



Kings Avenue Primary School

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting held Via Zoom on Monday, 6 March 2023 at 5pm

Present:

Matthew Bryant (MBr), Co-Opted Governor (Chair)
Gay Wenban-Smith (GW), Co-opted Governor
Tanya Jonas (TJ), Co-opted Governor
Oliver Butcher (OB), Co-opted Governor
Robert Lowerson (RL), Co-opted Governor
Bisma Jones (BJ), Parent Governor

In Attendance:

Joy Clarke (JC), Head of School
Edison David (ED), Executive Headteacher
Rebecca Stephenson (RS), Assistant Headteacher
Mel Brown (MBr), Clerk to Governors
Alan Sendorek (AS), Local Authority Governor

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies for Absence, and Attendance

The Chair welcomed everyone, and no apologies for absence were noted.

2. Quorum

The Chair confirmed that the meeting is quorate.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2022 were reviewed, with the following amendments proposed:

- Update action item on to indicate that ED will provide an update at the March Full Governing Body meeting (rather than January).
- Update reference to "Education and Healthcare Plan"
- Item 12, end of first paragraph: "Director of Education thinks that if we reduce class sizes to 15 [...]". The other governors confirmed that this was discussed after the meeting.

5. Matters Arising/Actions

The Board noted the following matters arising from the minutes:

- With reference to the process to identify potential governors for the existing staff, parent, and co-opted vacancies, MB advised that work is ongoing.

- With reference to item 9 (July 2022) governors noted that work is ongoing to continue promote the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection.
- With reference to items 6 and 8 (November 2022), MBr confirmed that both actions have been completed.
- With reference to item 9 (November 2022), the headteacher's report will be added to the agenda for the next ACPCC meeting.
- With reference to item 11 (November 2022), the governors agreed to complete any training and to update their records on Governor Hub by the end of March.

The Chair noted that the remaining actions are on the agenda or have been completed.

6. Governing Board Business

The Chair reiterated the outstanding governor vacancies to be filled. MBr confirmed that no governors are coming to the end of their term until January 2024.

7. Chair's Action

There was no Chair's Actions to report and noted that there have been two days of school closure due to teacher strike actions.

School Performance, Self-Evaluation, and Statutory Responsibilities

8. Committee Reports:

- APCC
 - GW provided an update on the ACPPC Committee meeting, noting that the meeting minutes were a good record of the meeting.
 - The school's performance is good and meets the national average. GW further noted that the recent data raised some queries regarding reading levels of Year 1 boys, as well as some more targeted queries related to EAL.
- Resources
 - OB provided an update on the Resources Committee meeting, noting that the primary item of discussion was the budget.
 - The actual in-year deficit at the end of March 2023 will be £53,000, which is an improvement from January 2023. It was noted that the deficit will be cleared this year and the school could conclude the year with a small surplus.
 - OB noted that the Committee also discussed benchmarking, including grant funding, top quarter income, high staff costs/low staff count.

9. Headteacher's Report (including SIA Autumn visit report)

ED presented the Headteacher Report, noting that the overall grade was 'Good' in all areas.

The following key points were highlighted:

- Current capacity is 210. The proportion of free school meals provided is higher than the national average, as well as higher than the local average.

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- Currently, there are 3.6% of children with an Educational Healthcare Plan, which is slightly lower than the local average of 3.9% but higher than the national average of 2.3%.
- The proportion of pupils receiving support without the statutory ENCP is 18.3%, about 5% higher than the local authority average and 5% higher than the national average.
- More than half of pupils speak English as an additional language, significantly higher than the national average.
- The single central record is in place and was last verified on 24 February 2023.
- In the Autumn term, no pupils were subject to a CPP and no children in school are currently on a CPP. There are two children classified as Children in Need, one child is subject to an Early Help assessment, no new low-level concerns.
- There have been no serious safeguarding incidents since the last report. The identified safeguarding governor continues to be MB, and there has been a safeguarding visit within the last six months.
- All the health and safety high-priority action points have been completed; none are outstanding.
- An up-to-date SEND Information Report, the Pupil Premium Strategy, and the P.E and Sports Premium Strategy report are provided on the website. Updates are made regularly. Governors confirmed that the process for identifying the governor with responsibility for SEND is ongoing.
- ED confirmed that a governor's skills audit was recently completed.

ED reminded the Board that the school development plan update was reported at the last meeting. An ongoing assessment completed in December 2022 found that 78% of pupils in Year 1 are at expected standards in Phonics, 3% above the national average. The Summer 2023 outcomes is expected to be significantly higher than that.

ED noted that the Pupil Premium combined Maths, Reading, and Phonics score is provided in the Headteacher's report. Premium pupils are doing better than their peers locally, and better compared to 6,500 schools nationally in their year groups.

Governors were informed that the focus for monitoring for the Autumn curriculum was the humanities. Some of the strengths identified included that the curriculum was identified as planned with clearly sequenced lessons, resources were used appropriately, the recorded work is of a good standard, and there is evidence of pupils reading related to the curriculum. The areas for development identified include clarity in relation to introducing new vocabulary, inclusion of a Philosophy 4 question to challenge pupils, and the use of the internet to ensure that pupils can recall previous learning and retrieve knowledge that was taught after a given period. The last opportunity for development identified was the opportunity to understand how to be responsible, active citizens contributing to society.

ED provided an update on attendance, noting that the attendance rate was 94.4%, which is higher than the national average.

There have been no data breaches since the last report; there has also not been a need to make a report to the Information Commissioner since the last report.

The parent survey has not been completed in the last 12 months; however, no complaints have been received since the last report.

There was a learner's survey completed in the last 12 months. Approximately 121 pupils responded to the survey; there is a good spread of pupils responding from Years 1 to 6. There were more responses from Key Stage 2 pupils and the difference is around 5-8 pupils per year group. Key highlights include:

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- 95% of the respondents said they enjoy school.
- 92% of respondents said that they enjoy learning in school.
- 99% of respondents said that teachers listen to what they have to say during lessons.
- 97% of respondents said that there is an adult in the school that they feel that they can talk to.
- 97% of respondents said that they feel safe at school.
- 97% said that the school encourages them to respect people from different backgrounds and to treat people equally.
- 95% said they would recommend the school to friends moving into the area.

A **governor asked** if pupils have an opportunity to make comments on the survey. ED confirmed that questions are multiple choice, ranging from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree" but some of the questions do allow for comments. ED confirmed that the purpose of the survey is to identify general statements and the aim is not to achieve 100%. In relation to areas for improvement, only 90% of respondents said that the behaviour of pupils in lessons is good. 9 out of 121 respondents said that bullying occurs and that their teacher is not good at resolving the situation. The school is looking into any potential incidents of bullying, as the school takes bullying very seriously. ED also noted that when asked if pupils participate in activities outside of class, including sports, clubs, etc., 11 pupils said they do not. ED and team are looking into reasons for these results.

ED noted that there are several educational trips planned. ED will continue to report on metrics reflected in the survey.

There was reported staff bullying or harassment incidents and no reported excessive workload concerns. There is a staff training schedule with an associated training budget. The performance review cycle is up to date. The second round of reviews is coming up in the Spring term. Average teacher salary is provided in the report; it is higher in the school than other similar schools. Teachers at King's Avenue are experienced, which increases rate of pay. Pupil/teacher ratio is also outlined in the report.

ED noted that the behaviour policy was reviewed within the last 12 months and there is a method for recognising and praising good behaviour. One incident of bullying was recorded in the Autumn term, as well as one incident of sexualised language or behaviour and one race and hate incident reported. These incidents will be reviewed at the ACPCC meeting.

Student development initiatives include completion of an Anti-Gang Violence Workshop (Year 6s and 5s), a Food Bank Visit and a Performing Arts visit to Lambeth College. There was also a visit to a Buddhist Temple for the Year 4s, as well as a visit from the Fire Brigade. King's Avenue won the Reader's Cup; in Year 5 and Year 6, there are 3 texts that the children read over a period of a month and a half. The children decide which book they read, and twelve children go to the competition. The children competed against three other schools in three rounds (one per book) and there is a general reading knowledge round, which was very difficult this year. King's Avenue won by about 400 points. The KA team will be moving to the final, which will be on 20 March. ED shared that the children were very happy with their success.

The quality of education report includes the curriculum and is published online. It matches the ambitions of the national curriculum. There is also a SEND report, which includes details related to how the curriculum is adapted for children with special education needs and/or disabilities. The Learning Walks update will be reflected in the next report.

In relation to Key Stage targets and forecasting, the target for Phonics is at 82% and the school results are 78%. The target for Reading is 75% and Year 2 pupils are currently at 85%, far exceeding the target. The target for writing is 70% while 76% of learners are on track. In

Mathematics, the target is 76% and 86% of pupils are on track. ED noted that the work completed to ensure that pupil scores in Key Stage 1 are meeting targets has been successful.

In relation to Key Stage 2, the target for combined is 59% with KA having achieved 58%. In terms of Reading, the target is at 73% while the achievement score is 72%. In relation to Writing, the target is 78% and the score is 72% so work is being done to bring this score up. In Mathematics, the target is at 73% while the score achieved is 72%. ED confirmed that the greater depth report will be available in the spring.

ED gave an overview of the SIA report from Richard Blackmore and highlighted the key elements from the report for the governors. Mr. Blackmore focused on early reading and concluded that the Phonics at the school is taught well. There is consistency in teaching approaches in relation to the teaching of Phonics; staff are well-trained and are using the training to implement the curriculum. Mr. Blackmore specifically mentioned the strength of the assessment in relation to pupil's reading. He also discussed the interventions completed by members of staff; the quality of those interventions will help pupils to catch up as soon as they should. Reading is well-prioritised within the school. In relation to the curriculum more broadly, he highlighted the depth of the curriculum as well as the information that is given to students so that they can learn independently. He also discussed arts, music, sports, and noted that children's pupil's behaviour remained good.

Mr. Blackmore will be making a second visit on 21 March and will be asked to review maths and other areas of the curriculum to ensure that the governors get a broader view of the curriculum. A **governor inquired** if there are any recommended actions or areas for improvement highlighted within the report. ED confirmed that there were none.

A **governor asked** if this report can be used to market the school to boost admissions. ED confirmed that this data can be useful but of course the best marketing is the pupils and their parents. ED further confirmed that he is awaiting results from the Key Stage 2 before the dataset is published. This will help support the school given the positive results.

Another **governor asked** if there is the possibility of a merge with another school; ED confirmed that there are no plans to federate with another school. If standards remain high, continues to grow and attract more children from the local area and demonstrate a good financial position, it will put the school in good stead. A **governor asked** if there is any benefit to begin looking at local schools or MATS to determine whether King's Avenue could federate or join. ED confirmed that he is looking at five potential schools; King's Avenue is the only informal federation that has not been formally federated after a year. Governors agreed to hold a planning day to do some strategic planning and to perhaps use part of the Governor's Visit Day on 20 March to do so.

A **governor asked** if Headteachers from other schools are collaborating on best practices and having discussions around what schools may eventually need to amalgamate or federate. ED indicated that the cluster that includes King's Avenue is very supportive of one another, but discussions of this nature had not overtly taken place.

The Chair asked whether the strategic planning session should include the governors from Granton School. The group agreed that the King's Avenue position needs to be solidified before any outreach is started with Granton.

Consultation, Advice and Statutory Responsibilities

10. Governor Visits

ED confirmed that the Governors in-school day will likely include an update from himself on inspections and quality of education and some updates from other subject leaders, as well as some time to observe lessons. The visit will begin at 8:30am and conclude at 12pm.

MBr reminded governors that there is a blank template form in the Governor Visits folder that must be completed after each visit.

RL reported that during his visit to the school, he reviewed financial data with staff to obtain a better understanding which was useful.

11. Training and Development (reminder safeguarding training)

The Chair asked that safeguarding training is be completed if it has not already been done and that all training should be recorded on Governors Hub by the end of March.

It was noted that some Governors are not currently receiving training emails from Peter Compton and MBr reported that she would check the school's circulation list with Peter Compton. **Action: MBr will follow-up with Peter to ensure that his list of governors for KA is up to date.**

12. Any Other Business

The school hosted an inter-house football tournament. Both the pupils and their parents were very excited about the tournament. A few coaches from Elite Coaching Company came in to support the matches.

13. Confidential Matters

See part B.

14. Date of Next Meetings

- Governor in-school day, Monday 20 March 2023
- Monday 17 July 2023 at 5pm

Signed 

Date 17 July 2023