

# St Mary's CE Primary School, Rectory Gardens, N8 7QN

## GOVERNING BODY MEETING

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020

6.00 pm via ZOOM

<b>Foundation Governors – 7</b>	<b>Representative Governors - 5</b>
<b>The Rector of Hornsey</b> (1 governor) ◇ Father Bruce Batstone                      Ex Officio	<b>Parents</b> (2 governors) * Dr Angela Loulopoulou                      25/03/2024 ◇ Vacancy
<b>Hornsey Parochial Church Council</b> (2 governors) ◇ Ms Jess Smart                                      22/03/2022 * Mr Ian Blaney                                      25/09/2023	<b>Staff</b> (2 governors) * Mr Calvin Henry                      Headteacher      Ex Officio * Ms Emma Jenkins                      Staff                      28/09/2020
<b>West Haringey Deanery Synod</b> (2 governors) * Mrs Charlotte Adlam                      1/04/2024 * Mthr Mitzi James                              1/7/2024	<b>Local Education Authority</b> (1 governor) * Mr Stuart Goldberg                              28/09/2020
<b>London Diocesan Board of Schools</b> (2 governors) * Dr Venetia Brown                              18/02/2023 ◇ Mr Aaron Khan                                      18/02/2023	<b>Associate Members</b> * Dr Feyisa Demie * Ms Alice Greenwell
* Governor present ◇ Governor absent	

**In attendance:** Sophie Plimley (Clerk), Steve Baptiste (Deputy Headteacher Rectory Gardens), Sam Fennell (Deputy Headteacher Church Lane)

### Part One

1. **Prayers** – Mthr Mitzi James led opening prayers
2. **Absences** – Fr Bruce, Jess Smart, Aaron Khan. Acting Chair, Stuart Goldberg, welcomed to Mthr Mitzi James to the governing body.
3. **Malcolm Willis – Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) School Improvement Advisor** joined the meeting to report on his work with St Mary's this year:
  - a. MW welcomed the opportunity to talk to the GB and gave an overview of the work he has done with school over the last year. Report previously circulated to GB.
  - b. Conducted desktop exercises initially and results showed the quality of work needed improvement especially in relation to KS2 outcomes.
  - c. Subsequent visits showed that Headteacher had focused on recommendations and reflected key points in the school SDP.
  - d. Continued focus on:
    - i. Leadership and Management
    - ii. Quality of Teaching
    - iii. Raising attainment
  - e. MW has seen management and organisational system improvements as well as improvements in the planning and implementation of the curriculum. Also has seen

the development of a more rigorous culture and higher expectations of children. Can see this powerfully enacted throughout the school. Will not have formal outcome to evaluate this year, but recent actions will really have benefited the school and the quality of teaching.

- f. MW undertakes a termly visit/zoom call:
  - i. Have previously focused on Y6 and quality of teaching. Conducted booklooks, watched and listened to interaction in class room and gave direct feedback to teachers. MW explained his dual role of making judgments and being supportive at the same time – i.e. being a critical friend to the school.
  - ii. Second and most recent visit/call – talked more widely with staff and developed an insight to their priorities and how they understand the school’s priorities. The staff were complimentary of CH’s leadership, especially about ethics and leadership during these difficult times. All acknowledge that there will be further challenges ahead.
  - iii. Themes identified for the school to focus on:
    - 1. Teaching and learning
    - 2. Curriculum to be more reflective of community/international issues
    - 3. The return to school in September and the recovery curriculum, with a balance of nurture and academic learning.
  - iv. Next meeting will focus on future challenges and how MW can support the school.
  - v. Conclusion:
    - 1. MW was very positive about the school and how the HT and SLT are challenging each other. He looks forward to supporting over the coming year.
    - 2. Offered GB some Ofsted training/challenge sessions.
  - vi. Governors questions:
    - a. One governor thanked MW for supporting the school and giving feedback. Asked to what extent the school priorities and focus have changed or should change? MW – the coming year will be a challenge and school should focus on long term planning with achievement attainment and progress always in mind. The school has certainly not taken its eye off its defined priorities during the C-19 crisis. Key priorities of leadership, vision and teaching & learning are all in the SDP, as well as research lead, well-structured curriculum priorities. The challenge will be to re-engage the children in learning. MW reiterated he has complete confidence in the HT.
    - b. One governor asked if the school needs to revise the curriculum in light of BLM as nationally there is no inclusive curriculum? MW – has not looked at all the schemes of learning in the school as yet, so can’t accurately answer this. But is very aware that there is strong focus and commitment to a non-racist and diverse curriculum, and will look at the depth going forward. All schools will have work still to do in this area. MW suggested that governors challenge the HT on this to ensure that BAME community feel represented in the curriculum. Aware that St Mary’s has done a lot of work on this already.

- c. One governor asked about how the school should prepare most effectively for the new SRE policy which is coming in to effect in Sept 2020. How should the school consult with parents most effectively at this difficult time? CH confirmed that it was announced today that the changes to these regulations have been pushed back to implementation in April 2021, giving more time for planning and communications with parents.
- d. The governors thanked MW for his time and MW left the meeting.

**4. Declarations of business interest**

- a. Annual register of business interests – Mthr Mitzi to sign when appropriate
- b. Declaration of any interest specific to this agenda - none

**5. Minutes of part one of previous meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – approved**

**6. Matters arising from these minutes - none**

**7. HT verbal report – including Recovery Curriculum**

- a. Less than 3 weeks of term to go and Reception, Y1, Y6 and Keyworker/vulnerable children groups are ever expanding. Currently have approx. 150 children attending school daily with staff coming in on a rota basis.
- b. w/c 13<sup>th</sup> July - all in-school teaching stops (though online learning will continue) and we are providing children in all year groups the opportunity to come in to school twice, once to say goodbye to their current teacher and once to meet their new teacher. This had been favourably received by parents.
- c. Playground works at Rectory Gardens have started (using Greig Trust funding) and work at the Church Lane site will be completed during the summer holidays.
- d. Inset days – Parents have been notified about the x3 inset days in September, already approved by the governors.
- e. Recovery Curriculum. HT updated governors on the plans for the curriculum.
  - i. The Recovery Curriculum is a framework from which to build resilience in the children after the COVID-19 disruptions, help support them and when they are ready for learning gauge any gaps before reintroducing the curriculum to them. We will assess them through summative tests and formative ongoing tests. They have had no formal schooling since March and we are uncertain about how much they will have understood, learnt and remembered. There will likely be some children who have gaps and the overall gaps between children will have widened.
  - ii. The Recovery Curriculum is all about engaging, rebuilding and accessing a new curriculum for the children. Plugging gaps and using any new funding appropriately. May be able to providing tutoring and catch up programmes in the future, but we are waiting on government information and funding.
  - iii. Nurture and mental health will be key to helping children reintegrate. The school has been focused on nurture plans for Y6 who have returned. They are now growing in confidence and feel looked after. Plans to carry this on and roll it out to all children.

- iv. Next year SATS still going ahead and catching up a big focus. Likely dates will have to be moved back to accommodate all the work needed.
- f. Recent government guidance
  - i. HT updated the governors on the details of the recent govt announcement and advice from September. Note that further guidance will be coming out on 11<sup>th</sup> August.
  - ii. Government now want all children back at school in September, with children in regular class sizes. Schools are able to interpret the guidance for their own setting. HT planning on year group or phase group bubbles, but this will be very challenging at Rectory Gardens with 11 classes, and only 7 classes at Church Lane.
  - iii. Ofsted inspections to start in January 2021 but some schools will initial visits in autumn term.
  - iv. Risk assessments will need revising and further approval by GBs over the summer.
  - v. Awareness that it is impossible to make younger children adhere to social distancing.
  - vi. Early Years must face front or be in rows in class.
  - vii. Enrichment team can go from class to class but must remain 2m away if possible.
  - viii. No whole school assemblies or collective worship advised. Year group gatherings are acceptable.
  - ix. Schools are able to welcome professional visitors such as educational psychologist and music teachers.
  - x. Equipment – children should have their own set of pens and pencils but they can share books. Children can again start to use playground equipment.
  - xi. Children should once again start wearing uniform.
  - xii. Physical Education lessons can resume.
  - xiii. Schools should focus on pupil wellbeing, support and friendships.
  - xiv. No educational visits to be undertaken during the autumn term.
  - xv. Schools should plan an ambition and board curriculum whilst focussing on the key areas of maths, English and reading.
  - xvi. Questions from governors:
    - 1. One governor asked HT views on fining parents who don't return their children to school in September. HT confirmed he has no intention of fining parents and would hope that parents can see that the school plans enable a safe and structured environment for their children, so there should be no reason to keep their children at home. The governors agreed that fining families could be counterproductive and would support the HT on his stance.
    - 2. One governor asked about catch up funding that the govt. has recently announced. HT confirmed schools have not yet received any detailed information on this in terms of amount and timescale, so cannot plan additional resources as yet.
    - 3. One governor asked if the school anticipated any additional costs associated with the C-19 lockdown period. HT confirmed there has been an impact on costs and schools will have the facility to claim back some money from the government.
    - 4. One governor stressed the need for base line assessment to be done as soon as possible in September. HT confirmed that although there

is the need to identify gaps and the issues in the autumn term, the focus is on getting the children to settle first and then will plan assessments. Likely to need to assess children with tests from the previous year group as so much work was missed this year.

5. The Governors thanked the HT for all the hard work that he and the staff have put in to managing the crisis situation over recent months. They went on to reiterate the usefulness of the bi-weekly update meetings held between the HT and the Governors that have been held from March onwards.
8. Chair's items – none
9. Annual Schedule of meetings 2020/2021 – Clerk currently organising dates and will confirm

END OF PART ONE OF MEETING