



**Kildwick CE Primary School**  
**Learning to live, Living to love, Loving to learn.**

Minutes of the Meeting of the FGB – (Strategy) held, in school, on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 18.00

Present:

Donna Akrigg – Staff Governor (AK)

Howard Barton – Parent Governor (HB)

Jane Hall – Foundation Governor (JH)

Karen Law – Parent Governor (KL)

John Perry – LA Governor (JP)

Cameron Quinn – Co-opted Governor (CQ)

Geraldine Sands – Foundation Governor (GS)

Tim Whitehead – Headteacher (TW)

**In attendance:**

Stephen Dale – LA Clerk to Governors (Clerk)

**Governing Body core functions:**

*Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.*

*Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation; and.*

*Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.*

A	Procedural
1	<u>Welcome, prayer, introductions, and consideration of absence.</u> JP chaired this meeting starting at 18.00. JP welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance. Apologies received from Mike Green, Anna Fischer, and Jackie Craven. Consented. All governors were present in school – none were attending remotely. The meeting was quorate. GS led the meeting in an opening prayer.
B	School Improvement
2	<u>Discuss Priorities, Critical outcomes, and Y1 Success Criteria.</u> A RAG rated copy of the SSDP had been circulated prior to this meeting. Governors were reminded of the four priorities:

	<p>1: Kildwick CE Primary School is working towards carbon net zero by 2030 setting an example to the whole community</p> <p>2. The distinctive Christian ethos of school within the wider cultural landscape is further strengthened.</p> <p>3: Clear and strong strategic direction, resource management and leadership are maintained.</p> <p>4: Provision of a broad inspiring and inclusive curriculum alongside exciting and expansive activities nurturing all children to achieve their best.</p> <p>Governors considered each priority in turn: and considered if these are still appropriate and relevant in the current financial climate and when taken together, do the priorities continue to provide a balanced strategic approach embracing all key areas.</p> <p>Governors considered the Critical outcomes and questioned if there is still confidence with these or is adjustment required.</p> <p>Any changes to the success criteria/critical outcomes to be reflected in Y2 goals.</p> <p>Governors reviewed each priority and the RAG'd Success Criteria and notes against these. It was agreed that the Priorities remain relevant and appropriate to "keep."</p> <p>Governors noted that this is a 3year plan and whilst progress against all areas is vital, the success may not be realised in some areas until the end of this period - expectations should not be raised.</p> <p>P1 – overall good positive progress – the Board may need to be more initiative-taking to achieve goals – JC, TW and HB agreed to formulate plan to spend energy grant and to produce options for the Board to consider.</p> <p><b>Action: JC, TW and HB to produce proposal for December 2023 FGB</b></p> <p>Governors agreed to set a "pledge" re environmental sustainability. Staff Capacity to assist delivery of targets was raised as a concern.</p> <p>Discussions took place over the use of the Peggy Wilson Field, Forest School, and the walking Bus. Governors noted time pressures on parents in volunteering to help with these activities and agreed that TW would have a "recruitment drive" at the start of the Autumn Term.</p> <p>Governors noted the "Eco Church" initiative now underway and that the school may be able to become involved in this.</p> <p>P2 – Governors agreed strength and progress in this area, and this should continue as a goal as pupils join and leave the school to ensure that all pupils at all times can articulate the vision and values – children should continue to be involved in leading CW and this developed. Discussion took place around diversity and how best to prepare and support pupils for "life after Kildwick."</p> <p>P3 – Good progress. Stakeholder relationship was discussed – links with St Andrews are strengthening and Parent Forums should continue to be held on a regular basis. Discussion took place around Staff Development and opportunities for CPD noting budget restrictions. To continue to create an environment where staff can "grow" was agreed as particularly important – we must not become complacent in this area. TW confirmed that the SLT are open to developmental opportunities and that CPD is not just about "going on courses." TW outlined some of the opportunities identified and in place that support CDP in diverse ways.</p>
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	<p>P4 – Positive progress with reading with evidence to support this – governors noted the work undertaken with the English Hub and Heather Russell – SIA. Governors agreed that “Pupil Voice” should be rethought next year so this becomes natural and integral to school life – there needs to be leadership and monitoring – some tweaks to be made to how it currently “operates” – Governors again noted the need to be aware of staff capacity in achieving this. Discussion took place concerning staff wellbeing and the numerous factors that are outside of the school’s control that may be affecting this currently. This must remain a high priority with support in place whenever possible and practical.</p>
3	<p><u>Reflection on School Vision and Values, including biblical underpinning.</u></p> <p>Governors considered the school vision statement - ‘Learning to live, living to love, loving to learn.’</p> <p>Governors asked –</p> <p>How confident are we in the current vision. - Is it ambitious - Does it reflect the breadth of learning required to prepare Kildwick children for secondary school - Is it inclusive - Are the biblical ‘underpinnings’ clear and understandable - How confident are we that the ‘vision statement’ is accessible for the broad school community - Is there a clear enough flow from vision to values and ‘expected outcomes’ - How confident are we from our interactions with school (governor monitoring visits, as parents, attendance at whole school events, newsletters etc.) that the school reflects the vision, ethos and values in its ‘day-to-day’ activities - if not does the vision statement need revisiting.</p> <p>As a result of discussions Governors agreed confidence that the vision statement remains appropriate and reflects the quality of learning to prepare pupils for secondary education. It is biblically underpinned with biblical references and the x6 Christian Values underpinning the statement clearly – Peace, Trust, Forgiveness, Friendship, Courage, and Respect.</p> <p>Governors are confident that the statement is accessible for the broad school community and is reflected in the daily life of school – it has meaning – it is understood.</p> <p>Governors agreed that this should not become “overthought or over complicated” and agreed that no changes were necessary.</p>
4	<p><u>Academisation</u></p> <p>Prior to this meeting JP had circulated a document summarising the current position with Academisation and the move to an all-MAT school system which remains a government aspiration as outlined in the March 2022 Schools White Paper. JP noted that steps to achieve this aspiration are however perhaps currently less clear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legislation following the White Paper has been withdrawn - reportedly, at least in part, given governance concerns from large MAT chains</li> <li>● No information on the planned LA led MAT ‘pilot’ has been circulated since summer 2022 - no update is available on the North Yorkshire Council application</li> <li>● The DfE school system implementation information web page has not been updated since May 2022 ‘Commentators’ nevertheless note that an all MAT school system remains central to government thinking - the DfE has had lengthy discussions with the CE as part the move to an all MAT system, perhaps because there are a significant number of small CE primary schools still within the maintained sector.</li> </ul>

	<p>Governors noted the DfE document published in March 2023 that set out the aspirations for North Yorkshire and the reference to CE and small rural schools.</p> <p>JP noted the position of the Leeds Diocese in relation to MATS and that a further briefing planned for October 2023.</p> <p>It was noted that it seems less schools are joining academies now and the government target for all schools to be part of an academy by 2030 is no longer realistic. There is no regulation/regulatory body of the academies and no straightforward evidence yet that the pupil outcome is any better with academy schools. There seems to be a general concern that SEND pupils are being disadvantaged, and that MATS can refuse a SEND pupil, but LA maintained schools can't. Having joined, it is not possible for a school to leave an academy.</p> <p>It was noted that academies appear have less experience with small, rural schools and faith schools and may not know how best to manage these schools once they are in an academy, particularly if the school has any financial problems. The LAs may look at forming their own MATS and will be given more power to manage their responsibilities, such as the imminent demographic reduction in primary pupil numbers.</p> <p>Governors considered if they should continue the 'watching brief' agreed in December 2022 with termly FGB discussion and agreed that this approach is in the best interest of the school at present and considering other priorities to focus on.</p>
5	<p><u>Discuss Y2 Success Criteria.</u></p> <p>Governors reviewed the document circulated prior to this meeting that set out Critical Outcomes and Success Criteria for Y2.</p> <p>Governors also noted the paper summarising discussion with staff on Success Criteria and Milestones.</p> <p>Governors noted revision to Critical outcomes that had arisen from discussion in item 2 of this agenda.</p> <p>Governors considered each Priority and success criteria in turn – reviewing draft suggestions in the document and agreeing that we are comfortable copying items from Y1 where this is appropriate.</p> <p>Governors noted that Good practice should see specific resourcing referenced, for example SEND funding, and that this would be include in the final draft.</p> <p>Governors noted their role in monitoring and that Link Governor visits/meetings should reflect updates on progress towards achieving success criteria in the SSDP.</p> <p><b>Action: JP/TW to update draft SSDP with Y2 information to circulate in July for approval at FGB in September.</b></p>
6	<p><u>Discussion on the broader plan.</u></p> <p>Governors reviewed the overall strategic plan, with the Y2 success criteria as discussed and asked if it continues to reflect our collective aspirations for the school - from the perspective of children, parents, staff, governors, and other stakeholders.</p>

	<p>Governors noted the survey of staff in May 2022 that detailed aspirations for the school in five years and identified a number of attributes – and from these the identified three priorities –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The well-being and safety of children - as highlighted by the last respondent, a nurture-based response - this broadly reflects the priorities within the previous strategy plan and shows a satisfactory level of cohesion.</li> <li>• A shared priority agreement around the inclusive community and the holistic development of children within the community, school, or global/world</li> <li>• Curriculum development priority remains important for staff, but that this builds from other priorities and should be structured to ensure it reflects the needs of all children.</li> </ul> <p>Governors agreed confidence that Y2 of the Plan will provide an appropriate strategic framework for the school.</p> <p>Stakeholder Communication was discussed. How do we communicate the plan - how to circulate - how to better include stakeholders in future reviews .</p> <p>It was agreed that a letter be sent to parents summarising the strategic plan priorities and focus and inviting comment and feedback before the end of the school term rather than distributing the whole document, allowing parents to relate to the plan as a strategic document rather than operational practice.</p> <p><b>Action: KL to draft letter and consult with JP and TW re circulation by 10<sup>th</sup> July.</b></p>
7	<p><u>Agree next steps.</u></p> <p>SSDP to be updated by JP/TW to reflect discussion and agreement from this review.</p> <p>KL to draft letter to communicate priorities etc to parents and this to be circulated no later than 10<sup>th</sup> July.</p>
8	<p><u>Governance 2023/24</u></p> <p>JP noted that GS would be retiring at the end of this term and that MG is leading on recruitment for this vacancy.</p> <p>Meeting patterns– discussion took place over how meetings should be “structured,” and it was agreed that we should trial for one year the arrangement where we have FGB Meetings termly with Committee Meetings focusing on Finance and Curriculum feeding into these. Committees would have agreed Terms of Reference and consist of a minimum of x6 Governors.</p> <p>MG had agreed to Chair Curriculum meetings and CQ to Chair Finance Meetings. Minutes of these meeting will be circulated to all Governors and a brief 5minute summary of that meeting will be given at the next FGB.</p> <p>All governors to sit on at least one Committee (and can chose to sit on both)</p>

	<p>Meeting dates – governors agreed the need to spread the days of meetings to recognise that not all governors will be able to attend all meetings - focus to try and ensure the FGB meetings are best placed for as many governors as possible.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to circulate proposed dates for 2023/24.</b></p> <p>Link Governors – it was agreed to continue with current system with the need to allocate responsibilities currently undertaken by GS.</p> <p><b>Action: All governors to confirm they are willing to continue with present role/s.</b></p> <p>Transition planning – Governors noted the requirement for the post of Vice Chair – to support the Chair and be in a position to take “emergency decisions” should the need arise, and the Chair be unavailable.</p> <p>JP note that it is “good practice” for the Chair not to be in post “forever” – there needs to be succession planning and as such governors should consider this for September 2024.</p>
9	<p><u>Close.</u></p> <p>The meeting closed at 19.40.</p>

Dates of Future Meetings.

10/07/23 – 6.00pm - FGB

Proposed dates for 2023/24

*Tuesday 12/09/23 – FGB*

*Wednesday 11/10/23 – Curriculum Committee*

*Monday 20/11/23 – Finance & Resources Committee*

*Thursday 7/12/23 – FGB*

*Wednesday 7/2/24 – Curriculum Committee*

*Monday 11/3/24 – Finance Committee*

*Tuesday 19/3/24 – FGB*

*Wednesday 24/4/24 – Curriculum Committee*

*Monday 13/5/24 – Finance Committee*

*Thursday 20/6/24 – Strategy Meeting*

*Tuesday 9/7/24 - FGB*

Summary of Action Points:

JC, TW and HB to produce proposal re energy grant use for December 2023 FGB

JP/TW to update draft SSDP with Y2 information to circulate in July for approval at FGB in September.

KL to draft communication to parents re SSDP and consult with JP and TW re circulation by 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Clerk to circulate proposed meeting dates for 2023/24.

All Governors to confirm they are willing to continue with current Link roles.