



ST MICHAEL'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

**MEETING OF THE CHILDRENS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 5.30PM ONLINE**

MINUTES

Membership:

Position	Name	Initials	Term End Date
Staff Governor	Julia Machin	JM	23/02/2026
Parent Governors	*Stephen Bethel – Chair	SB	07/04/2027
Foundation	Lisa Maguire	LM	11/04/2027
	Valerie Doulton	VD	02/02/2025
	Cordelia Brown	CB	07/06/2027
Foundation	-Reverend Kunle Ayodeji	KA	Ex-Officio
Executive Headteacher	Geraldine Gallagher	GG	Ex-Officio

*Denotes Apologies - Denotes absent

Also in Attendance:

Sinead O'Brien, Head of School (HoS)
Alexandra Cooper, AHT, Data Lead
Jasbir Aujla, Clerk to the Governing Body, Haringey Education Partnership
Shannon Kelly, Year 4 Teacher, Computing Lead

PART 1 – Public Matters

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence**
 - 1.1 CB Chaired the meeting and welcomed all. The meeting was quorate.
 - 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from SB.
- 2. Declaration by Governors of Interest Pecuniary or Otherwise in Respect of Agenda Items**
 - 2.1 There were none declared.
- 3. Minutes of the previous Children's Committee**
 - 3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2024 were **agreed** as an accurate record, for the Chair to sign and for the school to retain on file.
 - 3.2 **Matters/Actions Arising**
The were no actions arising from the previous meeting.

The Chair asked for update on previous discussions on:

Q: Whether school has heard if accepted for the Gender Research project. **A:** HoS updated school was not accepted to be the Trial group, but were a controlled group instead, so not taking lessons but did questionnaire with the pupils and data has been sent back and are expecting an exit questionnaire over next couple of weeks. School may potentially be part of the wider group from next term.

Q: Any development with the new English lead and use of the library. **A:** Rob Year 6 teacher is the new English lead and is working on a comprehensive action plan which includes the library. He is currently also overseeing science until a science lead is appointed and all is going well.



Q: How is the Maths White Rose scheme going. **A:** HoS updated started using the Maths White Rose scheme in September and to date have received good feedback from teachers. The new scheme is better especially for younger child and will look at doing work and rolling out for the older children. The EHT reported during her during learning walk with the HoS the children were well engaged, and the booklets are much more manageable than the previous ones.

4. Terms of Reference

4.1 The Children's Committee Terms of Reference were noted.

The Chair CB said she will remain a member of the Children's Committee as well as the Finance & Premises Committee until a new governor is appointed to our current vacancy.

5. Computing and AI

5.1 The Committee received a Computing and AI presentation from Shannon Kelly (SK), Year 5 Teacher and Computing Lead. SK updated on the importance of information technology and stated prior to making improvements to IT infrastructure it is important staff are trained equipped on use of technology and software and how to support all children. The key areas to be covered are:

- IT Vision
- Current IT Infrastructure and Opportunities for Improvement
 - Year 1 & 6 – iPads/chrome books require an upgrade
 - SEND children to have devices assigned to them and use voice typing and understanding vocabulary.
- What does learning look like. The more experienced teachers tend to use the technology more in the classrooms.
- Let us hear from the children. A google form survey was sent out; 156 children responded and shared the feedback. Children enjoy IT.
- Goals and Vision - digital upgrade 3 year rolling programme
 - Goal 1 - Year 5 do not have a one to on devices, plan is to ensure all do
 - Goal 2 - In Year 1 provide IT training and support to staff on use of technology
 - Goal 3 - Integration of digital tools into the curriculum

5.2 SK gave examples of AI tools and the advantages and disadvantages:

- ChatGPT AI is free, teachers may need to adapt but not GDPR compliant.
- Teachmate AI requires subscription for full access, is GDPR compliant, is designed for and by teachers and is part of the curriculum.

SK demonstrated tool usage, as an example used AI to produce an assembly script that gave a story, questioning, follow up activities and a conclusion saving a lot of time and thought and asked if anyone had any questions.

The Committee were impressed and amazed with the AI demonstration, the time it can save, and how use can be tailored to suit needs. It is very reassuring to see AI can be used in a positive way as there have been a lot of scare stories about it. SK said it is about training and educating teachers to use safely, guidance is important. In the Curriculum children have lessons teaching them about the benefits and dangers of AI and how things are changing in the future of education.



Q: Note it is going to be possible for SEND children to use voice recording instead of writing, is this going to lead onto they will not be required to write in examinations. **A:** That may be the future for some, but skill of writing is important, this is an option as writing can be a barrier for SEND children, so this breaks down that barrier. **Q:** If this is going to be a result of this development how can SEND children be fairly assessed against those that are writing. **A:** SK explained the way Google docs is used, it does not correct theoretical spelling, it will record as said and children go in to edit. Understands the difficulties and that is something that will be worked on in due course.

Q: From SEND perspective will this become part of SEND teachers job description; what is the cost to the school and what about online safety. **A:** SK said she is working closely with AHT about these tools and about trailing with some children and staff, this will take time to roll out. Have managed to get 10% off and costs circa £580 for 20 users per year. School uses Purple Mash which delivers curriculum focussed activities, creative tools, and programmes safely. Children are taught about IT safety from reception to Year 6 and is covered in PSHE. In year 6 children are taught the importance of logging in and out of ipads and password protection.

The Chair commented need to consider funding for the digital upgrade and what do we want going forward. The EHT said this is part of the rolling digital programme and will bring to FGB. Discussion took place about whether to move to Google or Microsoft (used in secondary schools) and it was agreed it is useful to have both. The EHT pointed out ipads are a better tool for recording, videos, photographs, and editing.

The Chair thanked SK on behalf of the Committee for providing an interesting update.

5.3 Sustainability

The HoS updated as part of the Inset day on Friday also looked at sustainability across both schools, working on similar objectives looking at sustainable development role linking to curriculum, see what we are currently doing, where the gaps are and aim to close. Teachers found this activity useful.

The group then split as schools are at different points with the sustainability journey, St Michael's is looking at accreditation to the Green Flag explained the 8 areas, looked at what we are doing and what else is needed to achieve accreditation, working an action plan to have in place by end of December to start working on the required actions.

Looking at what we can do as a school and effectively develop. The Rights Respecting group are finishing off work letters this week that will be hand delivered and are about sustainability in our local areas and asking what those in power doing.

Allotment/Garden is up and running thanks to Kim and Lawrence's amazing work. Kim has been coming in over weekends and working hard. Year 2 Children have now planted wheat. The Committee thanked to Kim and Laurence for their amazing work in getting the allotment to stage of planting.



6. Data and Target Setting

- 6.1 The Committee received the 2024-25, Assessment Overview shared in advance of the meeting. The AHT went through the data for Phonics, Reading Writing and Maths for KS1 and KS2 results against predictions and end of previous year data, where children are at and those that need additional support or intervention.

What we want to do this year is build on the model from last year, want teachers to continue to have good handover from previous year's teacher so that all the assessment data available is being used and This involves proactively looking behind the data at gender, pupil premium, emotional needs, SEND and EAL and look at the context and trends.

Autumn 1 data the focus has been on gender as key topic.

KS1

EYFS and Year 1

In the Nursery in basic skills in early word reading, writing and number, 90% meeting in all areas but when breakdown by gender there are 5 boys below in reading, a national issue. The Nursery teacher and staff are providing focussed support to encourage all children to read, introducing new ways to make writing fun by using various materials.

Reception

A similar picture as above at present but may change as children progress, there are more girls achieving greater depth than boys, looking to see what support is needed; to note this is very early data the children have only been in school 4/5 weeks.

Year 1 - boys and maths is the area that needs focus.

Year 2 - big disparity between boys and girls, boys in writing and girls in maths is coming. From Year 2 up have a 3-way split where 3 teachers provide targeted support.

KS2

Year 3: similar picture to above but look like girls in Year 3 need the focus particularly in writing, maths and reading that are below but this can change quickly

Year 4: bigger disparity can be seen here between boys and girls. In good position as currently have an additional teacher doing some targeted work and intervention.

Year 5: more boys meeting greater depth, will look at why that is happening.

Year 6: a few groups need specific focus, have introduced 3 ways with particular focus on maths and greater depth.

The AHT asked if anyone had any questions. The Chair asked if we could have an update at the next FGB when we will have had the January data drop.

The Chair thanked the AHT for her comprehensive update.

7. Behaviour Monitoring

- 7.1 The Children's Committee received the Behaviour paper circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chair asked for breakdown of the data be provided going forward. The HoS updated have reinforced behaviour across the school and are seeing positive impact of the work done. The Chair commented on the robust systems the school has in place to safeguard children



8. Conscious Inclusion Plan

- 8.1 The Committee received the Conscious Inclusion Plan as shared prior to the meeting. The HoS updated one of the key areas she wanted to highlight. She gave thanks to Zara, Year 1 teacher, global majority lead for the work she has done in driving forward on elements of the Inclusion plan.

The objectives remains the same it is about consciously including all staff and children with different characteristics.

The Chair asked about support for Zara. The HoS said yes a lot of support is in place for Zara from HoS, AHT and other staff. The Chair asked HoS to thank Zara for her hard work on behalf of the Governing Body.

9. Policies

- 9.1 The Committee received and considered the Policies listed below that were circulated in advance of this meeting.

- Attendance policy - **Agreed**
- Exclusions Policy - **Agreed**

Q: Linking to all discussed above, question is about kindness and respect, kindness is straightforward to communicate but how do you teach respect, do you mean following rules listening to people and being on time. **A:** The HoS said yes it is all of that and also how one behaves around people, do they listen give people attention, or dismissive as think someone is not important and not worthy of respect, this is an issue for some children and how some choose to speak inappropriately to certain people, it is about being a nice human being and about having consistent boundaries and all adhering to the Behaviour policy. School has been doing some work amongst all staff on consistently reminding children about acceptable behaviour and holding children to account if they are not adhering and that there will be consequences.

10. Parents Whatsapp

- 10.1 The HoS this is an ongoing issue about Whatsapp groups and the parents use of them, at times the messages are personal about children and unacceptable. The HoS has spoken to SMSA, and they are drafting a letter for HoS which will go out via the class representatives to all reminding of the appropriate use of Whatsapp. It goes back to respect, and it was noted each group has an admin and can remove members from the group if they continue with inappropriate messages. The Chair thanked HoS for all the work being done on this.

HoS updated on work being done on becoming Smartphone free childhood, in the NLC the headteachers have done some work and school is going to get someone in to do some work with children and parents.

11. Mobile phones

- 11.1 The EHT said as a group of NLC schools we are working towards smartphone free schools. Parents are invited to attend an information evening where they will hear about the impact of smart phones and accessibility to social media on children aged 10-13 years and alternative methods to keep in touch or track their children such as air tags and brick phones.



If schools do this together in September it is a stronger message, and this now is being discussed by another NLC. There is no guidance from the Government, or the LA and it is left to schools to make their own decisions and so the NLC aim is to bring the majority on board. The first smartphone free childhood event was held and looking to host another to educate parents. The EHT said it is a school-based decision but would like Governing body backing. The Chair asked to bring item to FGB.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 EHT said will invite Alexandra back to next meeting to update on data. The Chair asked to allocate a 10-minute slot to summarise on key points and actions. **Action: EHT**
- 12.2 HoS to arrange VD to be introduced to new Head of English, Rob.

13. Chair's Items

None

14. Dates and Times of next meeting

- 14.1 It was noted the next meeting of the Children's Committee will take place on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 5.30pm online

There being no further Part 1 business this part of the meeting closed.

.....*S Bethel*.....21/1/25.....

Signed

Date

Chair of Committee

Stephen Bethel

Actions:

Item	Action	By Whom
5.1	Allotment/Garden - Chair to pass on the Governors' thanks to Kim and Lawrence for their amazing work in getting the allotment to stage of planting when in school this Friday	HoS
12.1	Data - AHT to summarise on key points and actions at next meeting, allocate a 10-minute slot.	EHT Clerk