

Burnt Yates Church of England (Endowed) Primary School

Minutes of a meeting of parents/ carers and governors held on 6 April 2017 at the school at 6.30pm to discuss the school's current position post Ofsted

Present

Helen Leslie (Chair of Governors) HL

Sue Wass (Interim Headteacher) SW

Governors: Diana Kitzing, Alan Manship, Helen Myers, Janet Newell, Jean Tither

10 parents/carers

- 1 Apologies** were received from Fiona Beevers, Steven Holmes. Disappointment was expressed by the parents that there were no representatives from the LA and Diocese present.

2 Academisation

The Chair reported that there has not yet been a response from the Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust to our application for sponsorship on 17 February. Richard Noakes from the Diocese is now following this up. Ripley is also now in negotiation with Yorkshire Causeway. In response to questions by parents on the length of time the process will take she said that there is no specific time set – in some cases it has taken up to two years. There were further questions on whether there were any other suitable MATs and why it wasn't possible to apply to more than one MAT. SW explained that it had to be a MAT where a certain number of the board was sympathetic to the church ethos of the school and at the moment YCST is the only one that meets this condition in the local area and that the Diocese acts as the broker in the application process.

One parent raised an issue that she has in keeping track of the different communications with the school on academisation, etc and asked if they could be amalgamated into one document. It was agreed that this could be done with the minutes of the parents' meetings and placed on the website (**Action point**).

HL was also asked that in the event of the school having to close how much notice would be given. We would expect 2 terms notice, but it was reiterated that we are doing everything we can to avoid closure. The importance of parental support to keep the school open was emphasised and the parents said that at their recent meeting parents stated that they still wished to keep their children at the school.

3 Post Ofsted improvement measures

HL and SW both reported on the huge amount of work that is being done by staff, governors and LA advisers/specialists to meet the requirements of the LA's 44 page action plan. It was reiterated that all the safeguarding procedures and their evidence are all in place. SW also spoke about the improvement in standards that has taken place in KS1 and that there is still work to do in KS2.

JN reported that the school is meeting all the standards required of a church school.

DK, on behalf of the Trustees, reported on the funding that the Foundation is providing for SATs tuition for Year 6 and a course of

performance therapy for some individual pupils, and the possibility of funding an optional astronomy club for Year 6.

4 Recruitment of temporary Head

HL described the outcome of the recent recruitment process and why it had not been possible to make an appointment. The post has now been advertised for a two term appointment up to next Easter, as SW has agreed to stay on until the end of the summer term. Shortlisting will take place on 9 May and interviews on 16 May. Questions were asked about the funding of the post and whether it was sufficiently attractive. HL explained the rationale for the salary which is based on its affordability and the school's size. Mrs Wass' post is still being part funded by the LA to cover the difference between the salary the school can afford and the sum that the supply agency charges. A question was asked concerning the possible failure to appoint in May and what would happen then. HL said that the LA has a responsibility to continue its education provision and would have to provide a solution. This situation has occurred in the past.

At this point Mrs Wass was thanked by the Chair for all her hard work for the school.

5 Staffing issues

Concerns were expressed by some parents about the instability of the staffing situation and the effects of stress on the staff given the uncertainty of the school's situation. Unfortunately, the temporary supply cover is due to staff sickness and confidentiality prevents the disclosure of any further information on this. SW reported that, although governors have been coming into school on a regular basis and talking to staff, there had not been a formal meeting with staff this term. A meeting with governors and staff was, therefore, held this week to address this.

Several parents spoke about their wish to help the staff as much as possible and reduce their workloads by providing support based on the expertise and skills they can offer. One area that has occurred to them is in marketing the school and its facilities, especially the woodland which is a unique selling point for the school. HL said this would be very helpful, as the Governing Body's marketing committee has not had time to meet due to the increase in its workload due to Ofsted. Helping to put material on the website and creating a promotional leaflet on the woodland were suggestions put forward. Parents were also keen to do a leaflet drop to the local village community to ask for volunteer help to support the school in a number of different ways.

6 Date of next meeting: 25 May at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm