

**St James and Emmanuel MAT  
Core Group Remote meeting  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 9.30  
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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Paul Good congratulated all heads for the excellent work in minimising infection and the planning for the bubbles. The Trust schools have excellent attendance testament to the work undertaken by school leaders.

**1. Health and Safety - Covid update from each school**

*Numbers of children attending school; any confirmed cases of Covid & actions taken; any current Health and Safety concerns*

**WDCE – Hannah Large**

The attendance is 96%, 95% has been the lowest attendance. A bubble closed today in Yr3 as a TA tested positive. There has been a confirmed case in the kitchen which closed for three days, the school is able to use supply cover, and is opening today. Four staff have isolated since September and five families are currently isolating due to positive cases.

There are no health and safety concerns. Each time a case occurs the contact has to be reviewed and scenario planning is occurring.

**SECE – Bev Burrows**

MW reported a child has tested positive but the parent was not sure which child was tested, and each child is in a different bubble, so Bev Burrows was delayed for this meeting working on this issue. The childminder used by this family also turned up at school with regular children as mum had not informed child minder.

Attendance was running at 97.3%

### **DCE – Simon Ball**

The attendance for Yr1 to Yr6 is 95%, including the nursery children attendance is 92%. The confirmed Covid cases include one office admin team member who has tested positive so the other team member is isolating and working from home. Their desks are two meters apart and there is a screen but this is precautionary as they have been in contact. Furniture is being arranged differently to increase separation. SLT meetings are now occurring in a larger room.

The risk assessment is constantly reviewed and the school will reduce some cross-class support to minimise contact. There is a new key pad on the office door to restrict access.

### **SWCE – Helena Miller**

The leadership had a busy evening last night when a message was received from a parent that a reception child has tested positive. The EYFS unit has close proximity so nursery and reception are closed today. The access to the toilets is shared and there is a shared play area. Three reception children did turn up having not read the communication.

The school had one positive case in Yr3 on 9<sup>th</sup> October and didn't need to close the whole bubble, only the children in close proximity. These children are due to return to school tomorrow. 16 children in total in Yr3 classes have been isolating.

There have been no confirmed cases among staff apart from one case in June (but this staff member had not been in school since March).

The school has 96.6% attendance but chicken pox is affecting children currently so this is expected to reduce. The parents of the child who was tested positive had no symptoms, the child had cold like symptoms. The parents maybe asymptomatic.

The leadership have made arrangements to work remotely if needed.

MW reported staff have done an excellent job at reducing anxieties and reducing the risks of infections.

Staff have to be reminded at lunchtimes to social distance at more than two meters. Multiple staff testing positive would be detrimental to the school.

PG noted the government is accepting children can engage with other activities outside of school which impacts on the work of the bubbles. The local scouts have reported if there was an outbreak this could affect bubbles in four or five schools. It was suggested MW raises this with the DfE advisor.

Paul Good left the meeting at 9:55 thanking staff for the excellent attendance figures. Andrew Bradley took over as chair.

## **2. Curriculum**

*Baseline assessments; Plans for catch up; Home learning arrangements*

### **WDCE – Hannah Large**

Data meetings are occurring this week, and the analysis will occur by the end of the week. The school has undertaken interviews for a full-time TA and have also appointed a TA for catch-up work. This person will work with each class on a three-week basis.

In preparation for home learning, the staff are attending Microsoft Education online training tomorrow. Seesaw is up and running already.

#### **SECE – Bev Burrows**

MW reported baseline assessments are completed. The EYFS data needed for the DfE is almost completed. The plans for catch-up still include the remote option and the school is looking at funding PP children for this. The catch-up funding will be used for more resources and interventions, and the school may use overtime payments for existing staff.

Home learning includes a combination of packages and information on the school website. There is a TA delivering a phonics intervention at lunchtime. Screen time for children is an issue affecting physical health and wellbeing so there is a wide range of activities to support outdoor activities and wider opportunities.

#### **DCE – Simon Ball**

Baseline assessments were completed by the 28<sup>th</sup> September. Three to six children per class have been identified to concentrate on for catch-up learning. The catch-up fund has been used to appoint a TA who will start in November 2020. Refresher lessons are occurring.

Google classroom is up and running for home learning and the school has appointed Sam Morgan as the remote learning lead. Google classroom will be used for full closures and for homework with older children. The school website will be used for individuals who are isolating.

The government has made no announcements about the SATS tests, even though there has been an announcement that A Levels will be held later in the term.

#### **SWCE – Helena Miller**

The baseline assessments will be completed this week. Catch-up programmes will be delivered by internal staff after half term. Phonics catch -up starts at 8am before school and parents have welcomed this. Only 42% of children are on track. All the children who are PP are included in the targeted group.

There is a focus on Yr6 and Yr4 as the baseline assessments indicate these cohorts need support.

The remote learning lead Becky Taylor has set up Google Classroom. There is a Parent Policy and a Pupil Policy to be shared. There is much information to share with parents and this was outlined and will be shared with other heads.

### **3. Safeguarding issues - e-safety & child welfare issues**

#### **WDCE – Hannah Large**

This is a huge area for this school. Incidents involving the police and serious concerns include hate and inappropriate words. Children are using apps they should not be using. Three e-safety newsletters have been sent to parents. Children are playing on games not age appropriate.

CPOMs issues are high. The child and family support worker is inundated with work.

#### **SECE – Bev Burrows**

##### e-safety & Child welfare issues

Home learning is a real issue for safeguarding. The school has applied to DfE for 24 devices. The workload of staff in monitoring the home learning is a concern. Home learning packs are delivered to homes.

The age for playing on Fortnite was confirmed as aged 12, primary children should not be playing this game. This cannot be policed when this is played often with parents. BB reported she drip feeds information and parents are constantly alerted to the dangers, often by rhetorical questions and more recently by whole school e-safety newsletters. SECE is working with children and having one to one conversations to alert parents.

Heads commented on observations of parent's perceptions - the more educated parents assume their children will not be affected and the disadvantaged families seem to show less awareness of what their children are accessing.

MW noted there is only a limited amount schools can do regarding what the children are accessing in the home. Many parents regardless of background need some peace and quiet and children with older siblings are often exposed to age inappropriate games.

#### **DCE – Simon Ball**

The school is dealing with welfare issues that have come to light outside of school. The school works hard to keep bubbles separate but children are playing together outside of school. Some children are having separation issues in the morning.

There has been no reports of e-safety concerns but the school is putting reminders out to parents about social media and online activity. Some parents are able to set notifications to alert them to their child's online activity.

#### **SWCE – Helena Miller**

The school had a surprise visit from social services and the school is busy with safeguarding issues. Parents own anxieties are an issue for children in the school. It was noted the pandemic is causing chaos in many homes.

#### **4. Staff concerns and well-being**

This is reported in the Part 2 Confidential minutes

#### **5. Appointments update**

##### **WDCE – Hannah Large**

The school has appointed a new TA; a catch-up TA; and a three-day TA still needs appointing as well as a one part time cleaner.

##### **SECE – Bev Burrows**

There is a costing exercise being undertaken for a supply for three days support for a child with an EHC plan but this might be covered by a maternity leave returning.

##### **DCE – Simon Ball**

Additional lunchtime staff have been needed, and the school is interviewing this week for staff for Kids Club to fully staff the bubbles. There have been some appointments this term to replace staff who have left (students returning to university).

##### **SWCE – Helena Miller**

The school is interviewing for two maternity covers, and a support assistant.

MW noted the additional staffing and hours are putting huge pressure on the budgets this year.

## **6. AOB**

### **SECE – Bev Burrows**

In the past few weeks the school is aware parents are breaking the law in relation to Covid quarantining and isolation requirements. This is reported further in the Part 2 Confidential minutes.

It was suggested parents are informed the school is obliged to inform the authorities if isolation is not occurring.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

It was suggested the core group does need to meet as LGBs are now occurring and whether to hold a meeting just for heads was discussed. The meeting agreed to diarise Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 9.30am for a potential core group meeting and if Heads have more pressing issues MW can report for their school.

## **8. Closing Prayer**

Andrew Bradley led the closing prayer.

*The meeting ended at 11:20*