

**St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy**

**Meeting of the Education Committee**

**DRAFT Minutes of Meeting**

Date of Meeting : 7.00 p.m., Thursday 12 May 2022

Venue : Samos, St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy

Mr Christophe Vradis (CV)	Present
Mr Andrew Mantilas (AM)	Absent
Mrs Angelina Adrien (AA)	Present
Mrs Aredi Christou (AC) - Chair	Present
Mr Arthur Broadberry (AB)	Present
Fr Chris Christodoulou	Present
Mrs Ehiwenma Osagiobare (EO)	Absent
Mrs Naghmana Gani (NG)	Present
Ms Nikoleta Tsiama	Present
Mrs Sophie Tsoukkas (ST)	Present

In attendance :

Mary Rider (MR) : Clerk

<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>  AC welcomed everyone to the meeting saying how nice it was to see everyone. The meeting started at 7.21 p.m.  Apologies for absence were received from AM and EO, which were accepted.
<b>2.</b>	<b>PRAYER</b>  Fr Chris lead the Committee with the Resurrection Prayer.
<b>3.</b>	<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST/PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATION</b>  The information that Directors have stipulated within their completion of the annual declarations of pecuniary interest applied.  There were no conflicts of interest.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</b>

	<p>AC checked that Directors had all received a copy of the Minutes from the last meeting and had had an opportunity to read through them. Directors confirmed that they had.</p> <p>AC asked if there were any comments or additions.</p> <p>It should be noted that apologies from Fr Chris had been received, which were accepted. Therefore, Fr Chris should show as absent rather than not present.</p> <p>The Minutes of the Education Committee held on 26 January 2022 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting. AC will sign the Minutes.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>AC has spoken with Fr George to encourage more permanent and regular meetings. This is ongoing. Fr Chris will be arranging to have a priest coming in more frequently.</p> <p><b>ONGOING ACTION</b> : AC to continue to meet with the Priest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ONGOING ACTION</b> : AC</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>HEADTEACHER'S REPORT</b></p> <p>CV presented his report to Directors and highlighted the following areas:</p> <p>The issue with numbers continues.</p> <p>The quality of education continues to improve with a real focus on differentiation. Historically schools were measured on standard of teaching in the classroom alone, but schools are now measured on how well they are doing all of the time. Ofsted judgements are now based on books, class visits, progress and data, looking at a much more holistic approach.</p> <p>Attendance is good but not outstanding. This has been affected by a lot of isolation and Covid.</p> <p>CV then presented data on End of Spring Term Assessments and invited questions.</p> <p>Generally, Progress is very good although Attainment is still behind, which is expected. The 'at or above ARE' is not high enough. Our ambition is for all children to get 100%.</p> <p>Q : Progress has almost universally been marvellous. How is Attainment at the younger end of the school.</p> <p>A : There has been a lot of intake in Nursery with some children who are only just 3, some of whom have no English or are non-verbal. There is a period of settling in. The children are learning very quickly and Progress has been astronomical at 100, and 73 for Attainment is still very good. In Year 4 and certainly in Years 5 and 6 there has been a tremendous improvement.</p>

We went through every year group to obtain a much more accurate reflection of their progress.

There is an anomaly in Year 1. Progress is similar but one class is much higher in Attainment than the other. This is mainly due to a higher number of SEN pupils. If they are not yet to Year 1 level, they are measured in month as they are in Reception. For example, there is a four-year-old who is in the 13-15 month bracket which is below the national average.

Q : With SEN being low, we would expect Attainment to be higher. There is only one child in Cyprus with SEN. Do we have to support without funding?

A : There is no funding for children without an EHCP but there are a lot of needs and the threshold for Statements/EHCPs is constantly going up in Croydon so more SEN children have no Statements and therefore no money and CAMHS has a long backlog therefore no funding for children with statements in our school.

Within our cluster of schools, we are trying to employ our own Education Psychologist but there is no appeal for them to work within schools.

Q : How would Ofsted be empathetic to this?

A : We know our children and are watching them. We can give a background to each child. It will take some time to settle down after the disruption of the last couple of years. However, Progress is high and children are catching up at a fast rate. We aim for all the children to make 100% progress irrespective of need even though this is difficult.

In Year 2, Attainment is quite low but looking forward the Progress will be very high by the time they reach Year 6 – aim of +4-5.

Q : What would be your strategy going forward to reach higher?

A : The four Cs. We have a very child-centre approach and use a lot of critical thinking. We are trying to get the children to take responsibility for themselves, for them to know where they are and what they need to do to improve.

Teachers should also take credit for the improvement in Progress. The school has good teachers and good teaching. There is excitement around trips which is generating enthusiasm for the work in the classroom.

With smaller class sizes, we would expect better results.

Q : What if the numbers increased?

A : Year 5 has high numbers and are still achieving well. Progress is good but there are still a lot of children significantly below in Attainment. There is not long until next year's SATs to bring these children up. We are expecting next year's results to be lower, although we will work hard to mitigate this. There have been some issues this year in Year 5 mostly caused by a teacher leaving for personal reasons mid-year in Ydra. The teacher was not what we had hoped for from interview and was on a support plan. The change from when they left to now is excellent. Attainment has increased

significantly and we can see that the children are going in the right direction. A lot of them are making above expected Progress. Samos has also had some disruptions. A member of staff has been off ill for a long period of time. We tried to cover this in-house but eventually arranged a supply teacher to give stability.

Q : There is still a concern with Attainment – there are still high numbers in the lower levels?

A : It is a concern. This half-term we have got classes where support is needed. We do have outstanding teachers out of class who have stepped in and will be in these classes.

Q : Will they be going into Year 5 to support the teacher?

A : They are already in there. They will not be in every day but will be supporting.

Plans are being put in place from next Monday for Year 5.

**ACTION** : CV to provide an update to the next Education Committee.

**ACTION : CV**

Fr Chris commented that during his recent visit morale and teaching is making a real difference. The decision to have who you have is justified as it is making a difference – there is a very positive atmosphere.

CV commented that the children want to learn. There is a lot of good work from Assistant Head Teachers, making sure marking is done quickly and feedback given. We do need to push standards all of the time to make sure the children remain engaged and ensure they are a part of their learning journey.

Q : How have the children found SATs?

A : They are very excited to have taken their SATs. There are two inexperienced teachers in Year 6 but they have been supported by an experienced outstanding teacher (AHT).

Q : Have they had booster classes?

A : Yes.

Q : Coming back to Year 5, what strategies will be put in place to stop them falling further behind?

A : Priorities have now shifted from Year 6 following SATs. More teachers will be involved in teaching Year 5 now. We will have to help Year 5 catch up but expect Year 4 not to need such support going forward as teaching over time is better.

A Governor said that he would like to congratulate CV on the work that has been put in place; that the data does not necessarily reflect the efforts being made to bring the children along.

Q : Nationally it is proven that Black African and Black Caribbean children achieve below expectations. Are we supporting that cluster of children?

A : The whole of our first term is Black History so there is a real build-up of in-depth knowledge. RE focuses on diversity. It is not a trend at St Cyprian's that Black African children are suffering – indeed, in certain classes they are achieving higher.

Fr Chris commented on the positive feeling in the school – there is happiness and joy. Each child is an individual and there is a very safe structure for the children. The children are doing well which reflects well on the teachers. Children are aware of what opportunities and choices may open up to them in the longer term.

A Governor commented that data-wise Progress is good but there is a lot of work to do with Attainment. People who come to the school really like it and want to sign up. How do we transfer that to the data.

Q : If we have more SEN children and they are not supported, how will the school get funding? If a child comes with behaviour issues, how is that managed in class?

A : This depends on the individual child. We have a child who came in at Reception who had a great need which was addressed and the child has made so much progress. Part-funding was given retrospectively. There are a couple of other children currently known to Croydon who are on a specific timetable. The TA will work with these children.

This is something that is happening more and more. As professionals we can see where a child needs support and have to make a moral judgement on how we support that child. Many hours are spent putting an application together to get a child the support they need. Special schools are full so more and more special needs children will be coming to the school.

Q : Have you received any definite numbers for September?

A : We received 37 offer letters back with a few tentatives. We are hoping to hit 40.

Numbers for the Nursery are currently very low with only 16 definites. Children have come into the school but we have also had children leave.

Marketing needs to be looked at to encourage numbers into the school. The ethnic label can be confusing to people and we want to ensure that people are aware that the school is inclusive and that children will benefit by coming here.

Q : Do we know why the numbers of Greek Orthodox are not higher?

A : We would like to see more Greek Orthodox supporting the school and we expect the community to support the school.

Fr Chris asked what he could bring to the school.

AB informed Fr Chris that his observations are of great value and ties into the issue of attracting people into the school. The atmosphere is right, the children are happy but we need to broadcast that information. For this to be seen afresh and to have independence of observations is very useful for Governors to hear.

	<p>AC invited further questions but there were none.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>POLICIES</b></p> <p>AC will return the signed policies when she is in school next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After School Club</li> <li>○ Attendance</li> <li>○ Behaviour and Anti-Bullying</li> <li>○ Calculations</li> <li>○ EAL-EMA</li> <li>○ Early Years</li> <li>○ Educational Trips and Residential Visits</li> <li>○ Exclusions</li> <li>○ Freedom of Information</li> <li>○ Greek (MFL)</li> <li>○ Home School Agreement</li> <li>○ ICT Computing</li> <li>○ Induction for New Admissions</li> <li>○ Internet Access</li> <li>○ Intimate Care</li> <li>○ Learning Challenge Curriculum</li> <li>○ Maths</li> <li>○ Mobile Phone</li> <li>○ Music</li> <li>○ Phonics</li> <li>○ Physical Education</li> <li>○ PSHE</li> <li>○ Pupil Premium</li> <li>○ RE</li> <li>○ Reading</li> <li>○ RSHE</li> <li>○ Science</li> <li>○ Single Central Record</li> <li>○ Speaking and Listening</li> <li>○ Visitors</li> <li>○ Whole School Food</li> <li>○ Wrap Around Care</li> <li>○ Writing</li> <li>○ Young Carers</li> </ul>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Q : When do we receive the next batch of data from the summer assessments?  A : This will be reviewed in the September meeting.</p> <p>Q : Can parents get involved to boost their children’s learning?</p>

	<p>A : We will be sending letters to parents with strategies for helping. We need to balance between pushing children and realistic achievement.</p> <p>Q : When will the SATs results be available?</p> <p>A : We should have the SATs results for the next FGB.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.</p> <p>Fr Chris closed the meeting closed at 8:35 p.m. with the Resurrection Hymn.</p>

**St Cyprian's Education Committee 12 05 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**