

The Governing Board
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole
Summary of Local Governing Board Meeting
Held on Monday, 31st January 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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

In Attendance: Mrs P. Rushton (Clerk).

Apologies: Received and accepted from Mrs A. Harris.

Chair's Business

- Headteacher post was advertised early January. Two applications received and both candidates were shortlisted. Recruitment process started today and a decision will be made following tomorrow's presentation and interview.

Matters Arising

- Safeguarding training has been organised through the NSPCC for Mrs Houston-Kypta, Mrs Swift, Mrs Webb and Mr Jones.
- Mrs Norrish reported that a recent safeguarding audit had been positive. Some minor points had been raised around the Trust Safeguarding Policy and these will be raised with the Trust.

Headteacher's Report

- EYFS have a theme for each half term. Planning is linked to the new Development Matters document with an emphasis on reading, learning through books and creating positive learning experiences.
- In EYFS the biggest challenges are building relationships, self-regulation and children's speaking skills.
- It has been noted that the attitude towards home learning has changed over recent months with some children not getting the help they need whilst at home. This experience is evident in other schools.
- Progress is being made with the revised Foundation Curriculum, with all teachers planning new blocks of work based on the curriculum coverage maps. Subject leaders are checking compliance against the documentation. Key areas this term are History and Science. All subject leaders have tasks to be completed. Subject rationales have been written and action plans reviewed and revised as appropriate. Subject leaders will be asked to contact their link Governor.
- The school currently has vacancies for an Administration Officer, a Teaching Assistant, Midday Supervisor and a Breakfast Club Assistant. These posts are currently being advertised. Whilst this may seem a lot of vacancies, three of these posts were held by a single individual who has recently moved and is finding the travelling distance onerous.
- Mr Thomas will be taking on the role of Mental Health Lead.
- SEND data: In 2020, 74 pupils (18%) were on the SEND Register with four EHCPs. In 2019, the school had 64 pupils (14%) on the SEND Register with four EHCPs. The school now has six EHCPs with a further six in the pipeline. It was felt that the SENCO needed more release time.
- The Insight software shows a gender difference when looking at Reading and Writing across the school. In Maths, boys score more highly than girls, although in Year 6 the girls are becoming more mathematical than the boys. This mirrors the picture in other schools in the Trust and is

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likely to be reflective of the national picture. The gender difference was picked up by Ofsted so the school will need to look deeper to find a solution. The standard of Writing has improved with The Write Stuff, although this may not address the gender differences.

- The Insight software allows staff to see if interventions are suitable, by showing if a child is making progress and is getting back on track. The software enables meaningful conversations to take place around children's progress.
- An explanation was given about learning conversations, metacognition and cognitive load theory.
- The Marking and Feedback Policy has been revised to reflect current practice which has changed since the lockdowns. A further review of the policy will be undertaken in the near future.
- The Year 2 teachers have started to use SATs papers to ensure the children are familiar with the format of the test and what is expected of them.

Governance

- Governors reported on any visits/meetings they have had.

Policies

- The Trust Board have ratified the Exclusions Policy and the Managing Children's Medical Conditions Policy.
- The Behaviour Policy has been reviewed and has been streamlined.

Any Other Business

- Mrs Armstrong was thanked for her work as Headteacher over the last few years and wished well for the future.