



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL GOVERNING BODY OF
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL HELD IN SCHOOL
ON TUESDAY, 5TH JULY 2022 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Mr C Hartley (Chair, Foundation); Miss P Pickering (Head); Mr S Taylor (Vice Chair, Foundation); Mr M Doherty (L.A.); Mrs J Hurst (Foundation); Mr A McArdle (Foundation); Mrs E Morgan (Foundation); Mrs N Henderson-Andrade (Elected Parent); Mr P Haley (Elected Parent); Miss L Grant (Staff)

APOLOGIES: Canon J Batthula

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L Hall (Clerk)

1. Head opened meeting with a prayer.
2. Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies received from AMcA or MD. Meeting was declared quorate.
3. **Register of Interests**
 - a. NH-A declared she is a governor at BGN.
 - b. JH declared she is a governor at BGN.
 - c. EM declared that she will be a staff member at BGN from September.
4. **Minutes of the full GB meeting** of 10 May 2022 were declared to be a true record and were signed by Chair.

Matters arising

Chair thanked Head, and CJ in his absence, for the Thanksgiving Mass held last month. Action points three and four were noted to be on the agenda for today's meeting

MD entered meeting.

There was no update to continuation of website improvement at this stage.

5. Headteacher's Report

ST noted that projected numbers for 2021 Early Years admissions are encouraging but also present challenges as there are over thirty new pupils.

PP replied that there will be two teachers in the Early Years class, in addition to three Teaching Assistants. EM commented that over 80% of current pupils attend extra-curricular activities and that she admired the high figure. Chair concurred and said that this was a reflection of the Head's attitude throughout the pandemic of not thinking "we can't do this" but instead "how can we make this work?"

ST added that attendance is good as well. He asked in what way the Government focus on school attendance would affect the school. EM pointed out that attendance figures at St Mary's are above the national average.

PP and LG replied that there are no school refusers, the main problem is families extending their holidays either side of the school breaks. Governors agreed that the importance of family life, especially for children visiting relatives abroad after the Covid pandemic, is a minor problem for children whose attendance is good.

Chair asked if there has been any recent increase of Covid cases in school. Head reported that there haven't been many, although one staff member had been unwell.

JH asked what percentage of the new Early Years intake is Catholic. LG replied that there are approximately [REDACTED] who wrote Catholic on their form. This figure is not finite as some who state they are Catholic have not been baptised, and some who are baptised Catholic do not declare it on their application.

EM commended the high number of applicants and how popular the school is even among the non-Catholic community.

JH replied that this becomes a problem year-on-year as the intake is diluted and there are more challenges in promoting the Catholic ethos of the school.

AMcA entered meeting.

ST raised the release of the Key Stage Two SATs results today, and said that the overall results are down nationally since 2019. Head said that this was a matter for Any Other Business.

6. Review Status of SDP

ST said that he read through the SDP before the meeting and that, although the Headteacher's Report gives governors a view of the school, the SDP is an interesting insight of each governor's view. He said that there are lots of good things happening across different facets of the school.

NH-A agreed that the shared governor document worked well and that it was astonishing how in-depth and cutting edge the school is in a range of areas.

ST noted that there were two areas which hadn't been completed although work was known to have been done. He asked if there were any problems with access or technology for this to be resolved before the next report.

7. Reports from Committees

a. Finance/H&S/Buildings

Chair said that he had been unable to make the committee meeting so asked if there were any comments from those in attendance. There were not.

NH-A asked if there was an update on the acoustic panels. Head replied that the project will go ahead. Head also explained the bid for the electrical rewiring had been successful, but when the work went out to tender Spicer's advised the bids were inflated and that it would be sensible to wait until the new academic year to re-tender. The Diocese were in agreement and will hold the money (£121,000) for the school providing St Mary's doesn't become part of the academy during that time.

b. Curriculum

EM reported that the Committee would like to write a paragraph for the school newsletter acknowledging the work done and in gratitude for the last two years.

Head suggested this should be a separate letter from the governors. Chair said he would also include a paragraph in the letter before it is sent to parents.

EM admired the number of altar servers from St Mary's. She said there were seventeen at the last Mass which is inspiring for Catholics visiting from other parishes.

8. Policy Review Schedule

a. Data Protection Policy

ST questioned what the role of the Data Protection Officer, [REDACTED], is. Head said that she advises and supports the school and would be the first point of call in the event of a potential data breach.

AMcA asked if governors should receive data protection training. Chair and Head agreed. Chair said there should be training available on Governor Hub and Head added that [REDACTED] would be able to advise.

Policy approved by Full Governing Body.

9. Diocesan Directives

Chair informed the board that he and Head had been through the form and there was nothing that St Mary's is not compliant with. He asked if there were any questions and reminded Governors that the deadline for submission was 8th July.

ST asked if it has always been the case that BDES should approve a PAN change. Head said that it has. He also asked if BDES have also previously been involved in recruitment for a Catholic post. Head said they have, for a senior, Catholic post.

10. Academisation Update

ST told governors that since the last FGB meeting, he and Chair had met with academy stakeholders on 11th May and with the St Mary's Senior Leadership Team last week. He said that they had also established discussions with other schools undertaking the same process, and he highlighted that he had emailed governors some documents regarding this.

Chair said that there had been a lot to take in from discussions with the SLT and that the governing body would meet without Head and LG so this could be discussed.

It was decided that ST would establish availability.

Head raised that the information sent by ST hadn't been discussed. She said that the Senior Leadership Team have today looked at the CSELs Achievement Report and were shocked that the first achievement listed is the disaggregation of a Catholic primary school with a Catholic staff. She said that one member of the SLT pointed out that children are not mentioned.

LG criticised the brevity of the report, saying that 38 new Early Years pupils walked into St Mary's for their induction today, with their future written on those two pages. She said that the school would need to show more than two pages to OFSTED for the last 18 months and she asked what sort of inspection there is at the top of the academy.

JH agreed that there is nothing in place.

AMcA said that it is the Archbishop's desire for academisation and that the Archbishop should recognise that everything starts with the children.

Head told governors that she had emailed the Archbishop directly in May, asking for a discussion re the academisation process and she had not received a response. JH was disappointed by this and suggested contacting the Archbishop again.

LG was concerned that the report marked losing a Catholic school for financial gain as a success. She pointed out that another success was a retreat for Heads, questioning how much that cost and what the benefit to the children was.

EM told the governors that fifteen or sixteen months ago she had been told that a full time Primary Lead had been appointed but she questioned the purpose of the role as this would have been the perfect opportunity for them to be involved.

Chair said that this is why the non-staff governors need to spend time digesting the report and sharing the conversations had with the SLT. JH replied that there was not a lot in the report to pick apart, and that the vision had not been substantiated.

PH asked who wrote the CSELs Achievement Report and Chair replied that it had come from [REDACTED].

ST said that they needed to determine if this was really all there is, or if there is more information which has not been documented. He added that either possible answer was not good.

11. Governor Skills Audit/Self Evaluation

ST spoke about the good practice for an annual skills audit and self-evaluation. He shared a tool released by the NGA which combines both. Once the sheet is completed the tool links gaps to resources. He proposed that governors complete the form individually over July and August and send it to him to collate. Chair asked that governors be honest, so the board could see where they have gaps in their skillset.

12. St Mary's Three Year Vision/Strategy Review

ST reminded governors that the Three Year Vision document was last updated in 2019 and asked for volunteers to meet and identify proposed changes before sending them to Head and Chair.

NH-A volunteered and EM said she would also volunteer if the meeting was before the beginning of term.

Chair suggested that it would be worth all governors re-visiting the document and inspect it for outdated entries as it wouldn't need rewriting. It was decided that views would be collated by the group of volunteers and fed back at the next Full Governing Body meeting.

13. Any Other Business

- AMcA said that tonight would be his last meeting. He said that his understanding of the role of governor was to support and promote Catholic education in his community, and he felt that through the academisation process he was failing in that purpose.
CH thanked AMcA for all that he has done for St Mary's and that this was sad to hear.
- LG told the board that the SATs results released today are the best at St Mary's by far. The target the school had set themselves was the 2019 national average and these results were above that in every area.
Governors gave their congratulations and Chair read out the results as follows:
Reading: 2019 national average 73%, St Mary's 2022 result 86%
Writing: 2019 national average 78%, St Mary's 2022 result 83%
SPaG: 2019 national average 78%, St Mary's 2022 result 90%
Maths: 2019 national average 79%, St Mary's 2022 result 83%
Combined: 2019 national average 65%, St Mary's 2022 result 83%

AMcA said that the love, care and attention the school, staff and teachers put into the children at St Mary's was clear to see in these results. Chair added that Year 6 are leaving St Mary's well prepared for the next steps in their education.

- AMcA asked what percentage of this year group are going to Blessed George Napier. LG replied that 50% are going to BGN, and there are ten Catholic children who have chosen other schools. She said that a lot chose their secondary school based on what they saw when they took tours of the schools.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17th October 2022

The meeting closed at 19:25

LH 07/07/2022