



**Minutes of the Local Governing Body held on
Wednesday 19 May 2021
4.15 p.m. via Zoom**

Present:

Governors

Richard Laing, (RL), Chair of Governors
Bernadette Wong (BW), Parent Governor
Hannah Connor-James (HCJ), Headteacher & Governor
David Sykes (DS), Staff Governor
Rebecca Berton (RB), Co-opted Governor

In attendance

Sam Stokes (SS), Chair of Governors of Godmanchester Community Academy
Debbie Warner (DW), Clerk to the Governors

1.	Apologies for absence
	Apologies were received and accepted from Linda Corrall.
2.	Introduction to Sam Stokes, Chair of Governor, Godmanchester Academy
	The Chair welcomed Sam Stokes, Chair of Governors at Godmanchester Academy, who has been invited to the meeting as a “get to know” each of the schools. SS introduced herself to members of the meeting and provided some background to the school. Previously a Parent Governor for 3 years, this is her first year in post as Chair of Governors
3.	Declarations of interest
	No conflicts of interest were declared.
4.	To approve the minutes of the meeting held 10 February 2021
	The minutes of the meeting were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings subject to minor amendments Item 6.6 Curriculum visit: document not to be signed by all governors but governor and member and staff. Item 6.7 Live teaching lives – check a point of clarification with LC. Item 6.1 PP Recovery – change to pupil voice. <i>REB joined the meeting at this point</i>
5.	Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda (Chair)
	The Chair confirmed that all matters are covered on the agenda. Governance sections of the recovery plan: a meeting between the Chair and H-CJ is to still to be arranged. ACTION: MONITOR GOVERNANCE SECTION OF RECOVERY PLAN – RL/HCJ
5.	Parent Governor Election
	The Chair reiterated that the Trust’s Scheme of Delegation stipulates a minimum of 2 parent governors and the LGB currently has one. The Chair has completed the documentation for a parent election which he shared with governors before the meeting. The Chair felt it would be good to start the next academic year fully staffed and governors present were in agreement that the LGB should try to elect 2 parent governors to the board. ACTION: PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION PAPERWORK TO BE SENT TO PARENTS – HCJ
6.	To ensure accountability of the SLT for the Educational Performance of the School

Signed
Date 14/07/2021

Headteacher's Report (HC-J)

The Headteacher shared the report with governors prior to the meeting.

In addition to the Ofsted monitoring visit, the Academy Challenge Partner (external educational advisor) had been in to inspect areas of the school. The visit included talking with children and learning walks and there was also a focus on RE. The visit went very well and the school was making positive next steps round "continuing" and "embedding". SEF was also looked over. The Academy Challenge Partner informed the Headteacher that she felt confident to "up" gradings with some areas showing aspects of outstanding. The document will be shared with governors when completed. The ACP also spoke with middle and senior leaders during the visit.

Staffing: Sarah Latimer, reception teacher, has resigned and the school has been fortunate to appoint a very experienced early years practitioner for early years.

Julie Middleton, 1:1 TA, is leaving at half term in addition to 2 other TAs who will also leave at the end of the academic year. The school is therefore looking to appoint a total of 4 TAs.

Admissions: numbers have now increased to 27. One admission may be deferring but the Headteacher recognises that it is a good number. One EHCP child will be joining.

Questioning/challenging:

- **A governor noted that there was an increase to the number of exclusions since the last meeting and asked for some background to the reason.**
- **The Headteacher was able to confirm that the grounds for exclusion of this child presented a safety concern and even with the reasonable adjustments that were put in place, there was a significant compromise to the behaviour policy. A part-time timetable has been introduced for this child and this is working well.**
- **A governor noted that one family had been impacted by quarantine procedures and had extended absence after the Easter break.**
- **The Headteacher was able to confirm the period of absence for the 2 children was around 4 weeks after Easter. Both children received remote education by way of live teaching and received the same offer as all of the other children in the class. The younger child was also able to access the curriculum with weekly live session but in addition to this received a learning pack which reflected the learning in class.**
- **The Chair was pleased to note the provision of remote learning was good.**
- **A governor asked about the school's aim for the Primary Science Quality Mark.**
- **The Headteacher explained that it is a 2 year project and despite the interruption caused by the pandemic, the school is still on schedule to achieve this in the timeframe.**
- **A governor referred to the recovery and development priorities: emotional wellbeing on childrens' return to school – what are they and what did you do to address their needs?**
- **The Headteacher said the impact was not as obvious as they had anticipated but these were addressed through PSCH lessons and circle time. In addition children, and in particular anyone vulnerable identified, were able to have weekly 1:1 conversations with the school's wellbeing champions. If any emerging emotional difficulties are identified, wellbeing surgeries are also available.**
- **A governor asked who the wellbeing champions are**
- **The Headteacher advised governors that during both lockdowns, staff had made the most of research, training programmes and research projects and qualified themselves in childrens' mental health and these roles will develop over time.**
- **A governor asked about the new teacher for year 4 and the Heads reluctance to appoint an NQT initially.**

- **The Headteacher explained that it was more to do with a matter of timing but were fortunate that the existing cover teacher was able to stay on until the end of the academic year in order to appoint a good quality NQT**
- **A governor asked about the ongoing issue of the waterlogged playing field.**
- **The Headteacher acknowledged that there had not been too much progress and is therefore ongoing. The Site Team is in contact with the building company and is continuing to chase this. The Chair was happy to help to get this progressed if necessary.**

Whole school data

The Chair thanked the Headteacher for sharing the data ahead of the meeting.

The Head went through the headlines and acknowledged that there is high mobility which was also noted by Ofsted which makes comparable data difficult. The comprehensive tracking system enables the senior team to drill down and case studies give context to the results. The Chair acknowledged this is helpful to governors.

The Headteacher added that the Year 5 baseline was low from on return of the previous lockdown but by the end of the Autumn term they had made accelerated progress to put them back on track. The difference is the equivalent of 3 children and this is not a huge number, although it equates to a 10% drop. Narrative indicates that despite what we have been through there are a number of groups making accelerated progress. The short-term impact has indicated 11 children from Aut-Spring.

The Headteacher advised that Pupil progress meetings determined Year 5 to be a focus. Year 6 is doing well and able to focus on high quality teaching and getting the children to the next stage (transition). Year 5 are highest priority. Fractions in KS2 has been identified as an area that needs attention due to the interruption of lockdown and Year 3 have been the worst hit.

Questioning/Challenge:

- **The Chair noticed progress in writing is not where it should be; is this systemic?**
- **The Headteacher explained the school had seen trend in early years but this is a key priority and the nature of home learning in this area did not support sufficient progress. The Headteacher was confident that it does not reflect our approach to writing and this continues to be an area of focus.**
- **The Chair said it was worth celebrating encouraging areas supported by the data.**
- **A governor noted it looked very positive.**
- **A governor noted that none of the children in early years have achieved greater depth and are any children being targeted for this this and being sufficiently pushed.**
- **The Headteacher informed governors that this was raised in a recent Pupil Progress meeting and the teacher felt strongly there is no child working at this level at the moment. However, interventions are planned with HLTA support and pupils with GDS potential have been identified.**

8. Debrief / Building on the Ofsted Monitoring Visit

The Chair thanked the governors and Headteacher for the recent successful Ofsted visit and thought it was a useful signpost of where the school is.

The Headteacher felt it was a positive experience and despite numerous monitoring visits, staff morale has remained high. The Headteacher stressed disappointment over wording relating to the subject leadership and contested this. Ofsted were able to reword to read more positively. The Chair acknowledged that this had changed the feel of the report.

The Chair was pleased to note that governors received positive feedback from the inspection and the Chair thanked governors for their efforts.

The Chair acknowledged that a full inspection is likely to be imminent.

9. Staff wellbeing

	<p>The Chair stressed that staff wellbeing should be a standing item on the agenda and enquired about the recent staff wellbeing that has taken place.</p> <p>The Headteacher referred to the regular termly questionnaires which are handled by the Trust and, although they are relatively new, provide good feedback and suggestions on how things can be improved. Results were positive but need to encourage more staff to respond to the survey. Generally wellbeing is very good but the Headteacher is conscious of the high level of external monitoring staff have received which will inevitably put pressure on staff at an already difficult time.</p> <p>Questioning/Challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chair referred to the question where it asked about staff confidence - The Headteacher thought there may be some confusion in the wording of the question. - The Headteacher was pleased with the positive responses from the survey but would be more helpful if the survey could pinpoint groups of staff in order to support staff further and explore potential reasons for responses. - The Chair enquired about the Headteachers wellbeing
10.	Safeguarding report
	<p><u>10.1 Single Central report – March 2021</u> Linda Corrall had carried out an inspection of the Single Central Record: Staff were knowledgeable and is being well managed. The report was made available to governors prior to the meeting. LC signed off the report.</p> <p><u>10.2 Local Governor Visit Feedback – 25 March 2021</u> Discussion on the timing of the last Pupil Premium visit and another to be arranged later in the summer term. ACTION: PUPIL PREMIUM VISIT TO BE ARRANGED BW/HEADTEACHER</p>
11.	AOB
	<p>There was no further business. Next meeting will be Wednesday 14th July at 4.15pm</p>

Meeting closed at 5.20 pm

