

Park House Primary School
Minutes from
Full Governors meeting 3rd January 2021
Extra Ordinary Meeting

Present:

- S Kavanagh, A Harris, P Nicholson, R Allen, D Faulkner, M Stanhope, M Dore, D Daysh, C Stone

Clerk: J Swift

FG.01.21.01: Apologies

- Z Thorpe (Family), C Chambers (Internet Issues), R Coulson (Internet Issues)

Due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) the meeting was conducted through Teams.

The Head and the Chair thanked everyone for giving the time to hold the meeting at short notice. The meeting has been called following the media coverage over the past few hours regarding the safe opening of schools.

The Head welcomed D Daysh and C Stone to their first meeting.

FG.01.21.02: Opening of School

- At the time of this meeting the Government are still saying that it is safe for schools to reopen following the Christmas break. The unions have found a loophole and advised members to put in S44's. From tonight's meeting Governors must decide if the school should open and if so in what capacity.
- The Governors need to consider the concerns of staff and the Head's update over the risk assessment and decide what course of action should follow.
- The Head reported that 6 teachers had put in S44's and 2 teaching assistants. The unions are saying that by opening schools the staff, children and parents are being put at risk. The staff who have put in S44's would like to remain anonymous - **Governors agreed**. The teachers and teaching assistants would affect 5 classes.
- The anonymised S44 letter was shared via Governor Hub –
- The Head proposed 3 options for Governors to discuss :-

OPTION 1 - open school fully and bring in supply staff to cover the staff on S44's. This would put extra people potentially at risk.

OPTION 2 - Key worker children in and remote learning for the rest of the class.

OPTION 3 - Year 6 could all be in and Key worker children in all the other classes with the rest of the class on remote learning.

- The Head reported the concerns shared by TA's who didn't submit the S44 -
- too much congestion on the corridor at lunch and break times - being addressed with changes tomorrow.
 - 1 to 1 learning - this would continue due to the child being in the Key worker group. PPE is provided but cannot always be accessed quickly enough. This child has additional needs and has their own risk assessment to minimise the risk.
 - working across multiple classes causing extra cross contamination.
 - warmth in some of the classes with doors and windows open to allow adequate ventilation.
 - the amount of space between staff and the children.
 - should children be wearing face coverings (masks).

The Head reported that a survey had been sent out to parents to ask about intentions to apply for key worker places, gather their concerns and intention to return to school in the next two weeks and how they would feel about pupils wearing face masks in KS2 either in communal spaces or all day. The Head thinks that Key Stage 1 shouldn't and if Key Stage 2 do they will become fidgety and keep fiddling with them. Parents overwhelming stated they did not want their child to wear masks and a small minority thought they could wear them in communal areas. **Governors agreed not to impose mask wearing.**

One parent on social media thought that the children had to wear a mask which caused concern for the school community and breached the social media code of conduct - The Head contacted the parent and that part of the message has been removed.

- The Head reported that staff can put in S44's at anytime if they don't feel safe and they do not have to be in a union.
- London schools have been told not to open for 2 weeks.
- The S44 is in place until the R rate reduces which could take longer.
- It is looking like the number of Key worker children will reduce the class size by 50%.
- Initial indications are that the highest number of children per class would be 18 and the lowest number 10 but most would have about 14, which gives a potential of 102 on site.
- Some families are no longer Key Workers and some families now fall into Key Worker status.
- From the survey 6% of families wouldn't be happy to send their child to school and 65% had concerns about the children returning.
- Governors asked about the Cluster schools - Ashover are opening, Grassmoor and Holmgate are opening to Key worker children, Sharley Park we are not sure and Pilsley Primary have not been contacted.
- M Stanhope asked if the Head had any preferences - The Head feels that the Key worker children need to be in but this puts Year 6 out, but to have them in causes issues due to the numbers. Year 6 is an important year due to them going to secondary school in September and Year 5 could be worked with next year.
- P Nicholson asked would the Year 6 not benefit from more on site education - The Head replied that this would only work if the class could be split across 2 rooms. A Harris agreed that the class could be split if the ICT suite could be used. The class has a very good TA in Miss Bushnell but there would be no remote learning for those not on site due to the time taken with teaching on site. At breaktimes the class would have to join together to allow the staff a break.
- **Building concerns** - Break times across the school are staggered but at lunchtimes this has been made very difficult by the number of children in one area especially with the inclement weather. Lunch times are being addressed tomorrow with the catering team.
- P Nicholson asked for the Heads feelings - The Head would be happy to have the Year 6 class split and the Key worker children in.
- M Dore asked about testing for the virus - The Head reported there is no news as yet. Part of the problem would be how and where it would be done. The Secondary children are expected to do it themselves but the Primary children would not be able to do it. Some families may not be happy to give consent.
- C Stone commented that at Secondary 9 staff are expected to supervise 100 children over 3 hours - Primary schools don't have that amount of staff available.

- M Stanhope asked if there was enough time to notify parents of the changes which were about to be made - the Year 6 staff can be spoken with tomorrow and if that route is followed then Year 6 can be brought in later in the week.
- D Faulkner commented that if the space is given to Key worker children first this would give both parents and children a more positive feel.
- M Dore commented that whilst Covid is now more transmittent we need to educate as many as possible in as safe a way as possible.
- D Daysh asked would it be worth only having Key worker children in this week, to see how it all pans out and to buy some time before the Year 6 come in. The Head agrees.
- M Stanhope asked about the serving of hot meals at lunch time - The Head reported that for the Reception Class and Year 1 they could be served at the door to the classroom because they both have 2 doors, Year 3 can be served through the hatch between the classroom and the kitchen but for the rest of the school they have been served on the corridor which is causing too much congestion and no spacing. Too many bodies in the area at the same time. A meeting is arranged with the catering team for tomorrow morning. Disposable containers are going to be used for some year groups.
- The Head asked if Governors were happy to accept the S44's - **Governors were unanimous in the decision NOT to open the school fully.**
- From Tuesday 5th January the Governors would like the Key worker and vulnerable children in school and if possible Year 6 split across 2 class rooms from the 11th January.
- R Allen asked if more Key worker children could be added if more requests were put in - the Head suggested that a dead line of lunchtime tomorrow should be put in place - **Governors agreed**
- The Head reported that legal action is being taken against the DfE by one of the unions to release the data to show that schools are safe.
- S Kavanagh asked how long the Governors would like this situation to continue - Governors agreed that the situation would be reviewed at the next Governors meeting on 14th January.

- D Faulkner asked if more meetings would be deemed necessary - possibly every couple of weeks - The Head is very aware of how much time this would mean to Governors - to discuss on 14th January but potentially fortnightly.
- S Kavanagh hoped vaccinations might be better than testing.
- **Governors agreed that from 5th January the school would admit Key worker and vulnerable children, which would be reviewed on Thursday 7th January to let Year 6 on site from 11th January split across 2 classrooms. A dead line of tomorrow lunchtime should be made known to parents for names of Key workers requesting a place for their child.**

FG.01.21.03: Date and Time of Next Meeting

2021

- Full Governing Body Meeting Thursday 14th January at 6.00pm
- Full Governing Body Meeting Thursday 4th March at 6.00pm
- Full Governing Body Meeting Thursday 29th April at 6.00pm
- Full Governing Body Meeting Thursday 17th June at 6.00pm

Meeting Closed at 7.30pm

Signed..... Dated.....