

**CORE GROUP REVIEW AND PLANNING MEETING (remote)
Tuesday 5th April 2020 at 1.30pm
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. Introductions and Attendance

Paul Good welcomed all chairs and heads to this meeting.

PG updated on the recruitment process for the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) and this is reported in the Part 2 confidential minutes.

2. Current home provision update/forward plans

SWCE – Helena Miller

Teachers are tailoring work set to the interests of the children. Parents are raising with teachers the lack of motivation. Staff have discussed this in their meetings and will ensure the children are doing some writing. There has been an issue with White Rose, from next Monday the resources are not going to be free, so the school has subscribed. Parents could access these before but now the school will have to download and share these via the school website.

Dojo and Purple Mash are still the main platforms being used. Teachers are marking the work and able to send this directly to children.

Staff were trialling making their own videos and this is proving time consuming and much effort has gone into this. The learning platform enables staff to see which parents have seen these videos, the lack of feedback from parents has been demoralising.

WDCE – Hannah Large

Children in school include those children with an EHC plan. Some parents are concerned children their children are not engaging with home learning. The staff are

currently reviewing pre-recorded films of teachers delivering lessons (from the National Academy) and parents might be referred to these if teachers agree they are useful. Seesaw is being used well and every teacher in the phase is sending a newsletter to the pupils to try to engage them. One staff had posted a video and other staff felt pressured to do the same from siblings. HL has discouraged videos from the staff to avoid pressuring staff who are not comfortable being filmed.

DCE – Simon Ball

There has been a slight refinement to the home learning in that staff are providing voice overs to explain their lesson using MP4 with flip charts using 'Active Learn Primary'. Parents may not have the software for the Active primary flipchart but the voice over can be accessed as it converts the flip into an MP4 file. Some are finding the new technology easier than others. Staff are sending home "hello" videos to their classes. Staff are also using lessons from the National Academy if it is deemed appropriate. The school has settled into a good routine.

SECE – Bev Burrows

Seesaw is still working well; all families have been contacted. Staff are doing short videos to contact families.

MW gave formal thanks to the Heads for ensuring consistency across the school.

There are different platforms where teaching is occurring and this can be used. Remote learning is not the same as teaching and staff can refer parents to the National Academy and BBC Bitesize if they want video teaching. Across the Trust there is no pressure for staff who are not comfortable using home-made videos.

PB informed the meeting 'Loom' might be a resource to explore for video as this focuses on the worksheet with the teachers face smaller in the corner of the screen.

Some schools are not doing any online teaching due to safeguarding issues.

The meeting was informed much professional video work looks naturalistic but 98% of these are scripted and rehearsed. If they are doing videos, staff need to ensure the presentations are scripted first.

3. Current school-based provision update/forward plans

SWCE – Helena Miller

The children are split into key stages and that team will tailor the activities to those children.

Numbers have dropped to 20 children today. Parents were canvassed to see if they needed a place on the bank holiday Friday 8th May and only one place was needed. This parent could make alternative arrangements so the school is closing.

WDCE – Hannah Large

The numbers are increasing and there were 32 children in school today. Guidance regarding the bank holiday has changed to say schools only have to open after consultation with families. Only one family wanted the provision, but could make alternative provision, so WDCE is not opening.

The school activities are topic based and these are differentiated. This is the approach in all key stages.

DCE – Simon Ball

The school-based provision has been adapted and this is now based on differentiated topics being delivered to Yr2 to Yr6 children.

On the bank holiday Friday only one family needed provision until lunchtime so the school is not opening

There are between 20 and 26 children attending school depending on the shift patterns of the parents. There are now more key workers approaching the school for a place.

SECE – Bev Burrows

The two-week rota where staff work once a fortnight is working well. The paediatric first aid trained staff are in school more often depending on which children are in school. There are between 4 and 12 children per day.

All families can make alternative provision for the bank holiday so SECE is not opening

4. Safeguarding matters & vulnerable children

SWCE – Helena Miller

There are 7 and 9 vulnerable children attending school. The school tries to match the teacher to the children attending. The RAG rating register is working well and is updated through google drive.

WDCE – Hannah Large

There are no changes since the last report.

DCE – Simon Ball

Four of the seven children with an EHC plan are in school every day. There are no other safeguarding issues at DCE.

The school is checking on the 20 to 30 vulnerable children. Last week a courtesy call was made to all families and this has highlighted some issues which have been addressed.

SECE – Bev Burrows

The school could not make contact with 13 families last week and this is the priority today and a visit will occur this week if contact cannot be made.

There have been some deaths since last week impacting on the children in this school. The Vicar has been informed.

Encompass have reported another domestic violence case.

The Behaviour Support Team have contacted the school about a child currently in nursery needing transition work before starting in September.

5. FSM provision – update

SWCE – Helena Miller

Three more families have made requests and have joined the rolling programme for applications for vouchers. School staff have been able to process the vouchers on a Saturday morning at 8.30am. (This is for families where the school has to print the vouchers out).

WDCE – Hannah Large

There are no changes since the last report.

DCE – Simon Ball

One family is struggling to get the vouchers and the office staff are working with the parents. Not all families are redeeming their vouchers.

SECE – Bev Burrows

A few families are still struggling to redeem the vouchers and the office staff are supporting these families. Stockport MBC have informed Heads they can use discretion and can apply for families. This will stop families falling through the net.

MW reported this is consistent with the national picture and there is an issue trying to change from electronic vouchers to paper vouchers.

PG gave collective thanks to all the Administration staff in the schools who are going the extra mile to ensure the Edenred vouchers are being issued to families.

6. Staff Recruitment update

This is Reported in the part 2 Confidential minutes.

7. Forward planning for restart of ‘normal schooling’

SWCE – Helena Miller

The school has purchased individual plastic pencil cases and children will be issued with their own pens and pencils. The school is waiting for definitive government guidance before implementing other initiatives.

WDCE – Hannah Large

The expectation is for staggered re-introduction and no planning has started but HL is considering different arrangements.

DCE – Simon Ball

SB is also giving some consideration to changes that might be needed if there is ‘normal schooling’ for the end of the summer term. End of year gatherings are not expected and there is some discussion to be had with Kids Club.

SECE – Bev Burrows

NAHT information has been shared with other Heads and this was found to be useful.

MW agreed until the government announces definitive guidance there is little that can be done at this stage. The trade unions have identified five demands and schools are waiting for these to be met and agreed. There has been a survey of academy trusts which noted anxiety from parents and staff about schools re-opening.

Most schools are opened only for about ten children. SJE seems to have high numbers. The meeting agreed social distancing is not possible with younger children. Health and well-being are paramount. There are some concerns around staff and parent claims if staff or families became infected. The accountability issues are yet to be agreed.

Heads and chairs discussed if school would be compulsory or optional and will there be fines for non-attendance? It is not known if schools would have to provide learning for families who do not come back into school.

The standard of education is likely to be affected as there might not be a full complement of staff available when schools re-open.

There is a half-term holiday due and the expectation is schools will not re-open before then.

8. Staff Welfare and other staffing matters

This is reported in the confidential part 2 minutes.

Parents are asking about the half term at the end of May. The meeting discussed if staff are expected to return to work then this half term holiday should be granted to staff. MW felt most other childcare providers are not running so schools may have to open for the children of key workers. It is not expected all children are in school for the final half term so teams of staff might still be able to be utilised.

Staff welfare is an issue especially for leaders who have not had a break as they were in work over Easter and there is much work occurring even when not in school. This will have to be taken into consideration when organising the rota and return to work. SWCE have a two week half term planned. A two-week rota might be able to accommodate all staff having a break.

Staff at DCE are noting how hard it is working from home and being able to switch off from work. The Tuesday to Friday of that half term week might include work in schools but staff at home can be asked to take their holiday (no school work) that half term week. Staff working in school are finding when they get home, they still have correspondence from parents and families to deal with.

There is an expectation of a slight relaxation of lockdown and therefore it might be easier for families over half term and staff can be given a break. It may be schools are expected to open over the summer for the children of key workers and the welfare of staff and colleagues has to be paramount.

9. Any Other Business

Manchester Diocese Heads have held a remote meeting and they discussed a Yr6 leavers virtual celebration. BB shared some ideas and resources. Amy Sixsmith is the health and wellbeing advisor in the Diocese and schools were invited to use this resource if needed.

There is a virtual exhibition of the Didsbury Schools with SWCE being held at Didsbury Parsonage Trust the work is outstanding example of local children's art work. A formal thank-you was given to all staff who contributed to this. It is hoped the general public will be able to see the exhibition at the Parsonage once the national emergency abates..

MW gave huge thanks to all leaders and staff for the work they are doing. It was noted there are many families in precarious situations and jobs may be lost during this pandemic crisis.

PG stated his great appreciation for the work undertaken by staff for the Trust.

10. Date and time next meeting

Given there is an expected announcement this Sunday the next meeting will be brought forward to Monday 11^h May 2020 at 2pm

11. Closing prayer

The closing prayer was led by Andrew Bradley. The importance of rest was reiterated especially for leaders.