



GREENFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Ellesborough Close, South Oxhey, Watford WD19 6QH

Part 1 Minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting of Greenfields Primary School
Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 5.00pm

Attendance:

HEADTEACHER

Kate Day

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS (4):

Mark Skinner
Debbie Hartley
Zoe Baines
~~Ric Salzedo~~

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR (1):

David Ray, *Chair*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (3):

Marsha Myers
(Revd.) Liz Guest
Vacancy

PARENT GOVERNORS (3):

Katie Tarrant
Jose Tamayo
Emma Mulholland

OBSERVERS:

~~Joanne Evans, Deputy Headteacher~~

STAFF GOVERNOR (1):

Kim May

CLERK:

Karen Walton

1 Welcome – To consider and approve absences

Mark Pople (Science) and Annabelle Fernando (History & Geography) were welcomed as visitors.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Joanne and Ric.

2 Declaration by governors of interests, pecuniary or otherwise, in respect of items on the agenda

There were no declarations.

3 Curriculum

Mark Pople presented the Governors with an overview of Science at Greenfields.

Science is not just an isolated subject, and the school aims to show how Science affects all areas of a child's learning and life. EYFS teaches science indirectly through structured activities. As pupils progress through the school, science, as specifically identifiable lessons and topics, become more apparent.

The Chair thanked Mark for a thorough presentation.

Q: How is the school equipped with resources?

A: School is in a good position. We have a central resource area and an audit has been completed recently. Teachers do provide some of their own resources and teachers are encouraged to ask about resources if something could be useful.

Q: How much 'fun' is there in lessons?

A: Fun is always encouraged – there are core areas to learn, but we always encourage exploration and working things out for themselves. Pupils are asked – What's the problem? How can we solve this? Teachers then encourage using the right language and explain the scientific topics.

Q: How does it work with interaction with EYFS?

A: In normal times Mark and the EYFS staff talk through what is possible within the EYFS experience. Science is everywhere and by talking to children during other activities science is explained.

Q: Are we covering science as well as we can to meet National Curriculum needs?

A: Yes, we can always do more, but as a school we apply it to as many of our whole school projects as we can. We can always do more to encourage children to make their own decisions and ask their own questions, but we are in a good place.

Q: When you bring in external people for workshops etc is there a budget or is it voluntary?

A: It's both. The Chair hosts a weekly Science Club, and we have local people / organisations who are able to come and explain a particular topic. We also have formal organisations who are paid to a greater or lesser extent. During science week there is a specific budget.

Q: It's an interesting point that there is an aim to move science to be more cross-curricular. Is Science on its own or is it part of the web of topics?

A: The National Curriculum encourages a clear definition of science and the specific topics. There are clear skills and knowledge that need to be taught. However, there are opportunities to explain scientific aspects in other topics. We do have science specifically timetabled.

Q: What sort of balance between science knowledge and exploration?

A: Sometimes the knowledge is learnt as the exploration journey happens. Both are valuable and happen hand in hand.

Mark, Annabella, and Kim left the meeting.

4 To approve the minutes of the virtual meeting held on 24th February 2021 (document circulated)

No additional comments or questions were raised.

5 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021

Completion of the Safeguarding Audit – This will be arranged as soon as school visits are allowed.

Equalities policy and objectives – Now complete.

Governing board skills assessment – All governors are reminded to upload details of their training on GovernorHub.

Ofsted – A section 8 monitoring visit could happen at any time from 4/5/21.

Upgrading rear gate – A quotation has been received but the budget is not available at this time.

Electrical repairs – non-compliance items arising from the 5-yearly fixed wiring inspection – A quote of approximately £2,000 has been received, but there is no budget at this time. None of these items is safety-critical.

The minutes were signed as an accurate and valid record of the meeting held on 24th February 2021.

6 Questions on the Headteacher's verbal report

Children returned 8/3/21. All pupils happy to be back.

Lockdown: school finished with over 50% in attendance, some classes did not change much.

Attendance at 96%, above national average.

A few children travelled during lock down and had a delayed start due to isolation periods.

After initial euphoria, the impact is visible - mental health issues in the older school, basic social skills in EYFS are a concern.

Focus this week is with PSHE to re-establish rules, values, behaviour expectations. (English and Maths also being taught).

All staff returned apart from one staff member returning slowly after an operation and another member of staff on long term sick.

Staff are generally happy to be back and use the staff room on a rota basis.

Bubbles have been increased to two classes, so pupils have a mix of interaction.

Lunch and break times have been adjusted and are working well.

The Head thanked Liz for visiting and taking the first bubble assemblies, talking about Easter.

There were no additional questions or comments.

7 Update on Finance (HT)

This discussion is confidential and is minuted separately in Part 2.

8 Update on Premises (Chair)

New nurture building status – £2,000 deposit has been paid. Planning permission has now been validated by Three Rivers DC and a decision expected by May 12th latest. Installation will take place during the summer holidays.

Rear pedestrian gate – automation and lighting – The company visited the school on 29th March. A quote was received for £5,291 + VAT. The original budget was £4,000 so this project will be postponed until next year.

Herts sustainability: carbon neutral programme (document circulated for governor information)

EV charging points – The Chair is researching this opportunity and looking for potential grant options.

Roof condition survey – Due to the budget situation this project has been postponed for the time being.

9 Safeguarding / Health & Safety (Chair)

Safeguarding audit – This will be completed when school visits are allowed. The Head is taking over as safeguarding lead this term.

Electrical repairs arising from 5-year fixed wiring inspection – Item 5 above refers

10 Policies for review and adoption

Environmental Protection – This has been drafted and circulated for comment.

ACTION: Governors to send comments to the Chair

11 Governors

GB training records on GovernorHub

ACTION: All governors to add all training to Governor Hub

Policy on resumption of school visits – Due to the continuing situation visits are not being resumed at this time.

12 Any Other Business

None

Agreed as an accurate record of the on-line meeting held on 14th April 2021.

Signed:

Name	Governor Hub	Role	Information
Ric Salzedo	Need to register	Co-opted Governor	
Debbie Hartley	✓	Co-opted Governor	
Mark Skinner	✓	Co-opted Governor	
Zoe Baines	✓	Co-opted Governor	
David Ray	✓	LEA Governor	Chair of Governors
Katie Tarrant	✓	Parent Governor	
Jose Tamayo	✓	Parent Governor	Data Protection Officer
Emma Mulholland	✓	Parent Governor	
Kate Day	✓	Staff Governor (Ex-officio)	Headteacher
Kim May	18/6 not registered	Staff Governor	
Marsha Myers	✓	Associate Member	
Rev'd Liz Guest	✓	Associate Member	
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>	
Karen Walton	✓	Clerk to the Governing Board	
Joanne Evans	<i>n/a</i>	Observer	Deputy Headteacher

GB Meeting Dates for Remainder of the School Year

2021: May 26th - face to face (Apologies – Zoe Baines, Mark Skinner although will aim to be virtual)
July 7th