tell which ones who haven't communicated with anyone from school.

TD: Lindhead are using zoom and other virtual means for things like Story Time – really positive.

KH: also being discussed for use with Y7 Heads around transition. Lady Lumleys are trying to drive that forward.

GJ: will definitely bring that up at the next SLT meeting. Longer term solutions like that are going to need to be in place.

JP: its about having the next steps in the planning stages as we go along. Things aren't going to be 'back to normal' by September likely.

CG: need to look at staff training and procedures for using these sorts of tools.

KH: even just a short reading session for parents as well to try to support them with 'how to' etc.

RW: would it be useful / possible for 1 or 2 governors to come into school to have a safely organised visit to see the system in action?

GJ: the risk assessment says we need to minimise external visitors but this would be useful I think. Also quite positive for staff to see governors.

JP: will email HH to arrange.

JP: definitely think exploring options such as class zooms is something to look into. Also to consider other community spaces which are available and could ease the pressure on school. Playcentre? St Saviours Hall? Maybe its something we need to think about from September.

ML: just regarding the use of facilities at the SJT, we could use it as a venue for new Year R parents to come along and meet staff etc which normally happens in school.

CG: there are a lot of spaces in the theatre and work has started on plans for safe entry/exit/routes around the building are currently being drawn up so we could definitely look at this.

JP: I think perhaps next meeting we need to consider the new Year R pupils and their starting school transition arrangements. The usual visits to nurseries etc obviously can't happen but we need to try to acclimate the children as best we can at this time.

KH: teachers have phoned every family.

JP: its difficult because we don't know what September will look like.

GJ: we would still like to do the Stay and Play sessions – but adjusted. Matt Blyton said that the Year R transition is the next thing for the LA to consider.

JP: I do agree that school does need a holiday in the Summer. Staff have worked through the last two holidays in stressful situations.

GJ: I hope so. We have already had parents asking about provision for the Summer. The Playcentre can't run it on our site due to insurance issues.

GJ: Matt Blyton still requesting a SIDP for September with our KPIs, target setting etc.

JP: impossible until we know the situation in September.

GJ to send Friday Update as usual.

Action: JP/RW to liaise with HH re governor observation visit.

Action: Friday update to be circulated to governors 12/6 & 19/6

By: GJ

4. **Next meeting**

Date of next meeting agreed as Wednesday 24th June at 1pm via zoom.

Action: Circulate zoom meeting link and documents by 19th June

By: Clerk

Ended at 2.00pm