St. Michael's Church of England, VA, Primary and Nursery School

Strategy committee minutes

Tuesday 8th October 2020

Attendees: Peter Martin, John Neenan, Mary Evans, Chris Marriott and Jack Branford
Also attending: Fiona Tibbitt (as clerk)
Key: Challenge, support and SIAMS

	ITEM	ACTIONS
1	**Welcome** *Register of business interests-* DH registered his interest as the school ICT technician and JB as a trustee of the School House Trust. *Election of chair of the committee-* DH proposed Peter Martin continue as chair, ME seconded this and all agreed. *Confirm Terms of Reference-* The terms of reference were read out and discussed. It was confirmed HR procedures are all in line with NCC recommended procedures. The strategy committee is forward looking ensuring the fundamentals are in place for children to learn in a safe and nurturing environment.	
2	**Building update** JN reported back on a meeting with DS, JO, CT and JT from ALF and Isobel Horner (place planning) and Jack Blackwell from NCC to talk about growth in Aylsham and how it will impact the schools and future planning. There are currently 97, year 2s in town but only school places for 80. NCC take the view that this is a high blip year, so there will be wiggle room in the schools to manage them. Schools were advised that reception numbers are likely to be below 80 if schools only take children within their catchment. Governors pointed out that they believe neighbouring school's such as Hevingham, Marsham, Buxton and Colby are full. There is another meeting planned for January. IH had advised that the 20 capacity, mobile classroom is being removed in July 2020 and JN was informed that the LA won't provide another one but would expect Diocese to do this as St Michael's is a VA school. IH has confirmed to Sam Witton (at the Diocese) that she has seen the school nursery plans and will be chasing them and that she is looking at how to extend the current mobile classroom for September 2020; SW advised the LA can't leave the school without adequate space. The new nursery is not likely to be ready until at least Christmas 2020, possibly February 2021. A brand-new school will only be built when the next large round of developments go-through in about 10 years' time. NCC have said it would be a new St Michael's and £8 million would be put aside for it.	

3	**Primary progression** – *extending school hours* Governors discussed how the current school hours are not enough to cover the KS2 curriculum including another language. It was agreed the strategy should be to extend the hours for all children, with an aim to start with KS2 as soon as possible. It was felt there would be limited disruption due to older siblings being at BVS, as most families who had chosen to stay at St Michael's no longer had older children at BVS. From September 2021 there will no longer be the option to change school at KS2 as the children started reception when the school was a all through primary. The effect on the budget was discussed and agreed initially there would be no effect as TAs will not be expected to change their hours. Teachers will give them time during the day to do jobs currently undertaken before or after school and the older classes do not need full time TAs. NEXT STEPS – FT to check legalities and consultation for a change in January 2020 if possible. JN to let other schools know. Consultation with staff and parents to move forward as soon as possible. JN confirmed all teachers recognise the need to increase the school day. Nursery hours will stay the same and nursery parents will be able to wait in the Ark if the weather is bad for the extra 10-15 minutes after dropping off older siblings.	*Consultation document to be agreed and distributed.*
4	**SIDP** It was agreed that governors would send an open letter to SPIRE to say how urgently we need the nursery build to go through. DH is a governor representative for planning meetings. JN will continue to delegate FT to attend planning meetings when necessary so that his focus is not detracted from the curriculum. Governors will receive regular updates. It was agreed that people are recognising that St Michael's offer a different package from JofG. A decision will need to be made next year as to whether to buy into BMP5 again or look to SPIRE for building maintenance. The general agreement was this would depend on the insurance pot that SPIRE offer. BMP4 covered the cost of the rebuilding Beech class ceiling and refitting the whole room. This would not have been possible with SPIRE. The school has gained more value than it has spent on the package. Development of the Forest School area is a long-term aim including the pond area being improved as a nature reserve with newts. Grants will be sought applying for aiding nature and the mental health benefits the area can provide. JN advised the Ark has 2 more regular lettings. Following the tree survey NCC have received the notification to carry out the tree work and if nothing has been heard by 26.11.19 the work can go ahead.	PM and DH to draft an open letter to SPIRE before the next FGB meeting.

	Samphire are working well for general gardening and grounds maintenance. JN expressed the need for new front gates to the school and the need to monitor the fence around the grass area was discussed. Governor suggested a holly hedge. Governors as if phonics resources had been improved. JN confirmed they have, and he is sourcing ongoing training to use them effectively.	
5	**Logo** – uniform etc. It was agreed that there will be a change to the school logo and uniform from September 2021, when the school becomes a full primary up to year 6. The suggestion of dark green jumpers was popular, especially as it would fit in with the Forest School and eco aspects of the school. It was confirmed that some supermarkets stock green jumpers. Following the ideas for a logo by the children a professional version will be produced by either AHS art department or City College art department. FT will speak to Kayes in town with regards to timetable for the uniform change and JN will speak to AHS. Governors questioned if parents would be happy with the change. JN advised from conversations he has had with parents he believes they would. The change would be staggered and pupils receiving PP grant could be helped with purchasing new uniform. It was agreed the HT performance review will be booked in on 15th November.	FT to speak to Kayes re uniform. JN to speak to AHS.