

Wellsprings Primary School

A Meeting of the Governing Body held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at
5.30pm at the school and remotely via Zoom.

Present: Mark Lunn (ML) – Headteacher, Katrina Marshall (KM) Assistant Head, Kate Mahoney (KMY)
John Sharp (JS) – Chair, Nicky Hatton (NH)
Attending remotely; Nicola Sweeting (NS), Chris Hall (CH), Tricia Budd (TB)
Clerk: Kim Lester

Following the end of the term of office for both Chris Hall and John Sharp. John agreed to stand again as a co-opted Governor and continue as Chair.
Chris agreed to stand again as a parent governor (no further nominations were received) and would continue as Vice Chair.
Both positions agreed by the board.

1.	Apologies	Action
	Luke Middleton (LM) Ill, Michelle Hall (MH) Work commitments.	Accepted

2.	Business Interests Register	Action
	No new declarations in relation to the register.	

3.	Minutes of the last meeting 16.2.22	Action
	Agreed as a true record of the meeting.	

4.	Matters Arising	Action by
	<p>E-Safety 360' – Completed. Improvement in every area. Rated as a 2.2 (higher than National Average (Lower rating is better)) Only action highlighted was in relation to encrypting staff emails.</p> <p>Quotes – 2 playground quotes had been obtained so far. Both from local companies, both similar with Wood construction, both using thermo plastic ground markings. One would remove the existing trim trail. Priced at £12k and £14k. Another Nationwide company is due to come in to quote in the next few weeks. ML had also been in contact with SCC to discuss alternative providers and playground markings (which should be done within our existing contract) The renewals would be done on a schedule across the 2 playgrounds starting with KS2 as this is the most needed area for repair. ML provided diagrams to support the quotes.</p> <p>Only one company had been to look at a redecoration programme for the whole school, as yet they had not provided a quote.</p> <p>Policies – NS had sent through SCC and GOV models of the Charges and remissions policies. ML will take these on board and look at our policy and update the website.</p> <p>KM had updated the Home school agreement also to be put on the website.</p> <p>Academy Patchwork – The LA have appointed an external consultancy company to provide a framework for the Academy. The government white paper had just been published and SGS had shared a condensed</p>	<p>ML</p> <p>ML</p>

Signed

Date

<p>version with the boards. No expectation to be part of an Academy before 2030 is expected. ML will keep in contact with likeminded schools in the mean time and up-to-date with progress with the LA Patchwork. The white paper also detailed 'Ambitions' of having 90% of pupils leaving schools with expected standards in Reading, writing and Maths, although it was felt that this may be an unrealistic ambition as levels have never been above 65% even pre-Covid.</p> <p>It also highlighted that more challenge would be forthcoming for the MAT's to ensure they are meeting statutory standards.</p> <p>Photos for Governor notice board</p> <p>Safeguarding Training for Governance – KL to check Training site to see who still needs to complete training.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>KL</p>
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5.	Headteachers Update	Action
	<p>Attendance – This has dipped significantly since the last meeting, currently at 93.7%, still slightly above national. Somerset has been hit particularly hard with COVID since February and this has greatly impacted on our attendance. We have reported the highest number of cases in a 3 week period since half term with 59 children testing positive and 13 staff members. Somerset being the highest area in the country of new daily cases. It is thought that 1:16 people currently have COVID, the lack of available tests will probably result in a change in expectations.</p> <p>On a positive note no exclusions have happened since February. One year 6 child with high exclusion rates has now been placed in alternative joint education.</p> <p>How has COVID hit the teaching staff?</p> <p>As stated 13 staff members have been off, Agency cover has been particularly hard to source. Part time staff have been very flexible in covering both their counterpart and other classes. To date we have not had to close any classes although at times this has stretched us immensely.</p> <p>Additional support – The 2 routes we are taking include <i>In School Tutors</i>, Each child getting 15 hours of tutoring input with children working in groups of 6, 4 tutors have been registered to get the additional 75% funding. 4 part time teachers have been timetabled to support this programme. <i>Partner Tutors</i> an external remote tutoring package (Third Learning Space) is targeting 10 year 5/6 pupils, funded 70% by the DfE. This will run over 2 terms for 15 sessions equating to just over £5 per session.</p> <p>ML has also applied for an Academic Mentor, full time for 1 year and mostly funded by the government, with the difficulty of sourcing a staff member it is expected that this will not commence until September.</p> <p>ATOM Learning is a DfE funded remote learning platform is being used to support mainly Pupil Premium students to access homework resources, free home tuition sessions and support. Pupils are being provided with Laptops if necessary.</p> <p>As a note ML advised that all the current funding for the above</p> <p>Free Resources – A Free visit to the Carrymoor Recycling centre has been secured, to include the coach travel to get there. This will be for Year 2 in June.</p>	

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	Subject Leader Groups – Staff had broken into three subject groups to look at the impact and raising achievement plan for History, DT and Science. Each subject had completed an Audit, Staff survey, Plan, Policy, Skills and a review of resources. Each subject had costed resources for future planning and training. Each subject will carry out assessment reviews in the Summer Term	
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6.	Finance and Personnel	Action
	<p>Budget – The Draft budget for 22/23 had been distributed prior to the meeting. The bursar provided a brief overview of the content of the budget and the need for careful monitoring for future in year surplus's. All identified staffing awards/NI increases and energy increases have been included. Pupil numbers were highlighted as dropping over the next few years. This budget's Pupil Premium funding is based on the October Census and we now have 10 more entitled children, this should catch up with in year funding. ML had undertaken some benchmarking training recently and had provided the board with some comparison sheets, mainly showing the high cost of staffing, which was already a known factor. Also factored into the budget are 4 year 6 1:1 children leaving, who receive support, one TA has another job starting after Easter, another is looking at a secondment. Neither are due to be replaced. Classes will remain as they are now.</p> <p>Governors unanimously agreed the Budget. Governors also asked whether the school had information on taking in any Ukrainian children who may be homed in the area. ML said that the subject is very much under discussion, children will be offered places where possible and close to their housing, but general admission procedures are likely to still be in place.</p> <p>SFVS – Final questions had been completed and the final draft sent out to governors. Governors agreed that they were happy for the return to be submitted.</p>	

7.	Governor monitoring	Action
	<p>Following the last visit from Steve John (SEP) ML had been provided with a list of questions that governors could potentially be asked by Ofsted, it was an exercise for governors to identify how they might know/find the answers to these questions. ML suggested that each governor choose one of the questions and identify how they might find the evidence to support it, feedback at the next meeting.</p> <p>ML asked whether it was useful to reinstate the learning walks? Governors felt that they would like this to continue as they found it beneficial. It gave staff chance to meet and see the governors as part of the team and also support.</p> <p>AOB The safeguarding/SEND governor (TB) had met with the SENCO and fed back to governors on her visit. 5 year 6 children will leave in July who have an EHCP. (funding loss of £20k) Possible 4 children in the early stages of assessment for an EHCP during the next academic year.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>ML</p>

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Date

	<p>Draw and Talk therapy sessions were a big hit with those involved. TB was impressed with the provisions Wellsprings were continuing to provide, even with the impact of COVID.</p> <p>Provisions included: Onsite Forest school – 2 days per week with Pete. Otterhead Forest school – 4 EHCP children attend. Conquest Horse therapy centre – 1 child attends. Action Track – Music recording studio – 1 child attending. The SENCO also has been bringing her dog into school, Jess is a Therapeutic dog, she has her own insurance and school policy and helps pupils regulate their emotions and provides comfort when needed. She is used for ‘Walk and Talk’ therapy.</p> <p>TB and the SENCO spent time discussing salient points towards updating the SEND policy, a second meeting is scheduled during the next half term. NS had met with the Maths leads last week, she will provide a report for the next meeting.</p> <p>Governors asked who used the Forest school provision, was it just for SEND children?</p> <p>The provision is used in different ways, sometimes the groups are made up of pupils who suffer social anxieties and struggle with friendship groups, where working as part of a group helps. Other times it is used as a nurture group, during the drier months classes use the area, towards the end of the year the leavers have several sessions with Pete, generally as a fun activity.</p> <p>Were staff toilets and staffroom to be included in the decorating schedule? It was felt that this would be an appreciation of staff efforts over the last few years.</p> <p>Yes, it was to be included.</p> <p>KM mentioned that Howdens joinery company would sometimes offer funding towards projects. If someone would be will to write a begging letter on the schools behalf it may help towards an upgrade. KMH very kindly offered to write this letter as she had done some previously.</p> <p>It had been noticed that the low wooden fence separating the driveway from the fields had fallen into disrepair, a recent accident of someone toppling over the fence and causing injury had prompted the school to immediately attend to that particular problem. Several sections of wood along the fence have become rotten and it was suggested that if left this could cause someone further injury and possible claims against the school.</p> <p>It was agreed that the school would ask the caretaker to assess the fence and make any repairs to the rotten areas.</p>	<p>TB/SENCO NS</p> <p>KMY</p>
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8.	Training	
	KMY initial governor training due in May	

The meeting closed at 18.47

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Date

Action Points		By whom and by when
4.	Matters arising Photos for Governor notice board Quotes Policies onto Website(Charges and Remissions and Home/school agreement. SEND Policy Safeguarding Training for Governance	All ML ML 25.5.22 TB/SENCO 25.5.22 KL check completion
7.	Governor Monitoring Governors questions – choose one! Learning Walks – reinstate. Maths Report Howdens Letter	All 25.5.22 ML Autumn Term NS 25.5.22 KMH

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Date