



Headteacher
Mr N Sharp

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Minutes of Arnside National C of E School
Virtual Devolved Governing Board Meeting (VGB)
held on Monday 8 June 2020 at 10.00 am

Key: highlighted areas in yellow = action point highlighted areas in blue = impact measure highlighted areas in green = question

This is the information required by governors under the current COVID19 lockdown. The government have stated that governors' statutory responsibilities are not altered or relaxed during the current situation. A duty to ensure that the strategic overview of school is managed lies with the governing board of Arnside National CE School.

It should be possible for those governors not on the devolved board to reply by email to the minutes with either an 'I endorse these decisions entirely' or 'I endorse these decisions except for the following reservations'. If sufficient reservations were expressed, then it will be possible to review a decision.

Present: Mr David Adair, Mrs Helen Chaffey, Mr Steven Kershaw Chair, The Revd Andrew Norman, Mr Nick Sharp Headteacher

In attendance: Mrs Sue Glendinning Clerk to the Governing Board

VGBM 28/20 Welcome

Mr Kershaw welcomed the devolved governing board to the meeting.

VGBM 29/20 To receive apologies for absence

None received, all members present.

The meeting was declared quorate, with 5 governors present.

VGBM 30/20 Declaration of conflict of interest in agenda items

Mr Sharp and Mr Adair declared an interest in relation to their wives being members of staff. Nil else declared.

VGBM 31/20 Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 25 May 2020 were declared to be a true record, proposed by Mr Adair, seconded by Mrs Chaffey.

Essential governance matters reported on by headteacher Mr Sharp.

VGBM 32/20 Phased return

Mr Sharp was asked how the return to school process had been managed. He replied that the return had been a settled, quiet start and that parents had followed the proscribed protocols and routines extremely well.

The kitchen has started up again, serving packed lunches to pupils, as no hot meals are available yet. Once the meal has been served, everything is disposed of in accordance with Covid19 advice.

The pupil with an EHCP also returned to school on 1 June 2020, and settled in well, starting with a phased 2 day return gradually building to full attendance as weeks progress.

Authorised by Chair *Steven Kershaw*

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Q: How many children in total started school on 1 June 2020?

A: The figure changes daily, as each bubble is flexible. Some schools decided that a phased return was not for them; at Arnside, the process works well for all parties.

Year Group	% Returned	Number of Pupils
Year 1	70%	9-10 out of 13
Nursery / Reception	60%	13
Year 6 (confirmed numbers for attendance)	60%	16 out of 23

Q: What has the parental feedback been like?

A: Positive, with the following comments received:

Thank you for opening and providing the service

Children have adapted well and are happy with the current set up

Children have enjoyed being back at school

Risk assessment update

Mr Sharp reported that the only changes required to the risk assessments relate to the toilets in school that have no lids. These areas are cleaned more frequently and used properly. The isolation of pupils within specific bubbles has worked well.

VGBM 33/20 Staff and pupil health and wellbeing

a) Pupil wellbeing

The children have bounced back into school and are well. There have been no stressed pupils, tears or any frustrations demonstrated. They have all been incredibly positive and followed the guidelines extremely well.

There was only one negative comment received from a parent relating to the fact they had one child at school whilst the sibling was at home, which was causing an issue. Nothing else has been reported.

b) Staff wellbeing

Staff have been calm, level — headed and overall, very positive in their outlook. The only negativity came from conflicting advice from Unions about the return to school, but staff have been able to balance advice against what is happening in school. The raised "R" level has caused some degree of anxiety but has been professionally managed.

Mrs Chaffey informed the devolved board that she had spoken to councillors to gain a better understanding of the system employed in Cumbria, regarding the "R" rate.

In Cumbria, the infection rate has reduced dramatically; however, there is no breakdown of the data available, so the request has been made that when it does become available, the relevant authorities, including schools should be furnished with it. Cumbria are testing more people and faces a different scenario of "R" ratings, than that seen in larger conurbations, i.e., Manchester, whose rate is over 1, with associated increase in death rates in certain areas. School need to look at what is best for the parents and the community.

Discussion ensued regarding the return of the Year 6 pupils balanced against the "R" number. Room space within school was discussed, with the recommendation that two bubbles be set up, with 7/8 children in each bubble. Mr Sharp and Ms Piper are discussing the best way to divide Year 6 to manage this format of return.

Q: Are there sufficient staff for split bubbles?

A: If we could delay the return of the group to 22 June 2020, then there would be sufficient staff to manage the scenario. As it stands, there would be an issue bringing the year group back on 15 June as planned, as a staff member from the Key Worker group would need to be withdrawn to cover a Year 6 bubble. One classroom could accommodate 15 pupils, but 2 bubbles would be safer. Staff members may need to arrange their own childcare to manage the situation if their child/ren are not at school. The option of Year 6 returning is dependent upon the bubbles and how they will be staffed, not the "R" rate. The date for return can be

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flexible if the staffing situation can be managed, as the staff concerned are part time and there needs to be an overlap. Pupils will return full time, not on a rotational basis.
If the headteacher was required to teach a Year 6 bubble, he would be unable to move through school if required.

Q: Would the reduction in social distancing from 2 metres to 1, help with the number of pupils in a bubble?

A: The preferred option would be to keep to 2 bubbles for safety sake, and the wellbeing of the groups. Schools are justified in being cautious

Q: 60% of pupils are in school with 40% home schooling, is this putting pressure on staff to devise a homeworking programme?

A: Staff have planned the work to be completed by all pupils, so placing this on-line for those receiving home schooling is not an issue. The same work is delivered in school as is placed on-line.

Mr Sharp has been in contact with colleagues at local schools, who have brought their schools back en masse, but will not accept any further pupils to the school.

Unions continue to ignore the fact that this is the first time the country has had to deal with a pandemic, and adaptation to circumstances is required as the norm cannot exist until the situation alters.

Mr Sharp continues to order PPE on a weekly basis, and as pupil numbers attending school increase, the PPE will be used more rapidly.

Resolution:

The following arrangements be put into place with effect 18 June 2020.

- Key worker bubble to remain
- 1st Year 6 bubble to return to school week beginning 18 June 2020, taught by Ms Piper and Miss Morris
- 2nd Year 6 bubble to return week beginning 22 June 2020
- Parents to be informed of the decision
- Safeguarding provision to be made for the Key Worker and Nursery/Year1 bubbles

Proposed by Mr Kershaw, seconded by Mrs Chaffey, and approved by all board members.

The board agreed that Mr Sharp has managed the situation extremely well, and the fact that staff, pupils, and parents are happy with the arrangements, is testament to this.

The board agreed that should the "R" rate increase a further board meeting will be held to discuss further arrangements.

VGBM 34/20 Safeguarding

All pupils with education health care plans (EHCP) are back in school.

Pupils in receipt of FSM are contacted regularly.

1 family has reported a potential on-line grooming incident through Instagram, from which the parent took photographs as evidence. Dallam School have been contacted as there were a few followers identified on the site, and parents have been made aware. The incident has also been reported to the police. The information received from Cumbria Police will be shared with parents.

VGBM 35/20 Items deemed confidential

No items were deemed confidential

VGBM 36/20 Date of next meeting Monday 29 June 2020 at 10.00am

Governors were thanked for their attendance and involvement in the meeting

Meeting closed at 11.12am

Authorised by Chair *Steven Kershaw*

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