

WILLAND SCHOOL
EXTRAORDINARY GOVERNING BODY MEETING
 MINUTES OF MEETING 19TH MAY 2020

Present: Mr R Carswell Chair of Governors
 Miss A Hawkins Headteacher
 Rev. S Talbot Vice-Chair of Governors
 Mr. T Child
 Mrs L Cole
 Dr. R Collins
 Mrs Durovic
 Mrs. S Manley
 Miss L Ruffle
 Dr. E Santos
 Mr D White

Miss A Leather Deputy Headteacher
 Mrs P Maynard Staff Union Representative

Absent:

Item Discussed	Action/Resolution	Gov. Action Prop/Sec
1. Apologies for Absence	None	
2. Declaration of Interests	Mr Child, Rev Talbot, Mrs Manley, Mr Durovic and Mr White registered an interest as parents	
3. Possible re-opening of the school	<p>Miss Hawkins said how immensely proud she is of the staff and the commitment and dedication they have all shown in dealing with these exceptional circumstances. Mrs Cole said that the parent's survey has shown how grateful they are for all that the teachers have done. Miss Hawkins said that the school has also been able to give good provision for the keyworker and vulnerable children.</p> <p>Mrs Durovic agreed with how hard everyone has been working and thanked Miss Hawkins and Miss Leather for all their hard work.</p> <p>Mr Carswell asked whether the site was now ready for the children to come back to school. Miss Hawkins said that there is still work to be done and the risk assessment is still being completed. Mr Carswell stated that any decision made can only be carried out when the site is ready.</p> <p>Dr Santos said that the over-riding priority must be the safety of the pupils and staff.</p> <p>Mrs Maynard thanked the Governors for inviting her to the meeting and listening to the staffs concerns. The major concerns are: -</p> <p>What size groups can be safely accommodated in the classrooms?</p> <p>How will shared facilities be managed?</p> <p>The staff will be under immense strain in the classroom with monitoring the pupils for the whole day. The staff feel that the options that have staff in on a rota basis will reduce the stress. There is a concern that the stress will lead to absence.</p> <p>The staff want to still provide Google classroom.</p> <p>Rev. Talbot asked whether the guidance had changed to reduce social distancing by keeping children in a 'bubble'. Miss Leather said that the guidance recommends social distancing is</p>	

	<p>maintained as much as possible. All soft resources have been removed and other resources are to be washed regularly even if they remain in the 'bubble'. Each child will have their own educational resources such as a pencil, rubber and ruler, which will be kept in an individual named tray. Rev Talbot asked if it was correct that if there was a case of Covid-19 in the 'bubble' that all the children in that 'bubble' would be sent home to protect the rest of the school. Miss Leather said that this is correct, but this only can only happen once you know that there is a case and with the younger children they may not immediately know that they have symptoms. The guidance will need to be checked as part of the risk assessment. Rev Talbot asked whether the 2m rule would be relaxed inside the 'bubble'. Mr Carswell said that social distancing must be maintained as much as possible.</p> <p>Mr White asked whether there were staff members who would prefer not to return to work on 1st June. Mrs Maynard said that they all want to get the school open as soon as possible but only when it is safe to do so. They are anxious that there are still a lot of questions to be answered and they feel that they are putting themselves personally at risk. Miss Ruffle said that there were also concerns about the age group that staff will be expected to teach on their return as social distance is very difficult to implement with younger children. Mrs Maynard said that any intimate care would need to be very carefully managed. Mr Child asked whether the staff were happy with the three options that have been put in front of Governors. Miss Ruffle felt that the options had been well thought out and there was nothing else that could be suggested. Mrs Maynard agreed. Miss Hawkins said that Option 2 could be done with Y1 instead of YR but this would be against the government guidance. Rev Talbot agreed that there could be advantages in having Y1 as there are less toileting issues and they are more used to desk learning. Miss Leather said that the parent survey suggested that more parents in YR wished their children to return than in Y1. Rev Talbot asked which group would benefit more educationally. Miss Hawkins said that there would be very little difference educationally. Dr Santos said that she understood why bringing in Y6 would be beneficial because of their imminent transition. She also wanted to confirm that as the majority of children are not included in the return plans and would still be at home they must continue to be supported in their learning.</p> <p>Dr Santos asked what level of Covid-19 is present in the community at the present following widespread reports about it being present in the Two Sisters factory. Miss Hawkins said that there had been three known cases associated with families with children at the school. One was before lockdown started. The other two families were affected during the Emergency School. The fact that it is present in the area increases staff anxiety.</p> <p>Dr Santos asked what other local schools are doing. Miss Hawkins said that she has a meeting tomorrow but as far as she knows they are all doing rotas of some sort but all of their situations are different. In Willand there are a lot of keyworker families which impacts on the number of other children that can be accommodated. Dr Santos was surprised at the number of pupils that are already in school. Miss Hawkins explained The</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>number of keyworkers have increased since parents have been encouraged to return to work. Also parents are being encouraged to send their children to school every day. Mrs Cole asked whether parents had indicated whether they would send their children back. Miss Hawkins said that a survey had been done prior to putting together the options and that information had been used to inform the planning. Dr Santos asked how many staff are shielding at the moment. Miss Hawkins said that there are three who are shielding, two who have childcare issues and several who are very anxious about returning. Mrs Manley asked what would happen with the Admin team. Mrs Hills explained the rota that will be put in place.</p> <p>Dr Collins said that her concern is that the staff, who have already been under great stress, would have then be in school with more children for more time. She felt that the staff should be able to have some sort of break before this. Mr Carswell said that he was concerned that the senior Leaders have not had a break for a long time and they need some time away. Dr Collins asked whether the risk assessment covers staff and staff well-being. Miss Hawkins confirmed that it does and added that next week, as it is half term, it will only be keyworkers children in school to allow some staff to have a break.</p> <p>Mr White said that unless the Governors are certain that it is safe to bring everyone in, there is still the option not to open to pupils other than the keyworkers and vulnerable children. Mr Carswell said that opening could possibly be delayed but felt that there had to be a move towards it. Miss Leather said that there could be a phased approach to bringing children in, starting with the increase in keyworkers children and rolling it out in stages after that. Mrs Maynard said that the risk assessment would need to cover the increase in keyworker children as well as the return on YR and Y1.</p> <p>The Governors are aware that there will be issues around the proposed reopening to other year groups. Mr Child said that this needs to be considered before it happens. Dr Santos said that the spare capacity to take staff away to plan for this is not available at the moment.</p> <p>Dr Santos asked what number of children could safely be managed in school and allow extra capacity for any teacher absence. The thought was approximately a maximum of 10 per class. Miss Ruffle said that a staggered approach might be better taken up by parents and would be less stressful for the pupils and parents. Mr White said that he felt that at the present time re-opening to YR and Y1 cannot be achieved as the increase in keyworkers pupils must be accommodated first. Mr Child asked what would happen if, when YR or Y1 could return, fewer arrived than are expected. Miss Hawkins said that they would have to stay in their 'bubbles', although two could be amalgamated.</p> <p>Rev Talbot asked whether option 3 would give an educational value to young children as they would only be coming in to school for two days a week. Miss Leather said that several members of staff felt that these young children could struggle with coming back for a longer period. Mrs Durovic said that it will also be extremely hard for the children to be back in a very different classroom model and she would have very grave concerns with them having a longer time in school. Rev Talbot</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>asked whether Google classrooms would continue with option 3. Miss Hawkins confirmed that it would.</p> <p>Mr Carswell asked whether there was a consensus among the Governors that option 3 was the best solution but with a staggered start, with the increase in keyworker children followed by YR and then Y1. The Governors agreed. Dr Santos qualified this by saying that this should be subject to the risk assessment being completed and with staff having confidence about their and the pupils safety. Mr Child said that whilst parents need to be informed of this decision and the stages to follow firm dates should not be given to manage parental expectations. Dr Collins agreed with this. Mr White said that this would be difficult for parents who are trying to arrange their own work so some sort of timetable should be given. Miss Ruffle said that the teachers would probably prefer to be working towards certain dates. Miss Hawkins suggested that the first week should be keyworker, the second will be YR and the third Y1. Dr Collins said that there should be a caveat to say that this is subject to change. Dr Santos said that they should be given as the earliest date that these will happen.</p> <p>Mr Carswell asked Mrs Maynard whether she felt that the staff would be happy with this. She replied that as long as the risk assessment is in place and that the dates are given as the earliest possible dates then she felt that the staff would be happy to work with this.</p> <p>Mr Carswell confirmed that the provisional timetable for bringing in a phased option 3 is</p> <p>Phase 1 1st June Increased keyworker children Phase 2 8th June YR children Phase 3 15th June Y1 children</p> <p>There is no allowance for staff absence, but this will be included in the risk assessment.</p> <p>Dr Santos raised a concern that this is steeply increasing the number of children in school. Mrs Manley said that she would suggest a two week gap between the keyworker children and the YR children starting. Mrs Maynard said that she felt that a week is enough for the increase in keyworker children and that the dates should be given to parents as an aim but that it could change. Parents will also be told that Y6 will probably not return at all. Miss Ruffle suggested that we could write to the children themselves to explain.</p> <p>The Governors decision on opening has to be communicated to staff and parents as soon as possible. Parents should be informed that the other pupils may return at a later date but that it will almost certainly be on a part time basis.</p> <p>This is all subject to the Government being satisfied that the R number is low enough.</p>	<p>RCoI/ES</p>
<p>4. Behaviour Policy</p>	<p>Mrs Cole asked whether it would be shared with parents. Miss Hawkins confirmed that it would. The Governors approved the policy</p>	<p>DW/RCoI</p>