

Minutes of a Meeting of the Governors of Godmanchester Bridge Academy on 28th February 2024 at 9:30am

1 Welcome / Attendees / Apologies / Attendance sheet

Caroline Crowther-Light (Chair) opened the meeting at 9:30am. Meeting was quorate. David Keating attended via Zoom link. CCL advised Pam Kitching has reluctantly resigned her position, for family reasons. This leaves a space for at least one new Governor. Meeting agreed it would be good to appoint someone with no other links to school.

[Action Point](#) CP to advertise via Facebook and other social media, as appropriate.

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| Present | Caroline Crowther-Light (Chair) | CCL |
| | Jackie Woodward (Joint Vice-Chair) | JW |
| | Claire Pirrie (Head of School) | CP |
| | Victoria McAuley-Eccles (Deputy Head) | VME |
| | Carl Miller – Parent Governor | CM |
| | Matthew Kelly – Parent Governor | MK |
| | David Keating – Co-opted Parent Governor | DK |
| | Maureen Marsh – scribe | MM |
| Apologies | Philip Dirisu (Parent Governor) | PD |

1 Declaration of interests

No declarations of interest were made.

[Action Points](#) CP to send out new Declaration of Interest forms for **all Governors** to complete.
MK and CCL to complete SCR sign-off.

2 Clerk of Governors

CM enquired whether we are closer yet to appointing a new Clerk to the Governors. CP confirmed we are constantly advertising, but no closer yet. Clerking companies exist but are prohibitively expensive. MK wondered if hours advertised are sufficient for role.

3 New Governor Training

Clerk to Trust has sent MK and DK links to National Governors' Registration training.

[Action Points](#) MK and DK to complete National Governors' Registration training for new governors. There is also specialist training for individual areas of interest.

CP to invite Simon Eardley to provide MK & DK with introduction to ACES Academies Trust. May be able to complete this immediately following next meeting.

4 Headteacher Report

Report circulated ahead of meeting. Questions & Comments below:

(a) Local Authority will not fund a second EYFS class next session, as currently enough places in Godmanchester schools for each Godmanchester child. ACES Academies Trust has agreed to provide a teacher and teaching assistant, for a second class, given high numbers of children living very locally to school who will not currently get their first choice of school.

CM – Does Trust pay for EHCPs?

CP – No, school budget must fund EHCPs and other support.

MK- What happens next year?

CP- This depends on what the census throws up.

CCL - We are now in 'growing school' category (but don't receive growth funding).

MK - Do we know yet of new starters with EHCPs?

CP - We know of one already, but too early to know of others yet.

VME - We should be able to spread any new children arriving with EHCPs across the two new EYFS classes.

CP - SEND Services confirm next year's intake is not expected to be as high-need as this year's.

(b) We have 40 children on our waiting list and 1 appeal in process (for a Year 4 place). This may be upheld if no other place available in Year 4 in Godmanchester.

[Action Points](#) CP will provide numbers, for next meeting.

(c) There is lots of success to celebrate

* SEND Services very impressed by our provision. New Grasshopper rooms working well and more children able to stay in school for longer periods.

* Honours Assemblies allow parents & rest of school to share children's successes.

* Parents engaging much more but information evenings, such as recent one held to share our new behaviour policy have been poorly attended.

* The PTA met recently & have plans for later in the year, but no new events so far this term. MK highlighted huge success of last term's movie night. CM commented we have lots of people willing to help with events but need leaders & organisers. CCL and CM both offered to help with events whenever needed.

* Parents Evenings in January & February yielded some very positive feedback.

CP reported staff absence had reduced but slowly creeping back up as winter progresses. Only Site Manager now on long-term sick leave. We still have no new, permanent Site Manager. One impact of this is that we cannot offer late evening lettings.

CM – Is Trust providing budget for Site Manager?

CP - Current Site Manager's and agency temp are coming from *school* budget.

CM – How long are we paying 50% sick pay?

CP – HR Team is handling this

The Trust plans to appoint one person to handle compliance issues at all Primaries, which allows us to simply advertise a *Caretaker* role. This could not be split shift and will comprise portering and general day-to-day maintenance.

6 Data Review / Outcomes for Pupils

JW reported current outcomes very good across the board & will develop further as the year continues.

Reading

CP highlighted new Y4 after-school intervention.

JW – What are the cost implications of interventions?

CP - Recovery funding covers this.

Y6: Progress good. Bolstering in Reading & Writing for targeted children going well.

Y5: Progress on track. Class' high needs affects attainment data. Interventions will focus on Y5, once Y6 tests are over.

Y4: Interventions by invitation. Reading is a strength across the school but Y4 reading attainment lower as they have been most affected by Covid.

Y3: Solid report. Reading attainment lower than Writing.

Y2: No concerns.

Y1: No concerns.

EYFS: High SEND needs have meant a challenging start to year, and we need to balance with meeting the needs of those already able & ready to access curriculum. Hard data will take time to emerge, but signs are good that everyone is making progress.

Writing

We have been using Jane Considine programme for some time, so now adapting/adding to this, to suit our children's needs. KAPOW has been introduced this year. Next assessments in 2 weeks' time – this data will be reported after Easter.

7 EYFS Visit

JW & DK greatly enjoyed a visit to review teaching in Foundation subjects. They saw lots of engagement by children across a variety of subjects. There was a strong cross-curricular element and a clear enjoyment of teaching. It was lovely to see lots of smiles from both staff

and children. A highlight was seeing the children enjoying dancing and singing at New Year. New Grasshopper provision has supported a much calmer, more structured & organised atmosphere, benefitting children and staff enormously. CCL stressed the value of Governor visits and questioning, to help & support teaching.

DK highlighted strength of KAPOW to support lesson prep. We need to consider how might we need to adapt this & other current resources, to suit needs. ACES has a bespoke, Trust-wide statement regarding curriculum.

8 Trust Update

(a) CP reported Trustees' meeting before half-term was very positive. Heads feel heard & understood by Trust.

(b) Trustees have approved provision of a new class in EYFS from September and will pay for a teacher and one Teaching Assistant for this.

(c) Agreement was reached to gauge interest of a few different, local trusts but not rush into any merger. We are currently strong and can focus on improving what we already have.

9 Safeguarding

CCL & MK will meet this half-term.

10 OPAL Play

(a) CM reported we are awaiting delivery of a large storage, to be sited on the MUGA, as it requires a large, flat surface. We will be asking for more donated play items, to fill it!

(b) We have now achieved 75% compliance on OPAL Play ratings, which equates to a Gold Accreditation. We expect to be officially awarded this in October. We plan to invite parents in to school to celebrate this & play with their children, during summer term.

The next step would be a Platinum Accreditation, which will be awarded once we have achieved 90% compliance against regulations, display, and storage criteria.

11 A.O.B

DK - Do we have any concerns around behaviour management?

CL – Can we table this question until next meeting? This was agreed by all.

CL - Parents were recently invited to an information session about our new behaviour policy, but no-one attended.

VM stated we had a good response to recent Parent Survey and results were hugely positive (97% endorsement of school). CCL noted results have been getting better and better.

Regarding behaviour issues, 63% of parents agreed that school ensures pupils are well behaved. A further 33% partly agreed. 95% had either a positive view of school's handling of bullying or had not experienced any bullying.

(d) SEND survey results also hugely positive, with lovely comments. Parents consider teachers to be approachable.

DK - Will results be published on the website?

CP - Comments are already on website

CCL – We could perhaps also add to TV screen in foyer.

CM and VME due to meet shortly, to discuss SEND.

(e) CL stressed that school takes all concerns seriously and Governors can be impartial, promoting balance.

[Action Points](#)

VME to share full results of Parents Survey with Governors.

CP and **VME** to consider school's response to survey and summarise for Newsletter.

VME to summarise SEND survey results for website.

VME and **CM** to meet to discuss SEND.

CCL thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 10:30am.

Next Meeting will be 9:15-11:30am on Wednesday 8th May.