



**Minutes of the meeting of the governing body of St Scholastica's Catholic Primary School held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The meeting opened at 6.15pm.**

**Present:** Michael Blackwell (Chair), Nick Blackham, Jimmy Healy, Jonathan Lafferty, Claire Langton, Esther Lehou Dan, Althea Marshall, Ann McKenna-Slade (*Vice-Chair*), Naomi Mulholland (*Head teacher*), Fr Hector Rouco, Royer Vidal, Davina Attara

**In Attendance:**

**Clerk:** Jennie Coyston.

**Part 1: Non-confidential – Main Business**

**1. Opening Prayer.**

Father Hector opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Apologies and Consent for Absence.**

Ursula Deufemia sent apologies.

**3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body.**

Unanimous vote for Michael Blackwell as Chair.  
Unanimous vote for Anne McKenna-Slade as Vice Chair.

**4. Governing Body Organisation.**

**4.1. Declarations of Interest**  
None

**4.2. Membership of the Governing Body.**

Althea Marshall to be removed from list of Governors who attended the Finance meeting. Jimmy Healy to be re-co-opted and will stay until Ofsted has been carried out. He is happy to do another term of office, but the post should be offered to staff first.

**4.3. Committee Membership.**

Claire Langton appointed to the Resources Committee

**4.4. Business Interests – now on website.**

Website checked that all items are up to date and accurate. Signature sheets need to be hanged.

**4 Minutes of the Last Meeting.**

**4.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Received this afternoon and will be circulated to Governors at the end of the meeting.

#### **4.2 Matters Arising.**

##### **The meet the Governors event.**

Four parents indicated that they would attend. Of those four, two parents attended, despite many parents waiting the foyer to collect their children from an after school sports club. This was similar to the previous meeting and in the light of this Governors will need to consider the timing of events. It was suggested by parents that it may be better for parents to attend in the morning after dropping children at school. It was resolved that the next "Meet the Governors" will be held next term, before Easter, at 9am. The aim is to hold one meeting each term. Please supply Head teacher with dates as soon as possible, for the same to be put in newsletters.

Discussions with parents indicated that they were happy with expectations. The discussions included some of the issues parents had regarding the school participating in a "Spooky Day" and the association with Halloween. It was explained that the writing curriculum for that half term was on ghost stories and the day was a celebration of the children's work. The celebration included an award assembly and fancy dress. The Head teacher had sought the advice from Father Hector prior to the event. One parent kept her child away from school because of the event. It is suggested that parents receive more information on why the event is taking place.

Parents were happy with the frequency of newsletters and found the same to be informative.

#### **4.3. Chair to Report on any Urgent Action Taken.**

None.

### **5. New Inspection Dash Board – training by Nick Blackham.**

#### **5.1 Inspection Dash Board – training by Nick Blackham.**

It was noted that St Scholasticas didn't have any weaknesses. There were 7 strengths from last year's data and this would be shown in this report. It was noted on page 2 of the report that Reading was 100% for expected progress, which was above national averages. It was also shown that the school was above national for more than expected progress. Reading is a strength in the school. Disadvantaged children also made excellent progress and in 2015 there were more disadvantaged children who made expected progress than their national other peers. Disadvantaged children who gained a Level 1 or 2 in KS1 also made better more than expected progress compared to their other national peers. This again is a strength in the school.

Page 3 for writing showed a similar pattern with 100% of the school's children making expected progress. Disadvantaged children also compared favourably against their national other peers and had a higher percentage of expected progress. More than expected progress was at national average for level 2's but above for level 1 and 3's. This picture was replicated for disadvantaged children who made better progress than national other. But it was noted by Nick Blackham that you had to be careful with the number of children as 1 child was 100% in the level 3's.

Page 4 showed that expected progress for maths in 2015 was above national averages. And disadvantaged children in the school had higher percentages than their national other peers. More than expected progress was at national for the level 2's at Ks1 but above for Level 1's and 3's but again the amount of children in each group needs to be checked as small groups have high percentages for each child.

Page 6 – The school's attainment for level 4's was above national averages. Disadvantaged children was at or above for Level 4's as well. Nick Blackham asked what do you notice about the level 5's and Roy Vidal answered that we were at national for reading and writing and below for maths. Ann Mckenna noted that we had a red minus for 2014. It was noted that it was a low cohort in 2014 and our Level 5's have risen since then but they are still below national so they remain a target. Disadvantaged children were all below national for level 5's and so this is also a target.

Page 7 APS was at national except for boys in maths. On page 8 our disadvantaged children did not compare well against other national children and so this is a gap that needs to be closed. We will look at the gap for disadvantaged children at KS1 to see whether this gap closes over their schooling life.

Page 9 The school was at L2B+ national for reading and writing but below in maths. Nick Blackham asked what do you notice about the three years? It was answered that it was an upward trend. Those children gaining a L3+ was also lower than national but again showed a slight 3 year upward trend.

Page 10 the phonics check has been above national for the last 3 years. 2014 data for GLD at Reception is above national in 2013 and 2014 but has dropped in 2015.

Page 11 shows the attendance figures and St. Scholastica's is still above national at 96.8 compared to 96.1 nationally. Percentage of persistent absence is lower than national as well – with 2.2 compared to 2.8 nationally. It was commented on page 12 that we have less girls in the school than boys nationally.

## **5.2 Governor Dash Board.**

Governor dashboard was given out. It was noted that we have looked at this in previous meetings. It was noted that the targets for the school matched up with what is on the governor dashboard and this also matched up with the Inspection Dashboard. Governors said that they knew what the priorities for the school were.

## **6. New Statutory Guidance.**

### **6.1 The Common Inspection Framework: education, skills and early years.**

Head teacher gave presentation on new framework, highlighting changes in categories and what 4 areas judgements are made on. Emphasis on learning, ensuring all children are equal and receive support they need. Groups of learners are kept on track through Pupil Progress meetings (PPM) held each term, SEND meetings a, book looks and other observations carried out by SLT. Teachers are very good for talking to SLT when they notice pupils are struggling or have a problem.

Head teacher explained how judgements were made- observations, teacher profiles, gaps closing, progress and attainment of pupils in all classes. Look at school against hackney but also now more against National as contextual value added is not used any more. Also outside judgements from SIP- on last 2 SIP visits

Leadership and Management has been outstanding for the last 2 years from SIP reports

## **6.2 Overview of Governing Bodies Key activities.**

The key activities are within the Governors Dashboard. There will be a link on the website. Head teacher will email Governance to Governors.

## **7. Head teacher's Report**

Interview for new Music teacher has been undertaken. Currently awaiting references and hopefully candidate will work with Mrs Harding for a handover period.

Requested DBS from Jonathan Lafferty, Davina Attara and Fr. Hector for pending Safeguarding Audit by Simone Haynes on the 01.12.2015.

Questions raised on incidents of racism and bullying; Head teacher did not want to specify which classes were involved, as parents were present at the meeting. Sexist incident was reference to "girls' jobs" and the terminology being used in a derogatory manner. In the racist incident, child said "I can't play with you because your hair and skin are the wrong colour." Bullying incident had been continual tormenting by one child against another. They have now been instructed not to speak to each other. In all incidences we are working with Aspace to address issues and to see what further work we can do as a school to overcome discrimination. We are reading "Elma" and "Being Small" to highlight differences. There have been recent remarks relating to gays and lesbians, these remarks have been derogatory and not sexual. Mr Healy stated that all sports within school are of mixed gender, promoting equality throughout the school.

Attendance levels as of the 01/06/2015 are 96.4%

In relation to the question raised - have the Fire Detection and alarm systems annual check been carried out, this will be executed this week. The Closed Water System annual check has been carried out and Nick Blackham will provide the date of the service at the next meeting.

The Head teacher informed Governors the dates of upcoming events, Christmas dinner, nativity productions, Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the beginning of the Year of Mercy, pantomime, Spirituality Week in January.

Head teacher informed Governors that a Risk Assessment for the Trip to Spain has been carried out. Fifteen children were interested in going and had completed application forms. Head teacher will provide photographs at the next Governors Meeting.

## **8. Analysis & Impact of Government Funding.**

8.1 Gaps are closing. Teachers are aware of which pupils to target.

8.2 We allocate money from our budget to this curriculum area. Kieran George and Badu are having a positive impact. Kieran George's behavioural management is excellent and he is achieving very high standards across the school. The pupils are doing excellently in all sporting competitions; they came third in a basketball tournament, in the top four of the Hackney football tournament and Year 2 won a Multi Sports competition.

We are currently offering “Change for Life” after-school sports club. Monday and Tuesdays are aimed at pupils from Year 1, 2,3 and 4. Thursday is for Gifted Pupils and Friday’s classes are for targeted children.

Our school is one of three schools in Hackney who have received a Sainsbury’s Gold Award for PE achievement. Acknowledgment went to Mr Jimmy Healy for organising trips, risk assessments, participation in competitions, road markings, etc.

Mr Healy informed the Governors that the school had been awarded a special Pupil Lead Award from TfL Stars Programme.

## **9. School Improvement Partner – SIP**

### **9.1 Annual Report 2015-2015**

Comment from Ann that they are very complimentary about the Leadership Team and it was good to see the school doing so well.

### **9.2 Visit 1 – 13/10/2015**

### **9.3 Target setting for 2016 KS1 & KS2**

The Targets for 2016 haven’t been set slightly lower in order to avoid targets that unachievable. It is difficult to set targets when you do not know the final scores, plans for measuring etc. will be. The tests are in a new format and expectations have been raised by the Government. School took advice of their SIP who is also an Ofsted inspector who has done same at her school with her targets.

## **10. School Self-Evaluation – (SSE)**

Most aspects stay the same. Data shows the weaknesses which must be addressed and where gaps need to be closed.

Overall attendance is now 96.4% above Hackney which was 96%, previously 85%. We do have persistent absenteeism. Head teacher explained the process of warning letters and fines for unauthorised absence. Head teacher will provide a letter, outlining evidence parents/carers must supply for the children who are travelling to attend funerals, family occasions, events, etc., which will enable authorised absence to be granted, for Governors to peruse.

## **11. School Development Plan – (SDP)**

This document will be changed in order to facilitate one document for the website. The Literacy and Maths Co-ordinators will complete the paperwork next week, as part of their involvement and professional development. All coordinators involved in producing document. Shared with all staff so that all know school priorities.

## **12. SEND School Offer**

**RESOLVED** at next Curriculum meeting

## **13. Policies**

13.1 **RESOLVED** to agree Pay Policy

## **14. Committee Reports**

14.1 **RESOLVED** to agree Resources Committee Terms of reference

14.2 Minutes need to be agreed by Roy Vidal and Esther Lehou Dan

## **15. Governor Visit Reports**

Received report from Claire Langton on her participation in visit by Chris Quigley. I would recommend Governors attending other staff training sessions, if possible, as it was inspiring and very informative. Questions from Claire - How often do we get external speakers in, to deliver training such as this? Normally once a year and sometimes do this with other schools to keep costs down. Also all staff go out on training throughout the year to hear speakers. Staff bring back information and disseminate it to other staff and prepare in school inset for staff CPD.

How will the impact of the day be measured? (Are staff asked to evaluate or comment on the session or is it measured in another way?)

Staff fill in evaluation form and they are analysed. Have place to put where want further development staff meetings planned from this. There was follow up training for staff at the Staff Meeting held on Tuesday 24th November. Further training planned on use of Basic, Advanced and Deep (BAD) learning.

Esther said she will supply her write up for next meeting. We will be commencing the new Maths scheme – Maths Mastery – in Year 1.

## **16. Governor Training**

Michael Blackwell recommended that all Governors look at training programme 2015-2016. Head teacher advised Governors to go online and submit application for training programmes and confirmed that all costs have been paid for. Head teacher requested that Governors inform her of details of courses booked. Roy Vidal expressed interest in Primary Assessment Statutory Requirements. Head teacher suggested Inclusion and the role of the Governing Body in relation to SEN and Disability.

## **17. Any Urgent Business. - none**

## **18. Dates for Future Meetings**

27 January 2016  
09 March 2016  
11 May 2016  
06 July 2016  
19 October 2016  
23 November 2016

## **19. Confidential Minutes of the Last Meeting.**

## **20. Confidential Report of the Head teacher.**

None.

## **21. Urgent Confidential Business.**

None