

St Cyprians Greek Orthodox Primary Academy
Meeting of the Education Committee
Minutes of Meeting

Date of meeting: 7.00pm, Wednesday 3 March 2021
Venue: Via Zoom
Present: Mr Christopher Vradis, (Headteacher), Mrs Angelina Adrien, Ms Aredi Christou, Mr Elias Loizou, Mrs Sophie Tsoukkas, Mrs Ehimwenma Osagiobare, Mr Arthur Broadberry (by invitation)
In attendance: Mrs Adrienne Routledge (Clerk)

1. WELCOME

AC welcomed everyone. There were no apologies or absences. The meeting was quorate.

2. PRAYER

EL led the meeting with a prayer.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The information that directors have stipulated within their completion of the annual declarations of pecuniary interest applies.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (4 November 2020)

These had been circulated in advance and taken as read. They were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting; Chair to sign minutes for retaining by the school for filing.

5. MATTERS ARISING (not covered elsewhere in the meeting)

The working party to be established for Marketing has been superseded by the bringing forward of a variety of ongoing activity (including website re-fresh, direct mail, fundraising and so on) all designed to aggressively market and sell the school's offering to prospective new families.

6. HEADTEACHERS REPORT

This had been circulated in advance of the meeting and confirmed as read. Discussion and updates followed:

- Monday 8 March sees the return of children to school following Lockdown; directors asked if the school is ready and how staff are feeling – staff, and children, are looking forward to returning to school, staff have been in to school this week to help get classrooms ready and welcome the children back
- Directors asked about catch up plans and the Headteacher assured all that school has several strategies in place to help children catch up, but at the heart of all of

these will be great teaching, and all done in a way so as not to cause any undue stress to the children; directors welcomed this approach

- Staff are invited to carry out Covid self-tests twice a week and this will continue for the foreseeable future
- All staff will be back in school on Monday bar one who is shielding
- A small group of children will be in school tomorrow and Friday, and directors noted this very helpful approach that is seeing the school support children who may be finding things difficult and may be anxious about returning to school
- A director asked about the return of after school clubs, and the Headteacher advised that Wrap Around Club will be open, as it was before, under Covid-secure conditions; the earliest that after school clubs could potentially start up again is 29 March and these would have to be outside activities that take account of bubbles; the school will review the position at that time but hopes to be able to offer some individual year group outside football

The Chair noted all the work that the Headteacher, SLT and staff have done in order to ensure school is ready to welcome children back on Monday, and asked that the Committee's thanks be passed on to all.

The Chair invited any further questions. A director asked about attendance for online learning and the Headteacher explained that there have been a range of circumstances why some children have attended less online learning than others but assured the Committee that the school staff have been closely monitoring online attendance and will be very alert and mindful of any impact on children's learning once children are back in the school classroom, and will draw on a range of interventions as necessary to help all children catch up.

A director asked about the impact on the school finances and if the new curriculum is protected from any potential cuts to finance. The Headteacher acknowledged that the school has lost a considerable amount of income in Lockdown but has a core set of things that it will protect as part of its commitment to boosting children's learning and improving the quality of teaching. The Headteacher outlined some of the plans coming up, including a visit by His Eminence, a Church roadshow, and a Greek TV chat show slot, that are all designed to promote the school as widely as possible and so recruit more children to school.

A director asked if Summer School will be taking place as has been indicated by the Government. The Headteacher advised that no schools have been told about any specific plans for this and explained that teacher contracts mean that school staff would not be able to get involved in this.

No further questions.

7. POLICIES

The following policies were circulated in advance of the meeting and confirmed as read. Some discussion followed as these policies require approval by this Committee before being brought to the next full GB meeting:

Teaching and Learning: this has been re-worked by the Headteacher to better reflect the school's aspirations for outstanding teaching and to be more in line with the school's vision for its teaching and for the children's learning. It was suggested that the five pillars of learning for life are re-worded so that all are equal in standing and it was requested that, since the school is a Faith school, that more is made of this. Some discussion followed and it was agreed to incorporate wording to highlight that an overriding feature of the school is its faith.

Action: Headteacher/EL

Handwriting and Presentation: this is a new policy which was approved by the Committee.

Feedback and Marking: this is a new policy, whose content has been taken from the previous Teaching and Learning policy, to create a stand-alone policy which the school feels is a better way to address feedback and marking. The policy reflects the school's intention to focus more on creating feedback time in the classroom to improve children's learning; whilst marking remains important, it is accepted that feedback has more of a part to play, and evidence support this. All approved this policy.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL): this has been produced to create a policy around the school's improved strategies for teaching Greek to all children. All approved this policy.

A few minor typos were identified in some of the policies and these will be sent to the school.

Action: AB

Several additional policies had been circulated to directors and directors were asked to review these in preparation for discussion/sign off at the next meeting. These policies are:

Pupil Premium
Single Central Register
Visitors
Whole School Food
Wraparound Care
Young Carers
Mobile Phone
Intimate Care
Internet Access
Induction for new admissions
Home school agreement

Freedom of Information
Exclusion
Complaint Procedure
Collective Worship
After School Clubs
Admission, arrival and collection

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

EL was invited to give a brief update on teaching Greek culture in school. He outlined the following:

- A detailed skills progression map has been created that goes from Early Years to Year 6
- There is now a full bank of skills for each year group, with each skill being graded so that progress can be identified very clearly
- There is a range of new and varied topics about Greek culture, mythology and so on, all designed to provide much more enriching lessons for the children
- All Greek staff in school have been involved in creating this and, in doing so, have helped create a document that is truly unique to St Cyprians and one which the school is very proud of and can use very effectively in its marketing

The Committee was impressed and delighted with this update, and asked that its thanks be conveyed to all involved.

The Chair reiterated that the directors are available and willing to support the Headteacher and his team, for which the Headteacher thanked her and reminded everyone that all staff/Governing Body have a sales role to play in supporting the school at all times!

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.15pm. The date of the next meeting is 23 June 2021, 7pm – depending on the lifting of restrictions, this may take place in school, TBC.

Signed:  Date 23.6.21

Minutes taken by Mrs A Routledge