



**ARNSIDE NATIONAL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
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ARNSIDE NATIONAL SCHOOL IS AN ACADEMY
Company number 07840925

Minutes of Arnside National C of E School Virtual Governing Board Meeting (VGBM)

held Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 4.30pm

Present: Mr David Adair, Miss Clare Addison, Mrs Judith Bratt, Mr Steve Henneberry, Revd Andrew Norman, Mr Steven Kershaw Chairman, Ms Jacki Piper, Mr Ian Service, Mr Nick Sharp Headteacher.

In attendance: Mrs Sue Glendinning Clerk to the Governing Board

VGBM 07/21 Welcome

Mr Kershaw welcomed everyone to the meeting.

VGBM 08/21 To receive apologies for absence

Mrs Stephanie Griffith – work commitments
Mrs Rachel Smith – family commitments
Apologies accepted.

Mrs Helen Chaffey and Mr Iori Hicks had not tended apologies and were recorded as absent.

There are two vacancies. The meeting was declared quorate with nine governors present.

VGBM 09/21 Declaration of conflict of interest in agenda items

Mr Sharp and Mr Adair declared an interest in relation to family members working in school.

VGBM 10/21 To receive the draft annual accounts

The accounts were accepted at the extraordinary meeting held on 14 January 2021.

The action points raised in the accounts have been addressed:

- Update the school website and ensure all governors within the past 12 months are recorded. This error had been an oversight from admin who had deleted a governor who's term of office expired in December 2020. The governance section on the website is up to date, with all archived material removed to ensure access to documents is direct.
- The past 3 years accounts need to be displayed, and only the past years were on the website. This has been resolved.
- Financial external scrutiny to be enhanced during the pandemic lockdown. There is scrutiny carried out by school, the bursar, and Mr Adair as the responsible officer; however, the auditor has requested a further level of external scrutiny to ensure robust measures are in place. Governors wish to avoid having to pay additional fees for this service, so will seek additional oversight from potential local sources.

VGBM 11/21 Headteachers report

Mr Sharp reported that testing for Covid19 is being carried out twice weekly on all staff in school. 95% of staff are compliant.

The question was asked should governors be tested and were told that as governors are not accessing school during the current lockdown situation, this is not necessary; however, in the case of the Chair and Revd Norman who do access school to meet with the headteacher and carry out pastoral work with pupils and staff, it may be prudent to do so.

Authorised by Chair: *Steven Kershaw*

Date: 23 February 2021

Free School Meal (FSM) parcels are being provided by Orian. There has been no negative feedback since the scheme started, until week beginning 25 January 2021, when a parent complained about the content of the parcels. School have the flexibility to place parents on the voucher scheme if there are issues, which is what has occurred in this instance.

Pre- Christmas, school said goodbye to a pupil within the care system. The transfer to another school was successful.

The land and buildings collection of data has been ratified by the diocese and sent off to the appropriate authority.

Nursery provision is being reviewed following the school re-opening on 5 January 2021. Private nurseries can remain open, but maintained nurseries are to remain open under the discretion of the headteacher. ANS have only accepted children of essential workers and vulnerable pupils. School were not in a position to offer full cover for nursery opening and looked at various scenarios, which included re4viewing the timetable and staff provision. There are currently 15 pupils in nursery, which is a full bubble in its own entirety. Some local nurseries have opened fully then had to close down completely as they had positive cases attend.

The Chair agreed that school cannot staff the nursery as it stands, therefore, school have to gauge which is the best option for the school, parents and pupils. Mrs Sharp has ben in contact with other nurseries to gauge what they are doing. The stance taken by government is that schools need to do what is in their best interest to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their staff and pupils. As much as parents would like to see their children in school for the social aspect as well as the academic, school is not in the community to provide childcare during the lockdown period, it must take note of the state of safety surrounding those pupils and staff who need to attend.

The Chair stated that it remains uncertain how long it will be until school is able to fully reopen, and that governors will be updated as soon as this information is released. Mr Sharp stated that school could absorb a full return of all pupils into school.

Mr Sharp was thanked for his report and for his continued commitment to the work of the school.

VGBM 12/21 Risk assessment updates

All staff are wearing masks all day in school, especially when they cannot guarantee social distancing. Regular contact with vulnerable pupils is in place. The headteacher meets weekly on a face-to-face basis with a pupil south of the county and also delivers their food parcel.

VGBM 13/21 Safeguarding matters

Q: In relation to the pupil south of the county, is there any engagement with online learning?

A: No, so this is why the headteacher visits. School are now providing a pack of work each week, which is collected the following week when the head visits. It has been made quite clear that the family need to start to engage someway in the learning process.

Governors were informed that a couple of laptops have been distributed to families who had no access to online work.

Mr Henneberry will complete the safeguarding audit with Ms Piper and Mr Sharp.

VGBM 14/21 Chair's report

Mr Kershaw stated that he was impressed by the way in which Mr Sharp and the staff were coping with the current situation. When school reopened in the summer, the issue for pupils was one of mental health rather than learning difficulties. Now that we have entered a second lockdown, the pupils learning and attitude to learning is excellent and the governing board wish to pass on their grateful thanks to all the staff for the sterling job they have done and continue to do for all the children of the school. The staff are truly working together as a team and school is able to adapt to the ever-changing climate because of this supportive attitude, which is so clearly demonstrated.

Authorised by Chair:

Date:



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Governors were asked if anyone had been able to seek out candidates for the two vacancies on the governing board. One parent has declared an interest in becoming a governor and has spoken to the headteacher for further information; Mr Sharp to pursue this. Another parent with a background in law has approached the Chair, and after consultation with the Clerk, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to nominate this person as the LA governor.

Action point:

The Clerk will liaise with both Mr Sharp and Mr Kershaw to fill the vacancies.

VGBM 15/21 Items deemed confidential

No items were deemed confidential.

VGBM 16/21 Date of next meeting Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 5.00pm

The decision was taken that future meetings will need to be held more frequently to discuss the ongoing situation relating to the Covid19 arrangements, and that these would be held as full governing board meetings rather than the devolved group meetings held previously. In this manner all governors will be involved in the decision-making process and ensure accountability by all.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 5.00pm**

Governors were thanked for their contribution and the meeting was declared closed at 5.13pm.