THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL

Minutes of a Chairs of Committees meeting held remotely at St Bartholomew's School on Friday 19th June 2020 at 4.00 PM.

Present:

Ros Sutton Chair of Governors

Sara Sanbrook-Davies Headteacher

Associate member:

Elaine Smith (ES) Chair of CLC Committee

In Attendance:

Jane Smith Clerk

| Item | Action | Who | When |
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| 5.1 | Staffing structure, Pay Policy and Teachers' Pay and Conditions to be reviewed by Governors with external advice. | HT/Chair/Governors | From September 2020 |
| 5.4 | The Chair to write to the two Assistant Headteachers to recognise the particular contribution they had made to the school over the past three months. | Chair | |

| 1 | Approving alternative arrangements for remote meetings during coronavirus pandemic | |
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| 1.1 | Apologies and Declarations of Interest Apologies were received, with consent, from Peter Main. There were no declarations of interest. | |
| 1.2 | Meeting arrangements including decision making Governors acknowledged and agreed that the meeting would exceptionally proceed virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic, in line with current official guidance. | |
| 1.3 | Business critical decisions No business critical decisions were identified. | |
| 1.4 | To approve the non-confidential Minutes of the Chair's meeting held on 7 th May 2020. The minutes of the Chair's meeting on 7 th May 2020 were agreed. | |
| 1.5 | Matters arising from the Chair's meeting on 7 th May 2020: | |

Item 5.4 The Chair confirmed that she had sent a message to the children and staff in the newsletter on behalf of the Governing Body. Item 6.1 The Headteacher confirmed that Ms Ejbye – Ernst had been asked and agreed to join the catering sub-committee. 2 Headteacher's update The Headteacher said that In addition to the Reception and key worker bubbles, from 22nd June two Year 1 bubbles will be opened to accommodate all the children who have asked to return to school in that year group. The children will be in school Monday to Thursday during the morning. The school has been sensitive and creative with the staffing with some staff working part-time as their own families need support and care. From 29th June a Year 6 bubble of 15 will open full-time Monday to Thursday. Once all the planned classes are re-opened, there will be 145 children in school in eleven bubbles and this is manageable. The school plans to invite children from other year groups into school for a day so that all children can have at least one day in school before the end of term. How this will be achieved has yet to be decided. Reception classes may be stopped for the last week of term to enable this. The school will be closed completely for three weeks over the summer for deep cleaning and maintenance. Two children have been sent home with symptoms and a Year 6 child went 2.1 home with a sore throat. They are being tested. If any of the tests are positive, their bubble will close for two weeks and the Headteacher will not be on site for two weeks. All staff are well. Currently 18 staff are shielding although three have decided to come into school. Whether more staff will be available in September is unclear. A lot of staff have key worker partners. An individual risk assessment has been completed for each staff member. The staff is diverse with a number of vulnerable staff, and the issues are complex and sensitive which is why each is being looked at individually. The majority of parents have been very supportive, especially those with a medical background. However a few parents appear to have no conception of the challenges the school is managing, and the Headteacher has had to deal with some criticism and vitriol, including allegations about the legitimacy of some key worker children to a place in school. The most recent announcement from the Government about 1:1 tuition to help children to catch up has caused some concern about what is expected of teachers and the impact on the school budget. Clarification is awaited. Governor question: How has social distancing worked with the younger children? Are staff who are shielding preparing on-line work for the children? Response: On the whole social distancing has been better with the younger children as the older children gravitate towards each other. All staff, including those who are shielding, are preparing work. The school is trialling Google Classroom with Year 6 with a view to rolling it out across the school.

| | Chair's Action |
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| 2.2 | The Chair said she had received correspondence about an appeal for admission but that the appeal had been withdrawn by the family because of the distance they live from the school. |
| 3 | Safeguarding |
| | The school risk assessment has been updated and individual risk assessments prepared for staff in school or about to come into school. There is one ongoing safeguarding issue with a child and the school is in touch with the appropriate services at the local authority. One child's EHCP has come through and he has a place at New Woodlands in September, which is the best place for him. |
| 4 | Finance |
| | Closing of 2019/20 budget and 2020/21 budget setting The Headteacher reported that the school is still waiting for the local authority to agree the end of year figures. However, the budget for 2020/21 has been submitted to the local authority and will be adjusted once the year-end figures are agreed. |
| | The Headteacher said that the challenge with the budget going forward will be how to be creative with staffing as staff costs make up 86% of the budget. The school has an established staff who are therefore at the higher end of the pay scales. It will be important to avoid taking on any additional staff. |
| 5 | Staffing |
| 5.1 | The Headteacher reported that there had been six strong applicants for the full-time teaching position, most of whom were experienced, which is encouraging. The Schools Direct student will be teaching three days a week from Christmas which will give more flexibility. There will be no EAL teacher from September to keep down costs. The School Business Manager position will be re-advertised at the end of July, with the current staff member remaining until December 2020. The Headteacher said that an in-depth review of the School's staffing levels was necessary with governors being guided by external advice. This would include looking at the Pay Policy and Teachers' Pay and Conditions. Action: Staffing levels, Pay Policy and Teachers' Pay and Conditions to be reviewed by Governors with external advice. |
| 5.2 | GB support and thanks to staff and pupils Governors reiterated their support and thanks to the staff and pupils for their resilience, commitment, and hard work. Action: The Chair to write to the Leadership Team to recognise the particular contribution they had made to the school over the past three months. |
| 5.3 | Performance appraisal The Headteacher said that staff targets are data driven but that there is no data |

| | available this term. She confirmed that all staff were on track at the end of | | |
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| February/early March. She has started to do zoom touch base interviews with | | | |
| | which have been well received. | | |
| | The Chair proposed a touch base interview with the Headteacher in July, followed by a | | |
| | full review in September. It was agreed that the Chair would contact Isabel for a touch | | |
| | base with the Headteacher in early July. | | |
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| 6 | Catering Contract | | |
| | The Headteacher said she had been in contact with other church Headteachers | | |
| | regarding catering and had met the School Business Manager (SBM) at Holy Trinity. | | |
| | The Headteachers and SBMs of eight church schools are having a virtual meeting with | | |
| | Educo on 22 nd June to go through the procurement process. There appear to be | | |
| | enough schools involved and sufficient funding to make a joint arrangement work. St | | |
| | Bart's may have to stay with Chartwell's until July 2021. She said that Chartwell's have | | |
| | provided a good service. | | |
| | Ms Smith asked what the advantage is of leaving Chartwell's in April 2021 and the | | |
| | Headteacher said April would align with the financial year but that the school would | | |
| | still have to pay for a full year up until July 2021. | | |
| | The Chair said it was beneficial to work with Educo as procurement is difficult and the | | |
| | school does not have the capacity to manage the process at the moment. | | |
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| 7 | Health and Safety | | |
| | The Headteacher said the cleaning arrangements are working well and that the | | |
| | stickers to mark out social distancing in the street outside school have arrived. | | |
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| 8 | Any Other Business | | |
| | The Headteacher said that the Rev Perry had arranged for a contribution of £500 from | | |
| | the church towards the leavers' sweatshirts and she said the balance would be made | | |
| | up from £2,000 the school had been given for the Headteacher's work at St John's | | |
| | School. The sweatshirts would say Lockdown Leavers 2020 and include all the | | |
| | children's names, together with St Bart's 'Let Your Light Shine'. | | |
| 9 | Next meeting dates | | |
| | Next meeting date | | |
| | TBC | | |
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The meeting ended at 5 pm.