

**The Governing Board
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole
Summary of Local Governing Board Meeting
Held on Monday, 11th October 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Mrs L. Culkin (Chair), Mrs H. Armstrong, Mrs A. Harris, Mrs K. Houston-Kypta, Mr K. Jones, Mr A. Nightingale, Mrs M. Norrish, Mrs A. Swift, Mr S. Thomas and Mrs R. Webb.

In Attendance: Mrs P. Rushton (Clerk).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- Lucy Culkin elected as Chair.
- Ann Harris elected as Vice-Chair.

Clerk's Update

- Anna Swift and Keith Jones both formally appointed as Parent Governors.
- Rebekah Webb's appointment as a Foundation Governor has been chased with the Diocese.

Headteacher's Update

- Numbers on roll – 411 children compared to 390 in September 2020. Increase in numbers is due to children coming from other local schools and families moving from out of the area.
- 42% of children have English as an Additional Language. 17% of children have special educational needs and disabilities – an increase from 14% last year.
- National expectation is for attendance of 95% or above. School aims to achieve 96% to 97% attendance. Current attendance is above the national expectation but not yet hitting what the school would like to achieve. Absences are mostly due to lots of genuine illness.
- All year groups have settled well. The teachers are identifying gaps in children's learning which still need to be filled following time out of school due to Covid. The school has retained its Catch Up teacher who is working across KS2 on English and Maths.
- During the lockdowns there was a notable decline in the presentation of work by some children. The teachers are now working on the children's presentation of work and handwriting. This will be led by the Phase Leaders who will start by having a high expectations assembly and talk to the children about the school's expectations. Good presentation is especially important for Maths and Science where children need to be able to present their work in a systematic, logical manner. Governors commented that the school has always been proud of its books at moderation and frequently receives comments from other schools about the high quality of the children's presentation.
- Forerunner have been contracted to provide hot school meals following a competitive tender process. Staff have meetings with the company on a monthly basis to provide feedback on the meals provided.
- The school is in the second year of Come and See. CPD is being provided by the Diocese, which is recorded and can be accessed when required. All classes are receiving RE teaching at 10% of teaching time.
- The school is in the second year of Life to the Full. Teachers enjoy teaching Sex Education using this scheme as it has resources appropriate to the age of the children.
- Collective Worship is now being held in the school hall with Monday's worship based on Sunday's gospel and Friday being led by the children who do their own reflections and prayers. Class liturgies and prayers are held on the remaining three days.

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- Many of the Year 6 children have signed up to be a Minnie Vinnie. It was hoped these children will support the use of the chapel as a prayer space.
- Work scrutiny shows progression from year to year and within year groups, so confident that the teachers are pitching work appropriately.
- School is now using the Power Maths Scheme of Work which uses the Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract approach. The Power Maths presentation given to parents was considered really useful.
- New planning format is being used for the wider curriculum, which includes Catholic Social Teaching. The next INSET day will focus on the curriculum areas. Subject leaders will be looking in books to ensure the work matches the planning and the progression maps.
- Teachers will discuss the introduction of cursive script. Cursive handwriting is required for writing moderation at KS2.
- Whilst Covid testing is voluntary, staff continue to undertake twice weekly testing. Covid cases continue to be reported to Public Health Dorset.

Peer Review Update

- Focus of Peer Review was leadership, teaching and learning and the curriculum. Staff engaged honestly and reflectively when speaking to the reviewers. Lesson conversations were used to identify practice improvements.

Governance

- Revised Schedule of Accountability has been agreed by the Trust Board. Updated checklists will be available to support the work of Governors.
- Governors Handbook is in the process of being updated.
- Governor roles and Subject Links were agreed.

Policies

- Governors noted that the Trust had produced a revised Safeguarding Policy which is updated in line with KCSIE.