

**Newbold and Tredington
Church of England Voluntary Controlled
Primary School**

Governing Body Meeting

Date:	Monday 13.01.16
Time:	18.45
Place:	Newbold & Tredington School, Manor Road, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4NZ 01608 661 568 admin3214@we-learn.com
Chair:	Ali Thompson 01608 661 568 athompson854@btinternet.com
Clerk:	Audrey Spriggs 07929 208547 audrey.spriggs@outlook.com

Current Governors

Chair	Vice Chair	Foundation Governors	Parent Governors	Staff Governors	Community Governor	Associate Governors	LA Appointment
Ali Thompson	Alex Balzaretti	Revd Chris Goble	Alex Balzaretti	Sam Welsby	Ali Thompson		David McWhirter (attending)
		Vacancy	Yvette McEwan		Barney Hatch		
		Sarah Edmonds	Natalie Hufton				
			Vacancy				

Committees

Performance & Standards:

Barney Hatch, Chris Goble, Ali Thompson (Chair), Sam Welsby, Alex Balzaretti

Resources:

Barney Hatch, Natalie Hufton (Chair), Yvette McEwan, Sam Welsby.

Performance Management:

Ali Thompson, Chris Goble

Opening Prayers

Point	Item	Action
16.20	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Alex Balzaretti Yvette McEwan Rev'd Sarah Edmonds</p> <p>The Chair reminded Governors that we need to be mindful of absences at meetings as we are a small Governing Body, any absence can be an issue to being quorate.</p>	ALL
16.21	<p>Notification of Any Other Business</p> <p>Resource Meeting update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Chair informed members that unless there is a burning issue deriving from either the Resource or Performance and Standard Committee meetings then this would be dealt with within each committee. <p>All Governors present were in agreement with this.</p>	AGREED
16.22	<p>Governor Appointments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA Governor (Resignation and Appointment) <p>Nick Fellowes resigned from position as LA Governor due to work commitments and not being able to devote enough time to this post.</p> <p>David McWhirter had expressed an interest to WCC regarding becoming an LA Governor and his details had been passed to the Clerk AS who invited him to attend the meeting today.</p> <p>Introductions were made for the benefit of Dave McWhirter and he then gave a brief background of his governor experience in other schools.</p> <p>Those Governors present welcomed him into the position of Local Authority Governor for Newbold and Tredington School which he formally accepted.</p> <p>Governor Vacancies – We need a Parent Governor so SW will advertise for this position of immediately. Regarding the Staff Governor vacancy – this does not have to be a teacher but could be a parent or carer. SW will display a poster saying that this position is vacant.</p> <p>Patch Representatives – Ann Jackson used to be our Patch Representative and attend these meetings but feedback that she felt it was aimed more at Senior Schools. Clerk AS to find out what the situation is regarding attendance at Patch Meetings?</p> <p>Committee Structure – Resources and Performance Management Meetings work well so all Governors present agreed that this should stay as it is.</p> <p>DM will attend both Committee Meetings and see where his expertise best lies.</p>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>SW</p> <p>CLERK</p> <p>AGREED</p> <p>DM</p>
16.23	Minutes of Last Meeting	

	Minutes of the meeting held on 14 th September 2015 had been circulated and all Governors agreed that these were a true and accurate record and Chair AT signed.	AGREED
16.24	<p>Any Matters Arising</p> <p>Cluster Business SW reported that a PLC meeting had been held and also that she had not been able to attend the last Consortium meeting due to work commitments. Staff are attending seven different courses including grammar, literacy and maths.</p> <p>AT said that she appreciated SW was teaching but all Governors felt that it was important that she attends the Cluster Meetings. Governors are there to support her in anyway they can. SW agreed with this, thanked Governors and stated she will definitely attend the next meeting. If at any time in the future she is unable to attend then SW said that she will send another member of staff in her place.</p> <p>Governors Self Evaluation AT stated that Governors have done all they can do now on evaluation as we have exhausted all benchmarks and the only thing left would be the Governor Mark. We have enough evidence to achieve this although the financial cost is high.</p> <p>A discussion followed on this subject and it was agreed that in the last two Ofsted inspections, Governorship came out well and was not a particular area of weakness. All agreed that for the time being we should leave this and schedule it for review in September.</p>	AGREED AGREED AGENDA
16.25	<p>Training (brought forward from 14.09.15 meeting)</p> <p>AT – Training Schedule had been circulated to all Governors. Cluster Meetings mentioned earlier. Heads and Chairs 24th February Leading School Improvement was another course that was thought to be useful to attend. Prevent Training 16th March.</p> <p>AT asked that all Governors look at this schedule carefully and let her know what courses they would like to attend and she would book them on.</p>	ALL
16.26	<p>Link (brought forward from 14.09.15 meeting)</p> <p>NH- literacy AB - science BH - maths (lead is Natalie G)</p> <p>AT to ask Steve Gainsley for an update regarding maths.</p>	AT
16.27	<p>EYFS (brought forward from 14.09.15 meeting)</p> <p>CG agreed take on the role of Early Years Governor.</p>	AGREED
16.28	<p>Governor Weeks (brought forward from 14.09.15 meeting)</p> <p>SW informed Governors that Governor Week went very well. Out of 5 proforma's 3 left feedback. CG apologised that he had not left feedback.</p> <p>SW said that this worked better that they were filled in at the time and to improve things</p>	

	<p>in future, Governors should leave with Gaynor in the office who would pass them straight to AT.</p> <p>DW gave a brief explanation of how Governor Weeks worked in previous schools that he had experience with.</p> <p>Next Governor Week is May 23rd and will have more of a reading focus. Natalie G, English teacher will focus on questions. It appears that if Governors ask children questions they are likely to answer more fully.</p>	
16.29	<p>Exit Interviews</p> <p>Governors agreed that anyone having an exit interview tends to be more open and honest in their comments. Useful comments need to be incorporated in future plans when relevant.</p> <p>In the last two exit interviews undertaken nothing awful had been noted, with both people saying that they would come back to the school to work. Although SW said that one had been asked but declined.</p> <p>It was important that all comments were noted and not to let similar things happen again.</p>	
16.30	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>YM could not attend this meeting and had offered apologies although did not pass anything on to be discussed.</p> <p>SW informed Governors that there is currently one safeguarding issue.</p> <p>Item to be placed on the agenda for the next GB meeting.</p>	AGENDA
16.31	<p>DBE Briefing</p> <p>AT and SW attended this briefing (which unfortunately CG could not attend) which gave information that the Diocese had agreed that all schools would have to be academy status by 2020. Newbold and Tredington School would be part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).</p> <p>An Academy would have a Board of Governors and Board of Directors. These people would be volunteers and would have a £1 stake in the upper part of this organisation. AT said that schools on the whole find it hard to recruit Governors.</p> <p>How will these people take the responsibility in this position? The Diocese want us to sit within these MAT's. It would make sense for us to be part of our cluster, the area of which reaches up to Alcester. You cannot have a MAT that is church led. This is something that the Diocese has decided as they appear to be trying to maintain the church element.</p> <p>The Diocese are able to impose this and we do not have a choice. The MAT will take 5% of our budget.</p> <p>Governors wondered what they intend do with this money? SW said that Warwickshire CC do take a percentage already;</p>	

	<p>MAT's Board of Directors will be like the Governing Body and will be responsible for all of these schools, so there will be many.</p> <p>Governors asked if we have any influence on choice of MAT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do have a choice of MAT but this has to have a pupil roll number of 4,000. SW informed Governors that one MAT in the North of County includes 30 schools. <p>AT said that it did not feel very secure or well organised and we as a group need to feel that we are in control of our destiny. Linda from the Diocese has offered to come and talk to Governors if requested.</p> <p>Governors asked if SW has had any feedback from other heads?</p> <p>Benefits of a being within a cluster are that we can undertake moderation together.</p> <p>Governors expressed concern that it is likely that there will be non church groups and lead schools trying to support 20 or so other schools.</p> <p>AT asked if CG could feedback to Diocese that this MAT may not be in our best interest?</p> <p>Governors are reluctant to do this until the last minute.</p> <p>LA funds us but they do not have authority at the moment. WES is traded services and we buy into this. If a school is RI status then they are far more likely to have more support from WCC as they look after more of the struggling schools.</p> <p>SW agreed with Governors that we leave things for now and if we feel that things are moving along then we would ask DBE to come in and talk to Governors.</p> <p>A question was asked as to what would be the process of removing ourselves from church control?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The reply was that they own the land that the school sits on so really is not an option. <p>Governors felt that moving to Academy status may create an issue as 5% taken from the schools budget would be a great loss.</p> <p>SW would ask other schools if the Head, Chairs and Governors would be interested in meeting with the Diocese so a discussion could take place. Governors present felt that it would be good idea to facilitate this and have other people's perspective on this issue.</p>	
<p>16.32</p>	<p>Policies</p> <p>The following policies had been circulated prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admissions Policy (September 2015) ● Attendance Policy (September 2014, June 2015 update) ● Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (September 2015) ● E Safety Policy (December 2015, to be reviewed December 2018) ● Freedom of Information Publication Scheme (December 2015 to review December 2016) ● Teacher Appraisal Policy (December 2015, to be reviewed December 2016) ● Outdoor Learning Policy ● Performance Management Policy 	

	<p>The Chair AT asked if everyone was in agreement that these were ratified today?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All agreed. <p>Clerk AS will record and update the Policy Review Sheet.</p> <p>AB asked others how are these policies aligned with what we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o AT answered this by saying that she has witnessed 4 Ofsted Inspections and never been asked to look at any policies but everyone at the school does work to these. o Curriculum policies are done by curriculum leads and these policies are worked to. They are a legal guide. Certain policies that are not a legal requirement but the legal ones we take a lead from Warwickshire CC. 	<p>AGREED CLERK</p>
<p>16.33</p>	<p>Self Evaluation Summary</p> <p>A Governor suggested that we send comments to SW after circulation of the SEF and prior to the GB meeting which was thought to be a good idea. On this occasion, questions will be raised at this meeting. The Head's report, SEF is updated every term.</p> <p>AT said that one of things she wanted to highlight was the progress and attainment across the school. She said it was not clear and did not understand this.</p> <p>AT asked SW to explain?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o SW informed Governors that the school had gone with the new curriculum system. They had looked at the Sheffield system but decided not to go with this. o Using tracking grids which give an overview of progress throughout the year using age related decimals, the bottom end of school looks great but others do not. The school worked with levels last year and are now working with attainment. o At the moment this does not reflect a good picture but it will get better. Children are now making progress and when we come to the next GB meeting things will be much clearer. <p>Is this experience common to all small schools and mixed age schools?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Yes <p>What happens with moderation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o SW informed Governors that we Cluster moderated this term. We had a brief which were child / age related expectations at this point. o SW has spoken with the Head at Ilmington and they have both agreed to moderate together before we go to the next cluster meeting. There are certain things that SW would like to tweek before next year. o SW says that we need to make it a little more manageable for us. At the moment it is a little onerous and long winded. <p>Governors stated that there is a need for consistency.</p> <p>SW explained that there will be a little issue this year as we have a few new children that will come in mid way through year and we will have to work out a way to show this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 children on roll (new to area, 3 traveller families) • 11 pupil premium. • 13 first choices for September. • 7 going out. 	<p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">ALL</p> <p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">AGREED</p> <p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: bottom;">SW</p>

	<p>October and January 31st funding is set. This time last year 65 were on roll. The new intake will make a huge difference. WCC may increase funding (back pay) for the extra 11 children. SW is almost certain that all 11 will come.</p> <p>Governors noted that attendance showed a good improvement as now at 96% and that SW should be thanked for her continued efforts in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AT noted that regarding after school clubs, not all teachers are doing something and asked why was this so? ○ Rachel is NQT so cannot do anything for a few terms. ○ SW said that the Tesco cookery club was doing really well and children have made things like parsnip and apple soup and jerk chicken. The children really enjoy this. <p>Governors suggested that SW provides a clearer report in the next SEF. They felt that more clarity is needed in the area of leadership and that the SEF needs to show clearly the vision and direction of the school and who we are expecting to do what and the reason why. Anyone looking at this SEF needs to be able to understand it clearly. SW said that a lot has been lifted from Ofsted.</p> <p>SW informed Governors that we need to have more staff for September and really need to have someone that can sit on Senior Leadership Team.</p> <p>Governors said that SW needs to articulate clearly what the leadership issue is?</p> <p>Our budget is set at the end of March. If we have an extra 11 children begin in April, would we be in a position to go from a standard teacher to a senior teacher (non NQT)?</p> <p>A decision needs to be made on actually what we need. The new member of staff should really have a subject responsibility.</p> <p>This item to be placed on the P and S meeting agenda for 24.02.16.</p>	<p>THANKS</p> <p>SW</p> <p>SW</p> <p>SW</p> <p>CLERK</p>
16.34	<p>Urgent Business None</p>	
16.35	<p>Confidential Items None</p>	
16.36	<p>Next Agenda Governors Self Evaluation Staffing – Teachers and Governors Safeguarding Cluster Meetings Patch Meetings MAT (updates/discussion meeting with others)</p>	<p>CLERK</p>
16.37	<p>Dates and Times of Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PREVENT Training between 4pm and 5pm on 1st March ● Next Governing Body Meeting on 16.03.15 at 6.45. <p>DM offered his apologies in advance for GB meeting as he would be out of the country.</p>	