



Minutes of the Governing Body held in school on
18th October 2016 at 4.30pm

Parent Governor		Co-opted Governor	
Mr L Poulton	p	Mr C Hassall (Chairman)	p
Mr G Jackson	p	Mr Martin Drew (Vice-Chairman)	p
Mrs D Tideswell	p	Mr J Hamnett	p
Mr R Sproston	p	Mrs J Wallbanks	p
Mrs J Massey	p	Mr R Leadbeater	p
		Mrs W Parrott	p
Headteacher		Mrs V Harvey	p
Mrs A Gibson	p	Mrs P Bettany	Ap
		Mr J Overend	Ap
LA Governor		Mr I Belsham	
Mr P Potts	p	Dawn Latham	P
Staff Governor			
Kim Greenwood	Ap		

Also in attendance: Mrs T Rowley (Assistant Head), Mrs S Cummings (Clerk)

Governors welcomed Mrs Denise Tideswell, and Mr Gary Jackson, Parent Governors, to the meeting.

1. Apologies – Accepted

2. Election of Chair

Governors agreed that the length of the term of office for the Chair of Governors should be determined by the length of term remaining for the elected member.

The Clerk explained that 3 nominations had been put forward for Mr Hassall to continue in the role of Chair of Governors. This was unanimously seconded by the committee.

Mr Hassall was confirmed as Chair of Governors until May 2019.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

Governors agreed that the length of the term of office for the Vice-Chair of Governors should be determined by the length of term remaining for the elected member.

The Clerk explained that 3 nominations had been put forward for Mr Drew to continue the role of Vice-Chair of Governors. This was unanimously seconded by the committee.

Mr Drew was confirmed as Vice-Chair of Governors until May 2019.

4. Declaration of Interest, Business and Pecuniary relating to the agenda - None announced

5. Governing Board Matters

5a. Membership

2 new appointments have been made this term: Mrs Tideswell (Parent); Mr Jackson (Parent).

Mrs Harvey's term of office has come to an end and Governors agreed that they would like Mrs Harvey to continue as governor at Endon High School. Therefore, Mrs Harvey will become a Co-opted Governor as no other Parent vacancies exist. Mrs Harvey was happy to continue as governor at the school.

The vacant role of ICT & E-Safety Link Governor was explained. Mr Jackson volunteered to take on the role, explaining that he had no relevant expertise. Mr Skelding will contact Mr Jackson regarding an induction to this post.

Action: Mr Skelding to contact Mr Jackson to introduce him to the role of ICT & E-Safety Link Governor.

Mrs Latham volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Disciplinary Pupil Appeals Committee.

5b. Register of Business Interests

The Clerk asked for submission of any outstanding annual pecuniary interest forms for members of the Governing body.

5c. Code of Conduct

Governors agreed that the Code of Conduct remains appropriate for the school. It is available for viewing on the school web site. New Governors were asked to view the code of conduct on the school website, read and sign the code at the next meeting. Other Governors signed the Code of Conduct.

Action: all governors to sign the Code of Conduct. Mrs Sawyer to follow this up throughout the term.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th May 2016 were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair.

(Mrs Parrott joined the meeting at 5pm)

7. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

The Chair thanked Mrs Wallbanks for chairing the previous meeting in his absence.

7a. Confidentiality

Governors agreed to remove item 3b from the report prior to publication.

(Mr Drew joined the meeting at 5.05pm)

8. Headteacher's report

Mrs Gibson issued a copy of her report prior to the meeting.

GCSE predictions were accurate. Progress 8 is where it should be at -0.36. However, after Government adjustments nationally, this now stands at -0.46.

The Leadership Team will discuss the balance between reaching target figures and encouraging pupils to take which subjects they would most enjoy. It is likely that Progress 8 will not be achieved as a positive if pupils take only their preferred subjects. Mrs Gibson and Mrs Rowley will work to achieve 0 – this will keep us in the range for a 'good school'. Our high ability pupils need to aim for and reach a B grade for us to reach targets. We are to a degree relying on 6th forms to get this

message over to the pupils as most 6th Forms now require a B Grade to be accepted onto A Level courses. As a school we intend to push the message to pupils to aim for a B rather than a C.

In English and Maths our current Year 11 students will be graded from 1 to 9, they will no longer receive traditional GCSE grades for these subjects. We have no robust information as to what these new grades will entail and have adjusted student targets up. We need to avoid a second year of poor progress results.

Mrs Gibson noted that we need to access data indicating how many of our pupils go on to do A levels at 6th form. This is usually provided later this term and some historical information is on Raise.

A discussion took place regarding the levels pupils had attained at primary schools.

Mrs Rowley explained that they are externally marked and we have to accept the levels. Mrs Gibson confirmed all new year 7 pupils take CAT 4 tests during their first week at school. These results sometimes differ to the grades obtained at primary school.

Governors queried exam remark costs.

Governors agreed to fund the cost for PPG pupils.

Mrs Gibson was thanked for her report.

9. Reports

9a) Chair's and Vice-Chair's actions this term

Chair: Copies of Exclusion letters had been received.
Attendance Policy ratified 20/09/2016.

Vice Chair: Issued a letter to a member of staff regarding time off during term time.
Dealt with a complaint from a parent.

9b) Committee Reports

Review Committee held on 14th September 2016 (Mr Leadbeater, Chair of Committee)

The Very Little Big Band has been introduced to encourage students to get involved with music lessons.

Headline GCSE results for 2015/16 were healthier than 2014/15. 75% achieved A* - C in 2015/16 compared to 59% in 2014/15 and 56% in 2013/14.

In English every student must perform a speech presentation lasting a maximum of 10 minutes. This will be monitored by Miss Pinton. The presentation will not be worth any marks but must be passed.

Concerns raised at the last Full Governors meeting regarding poor results in MFL have been reinforced by further poor progress results this year. Robust measures are in place to review progress in the department and will be discussed in a meeting after Christmas.

Pupil & Curriculum meeting held on 20th September 2016 (Mrs Wallbanks, Chair of committee)

Miss Hill had met with the three feeder primary schools to review the Attendance Policy. All local pyramid schools are now applying the same rules for holidays in term time.

The main area of focus for the committee would be progress. Mrs Rowley explained that there would be one to one meetings to focus on individual pupils.

A discussion took place about SEN provision and the financial implications.

The committee had been presented with a report on trips and visits.

PPG reports are included in the pack.

Mrs Wallbanks asked about the bullying issues in Yr10 and Yr11.

Mrs Gibson explained that whilst dealing with Yr11 students some Yr10 students have become more of a problem. However, really good progress is now being made.

Personnel Committee meeting held on 28th September 2016 (Mrs Bettany, Chair of committee)

The new catering management is being monitored and will be reported on next term.

The accessibility of Frog was questioned and Governors agreed the need to determine its qualities and whether it is still the best option available.

Mr Leadbeater explained the Pit and Peak of teaching methodology.

(Mrs Tideswell left the meeting at 6.30pm)

Finance and Premises Committee meeting held on 6th October 2016 (Mr Hamnett, Chair of committee)

Governors agreed the need to improve the Reception area of the school. There is no immediate resolution due to finance. It will be kept on the agenda for improvement as soon as possible.

Revenue and capital balances were explained, as discussed in the pack. The cost of SEN provision affects finances with Stoke LA SEN payments causing concern.

Mrs Gibson has checked that no member of staff will be disadvantaged by 1% pay rise, as indicated on page 4 in the pack. The pay rise was proposed and seconded.

Academy Working Group meeting held 10th October 2016 (Mr Potts, chair of Committee)

After several meetings discussing various models no decision has yet been made. Conflicting advice is being received with Staffordshire County Council saying that by 2017 all schools should be academies and the DFE saying that this is not the case.

Governors fear that if we do not act soon we may lose the chance to join up with feeder schools.

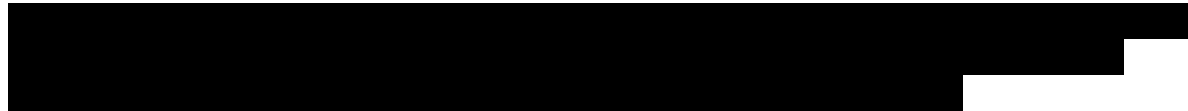
Two of our feeder schools are church schools and we have been led to believe that the Diocese as such would need 50% proportion of trustees in a MAT structure. The DFE say that this is no longer the case.

We could set up a Multi Academy Trust on our own with the option of attracting other schools later. However, if OFSTED came in to school and we had not achieved Good / Outstanding we could then be forced to join a MAT without the choice of which one.

We can attach to an existing MAT.

We were advised at a previous meeting that us joining with 3 primaries would be sufficient, then told it would not be at the same meeting.

It seems that the DFE would like us to join with a "Requires Improvement" school in order to lift them.



Mr Hassall suggested this be discussed at the next Academy Working Group meeting. A meeting to be arranged.

Action: Mrs Sawyer to arrange a meeting for the Academy Working Group

Policies

The following policies were reviewed in school, checked by Governors and taken to individual committees: First Aid, Whistleblowing (SCC), Staff Leave of Absence, Visitors, Appointments, Performance Management, Flexible Working Hours (SCC). The Pay policy has not yet been received from County.

Full Governors ratified the policies.

9c) Nominated / Link Governors

Health & Safety

Mr Poulton discussed the H & S link Governor report as included in the pack.

Mr Brown, H & S Advisor visited school in September and was revisiting in January 2017.

Science

Mr Potts had not visited school so will report at a future meeting.

10. Confidentiality

Minutes will not be published on the website until ratified.

11. Any Other Business

Prize Giving – 20th October
School Show

Date of next meeting – 14th February 2017

Meeting ended at 7.20pm

Minutes prepared by: Mrs S Cummings, Clerk

Signed as accurate and approved by Governors: (Chairman)

Date: