

Governing board minutes

THE MARCH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL			
Meeting of:	Local governing body		
Date and time:	25 th April 2019 at 5pm		
Present:	John Proctor (Chair), Mrs N. Metcalfe (Head), Liz Coyne, Stella Aldred, Rachel Bryan, Rod Hague, Mary Isgar		
Apologies:	Justine Howard, Rev. Rachel Hawes, Fiona Lewis		
Others in attendance:	Fiona Johnston (Clerk)		
Quorum:	6	Quorum met:	Yes

		Papers considered	Action
1	<u>Opening prayer</u> given by JP		
2	<u>Apologies</u> (see above)		
3	<u>Declarations of interest.</u> There were no declarations of interest. <u>Matters arising from the Minutes of 25.3.19</u> NM informed the LGB that the school will continue to use the West Sussex Safeguarding policy (the DCAT and East Sussex policies are inadequate). RB reported that an advert for a Premises Manager (15 hours p/wk) is in the paper. The closing date is 20 th May. The person appointed will be in post in September. RH stressed that robust equality procedures need to be employed in the advert and interview stages. NM noted that 30 children had been allocated places at the school through the admissions procedure and the school was waiting to see how many would be accepted. NM informed the LGB that an apprentice TA is being sought.		RB NM NM
4	<u>Acceptance of Minutes from 23.3.19</u> Proposed by SA. Seconded by RH. The Minutes were signed by JP		
5	<u>Year 3,4,5,6 Data. Discuss the outcomes of the Spring Term tests.</u> NM explained that Reception, Year 1 and 2 do not use the Inspire Maths system. The three tests give a snapshot of where the children's current level alongside the teachers' assessment. Referring to PUMA paper, as time progresses there should be less pink, and more blue and green. The focus is now on children working at greater depth. The question paper was challenging and advanced and had shown gaps to be addressed. As Year 2 does not use Inspire Maths, some areas in the paper have not been covered. The same applies in Years 3 and 4. Progression from Years 1 to 6 needs to be comprehensive and clear so NM will consult staff and begin work on a tailor made Maths curriculum. RB challenged the amount of time this would involve for NM. JP challenged regarding which Maths curriculum is used in other DCAT schools. NM responded that there was no standard across the other schools. The LGB discussed the teaching and efficacy of Inspire Maths. EC noted that a spiral form of teaching is preferable, where topics are revisited. Inspire Maths does not do this, and is more suited to inexperienced teachers. MI joined the meeting at 5.26 pm JP noted that results had leveled out rather than improving.	GAPS Tests PIRA tests PUMA tests	NM

	<p>The PIRA and GAPS tests are cohort dependent. The DfE does not take into account age, pupil premium, special needs etc.</p> <p>JP challenged the plan for Years 2 and 3 for English. NM responded that spelling is the main issue and that these children do not have the test-taking techniques required. The No Nonsense system is being used, as well as guided reading and 10 in 10, about which EC said the children were very enthusiastic.</p> <p>JP challenged: When would positive results for these initiatives be available? NM responded that in July the whole Maths curriculum will have been taught and assessments completed. Currently the results are close to the national average.</p> <p>RH challenged: what is the situation with Year 6? NM replied that 2018 SATS papers have just been completed: reading 86%, writing 93% and Maths 72%. This showed that greater depth levels in Maths need to be improved, especially in fractions, decimals and percentages. NM informed the LGB that specialist teachers were employed for Year 6 English and Maths and greater support is being given in Years 5 and 6.</p>		
6	<p><u>British Values policy (DCAT)</u></p> <p>NM informed the LGB that British values forms part of an OFSTED inspection. The LGB agreed to adopt this without changes.</p>		NM
7	<p><u>Complaints policy (DCAT)</u></p> <p>The policy has already been approved at Trust level. All governors need to be aware of the policy in the event they are required to sit on a complaints panel.</p>		ALL GOVS
8	<p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>The governors discussed any safeguarding issues.</p> <p>Kerry Guppy (safeguarding lead for DCAT) had visited the school and introduced MyConcern to NM. Key staff are able to use the cloud-based system immediately and training will be given to all staff and will be in use by September. The system will be quicker, comprehensive and transferable between schools and agencies, and will ease monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>RH challenged the cost involved. RB replied that the cost is £800 which DCAT is meeting this year.</p>		
9	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <p>JP noted that SA will step down as governor from May. JP has contacted JP for advice on whether or not a replacement is required for SA and if so, how a replacement should be sought.</p> <p>The governors discussed quorum figures. JP confirmed that NM is able to vote and the quorum needs to be 2/3 of the LGB.</p> <p>JP has contacted Mark Talbot (CEO DCAT) regarding school expansion. The governors discussed the nearby housing developments and West Sussex's 'School Places' 5-year plan for schools. The LGB discussed the potential for upward expansion and the requirement for an extra playing field.</p>		JP

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10	<p>Mark Talbot and Darren Carpenter have put forward a plan to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>RB noted that a robust LGB would be required to liaise with all the relevant stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Date of next meeting</u> 13th May 2019 at 5.30 pm</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm</p> <p>Signed.....Dated.....</p>		DCAT
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