



CORE GROUP REVIEW AND PLANNING MEETING (remote) Monday 15th June 2020 at 12 noon Minutes

Present:

Simon Ball	Head of School - DCE
Paul Blackburn	Chair - WDCE Governors
Andrew Bradley	Chair of Governors – St. Wilfrids
Bev Burrows	Headteacher– St. Elisabeths
Paul Good	Chair – Trust & DCE (MDBE)
Lee Jamieson	Chair - St. Elisabeth's Governors
Hannah Large	Head of School - WDCE
Helena Miller	Head of School – St. Wilfrids
Matt Whitehead	Executive Headteacher

In attendance

Kathy Crotty	Clerk
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1. Update on each school – Re-admission progress and plans up to summer.

PG reported the Trust is keen to bring back as many children as possible before September but this depends on DfE guidance, and changes to the social distances. Andrew Bradley reported the SJE church cannot offer additional accommodation due to current guidance, which only allows for nursery education. The parish centre in Didsbury has appropriate accommodation so this will be discussed further with the DfE. There is still the staffing issue to meet demands of the bubbles. The Trust is currently hampered by DfE guidance; and guidance from the Church of England. Provision is likely to be on a rota basis as this is more equitable. Trustees are waiting for further clarity from the DfE.

WDCE – Matt Whitehead & Hannah Large

WDCE opened to Reception and Yr1 children. There are currently three Yr1 bubbles and four KW/V (key worker and vulnerable children) bubbles. The TAs have stepped up to take a bubble and are giving positive feedback. This arrangement is going well.

WDCE has space for Yr4 and is considering options for other Yr2 and Yr3 children depending on capacity. WDCE would like a transition week for Yrs2; Yrs3; and Yrs4 in the last few weeks of the academic year. The Trustees have agreed in principle that Yr4 can come into school as the oldest cohort, but the DfE need to provide further guidance before other year groups are admitted. Models from different countries were shared. PG is keeping an open mind. The LA feels if a school admitted year groups not designated by the government it could lead to a challenge from other parents. WDCE could admit another cohort as they have the space, but do not have sufficient staff.

SECE – Bev Burrows

SECE has increased from 4 to 12 children daily to an increase up to 40 children and this has needed some readjustments to the planning. More parents are now going back to work so the school has five bubbles and there is a sixth bubble ready. The majority of bubbles have a maximum of eight children. There is an open time slot for children to enter the school building.

Yr6 are returning tomorrow and this will be staggered. Evacuation procedures have been updated, and all full-time teachers are leading the bubbles. The part-time staff are working on the September opening.

The school is using BBC Bitesize for home learning and for the children in the school. The original plan was for Yr1 to come back into school on Monday 22nd June, and four classrooms are free. However, there are only three teaching staff so this provision might be on a rota. SECE is expecting 12 Yr 6 children out of 31.

SWCE – Helena Miller

SWCE on average last week had 39 children of KW/V. Today there are 67 children in school, Yr6 have come back. The bubbles are working well. The school implemented a staggered start which has worked well. Each bubble has one teacher and one TA.

Regarding the plans for the summer term, parents from Yrs2 to Yrs5 have been surveyed as the school has capacity. There are no staff issues. Yr1 are returning on Wednesday this week and Reception are returning next Monday.

DCE – Simon Ball

Praise was given to SB as the letter to parents explained the difficulties of expanding the offer to other year groups and this was welcomed and stated the position well.

There are 130 children in school this week across 11 bases. The largest bubble has 13 children. There has been a strong take up from the designated groups and now there is a capacity issues with staff and accommodation. DCE is exploring the possibility of Yr 6 using church premises.

The school has employed another member of staff for five weeks, an NQT who, trained with the Trust, is going to start at WDCE in September. This frees up the SENDCO for that important role across two sites. The costs will be claimed against the Covid-19 central government fund.

SB reported staff morale is good.

2. Premises and risk assessment issues

SECE – Bev Burrows

SECE has experienced emergency lighting back up battery issues and is acquiring quotes for the heating system to be renewed. MW reported CIF bid decisions 19-20 are due this month. Heating repairs would need to be over the summer holidays. Next year there will be a CIF bid for the electrical work. £7,150 has been allocated for premises and this can be used.

3. Current Staffing issues relating to school and staff welfare and staffing plans for September.

WDCE – Helena Miller

WDCE are exploring other staffing provision if the school has to provide summer provision.

SECE – Bev Burrows

SECE has no issues. In relation to staffing in September, the school has two teachers out of six needed. A resignation was received from a part-time member of staff on the last day for resignations. Staffing decisions were outlined in detailed. The school is exploring the appointment of a family support worker on a scale five salary.

SECE has an issue with the nursery as there are low numbers, at a maximum of 24. BB has contacted the Stockport MBC EYFS consultant. Plan A is to allow all children in the morning and the eight who qualify for full-time place to remain in the afternoon joining the reception cohort. This would remove the need of a HLTA for the first term. There are some TA positions to fill and this is difficult to appoint remotely. The school is fully staffed for September

SWCE – Helena Miller

Staffing is stable, there has been some slight movement and the school is awaiting a maternity leave member of staff to make a decision about when she will return.

DCE – Simon Ball

Staffing is in place for September. One support worker is needed for one child. Currently one member of staff does not want to return and unpaid leave has been granted.

4. Vulnerable children and safeguarding

PG drew attention to the campaign by celebrities for FSM for over the summer.

WDCE – Hannah Large

There were no issues. The SENDCO is working with one family to reintegrating a child back into school.

SECE – Bev Burrows

There were no new issues to report.

SWCE – Hannah Large

There were no new issues to report.

DCE – Simon Ball

Many vulnerable children are now back in school and those who are still at home are being contacted.

5. Holiday provision (Summer) Open strategy discussion

There is expected to be an announcement today about catch-up classes. The Trust is keen that staff need a break, but the premises can be available for holiday provision with different staffing. The usual arrangements for many families cannot be planned with so many unknown factors.

The trade unions are asking the government to fund LAs to establish community provision in bubbles over the summer. This is late in the day for many parents. Trustees were clear this provision should not be done by teachers. Sport providers are keen to run a holiday club at WDCE.

PG felt one site in the Trust, St. Wilfrids, would offer the best facilities with the hall opening onto the school fields. The Trust is keen to support families and communities where possible, but plans cannot be established until guidance and decisions are made centrally. "Summer catch up" has been the stated comment and it was not clarified which children this related to. Leaders noted these announcements are part of the problem as there is a lack of clarity with these announcements. Staff are then having to spend much time with parents explaining the reality.

Andrew Bradley left the meeting at 12:50

5. Re activation of LGB's

All LGBs have been contacted to approve the date of the next meeting. All Governors need sight of the risk assessments and key policy Covid-19 appendices in advance of their meeting.

Invitations are being sent today.

All Governors are expected to ratify trust decisions made during lockdown.

Heads were asked to only provide a verbal update to Governors as it was acknowledged Heads have more pressing priorities.

Formal thanks were given to all leaders for the outstanding job they are doing despite the lack of information from central government.

Meeting ended 13:05