

ST ALBAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love one another as I have loved you

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE STANDARDS [CURRICULUM] COMMITTEE THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2020 at 5pm

PARTICIPANTS: John McDonald [Headteacher and Host of meeting]
Pat Duprey [Chair]
Nicola Boyd
Claire Connor
Colette Haig
Lucy Lowe
Louise Mulhern

Apologies: Marie Wolfe

Non-participants: Nicola Boyd, Teresa Marnell.

In attendance: Ann Evans, Deputy Headteacher
Fleur McAlavey [Assistant Headteacher]
? Philpott
Eileen Coyle, [Clerk to Governors]

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Headteacher welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation in the virtual meeting of the Standards [Curriculum] Committee. He confirmed that an invitation had been extended to all members of the Governing Board to join the meeting as their interests determine.

The Committee consented to the absence of Marie Wolfe for the valid reason given.

The non-participation of Nicola Boyd and Teresa Marnell was noted.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Governors confirmed that there were no changes to their Declarations of Interest completed and signed in the Autumn Term 2019.

Having reviewed the agenda, the Governors confirmed individually that they had no personal, pecuniary, contractual or prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

3 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR TO 31 AUGUST 2020

RESOLVED: To elect Pat Duprey Chair, and Louise Mulhern, Vice Chair of the Standards [Curriculum] Committee to 31 August 2020.

PAT DUPREY in the CHAIR

4 CURRICULUM UPDATE

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE: The Headteacher explained that he is part of a group of colleagues in Wallasey who are really interested in the things being taught in their schools. At a meeting earlier in the day the group had talked about where they are up to and about the recovery of the curriculum. The link had been shared with everyone. The curriculum was one particular aspect of the work of the group and they intended to look at the RE policy.

One of the things the school has started as a staff is to share information through a curriculum sharing folder. The document contained the aims of the group with a chart showing team leaders for each year group and work streams –Covid-19.

A Committee member enquired about the possibility of using a whole school book.

5 RE/PERSONAL/SOCIAL EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

The Headteacher presented on line the nine-page document, **Model Catholic Primary RSE Curriculum, Revised 2019.**

The structure of the model curriculum: The model covers EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, is based on the three core themes and is adaptable to the age and the ability of the pupils.

The three core themes, in which there is broad overlap, are:-

- Created and loved by God [explored by the individual]
- Created to love others [an individual's relationship with others]
- Created to live in the community, local, national and global [explores an individual's relationship with the wider world.].

Each theme is broken down into virtue and religious understanding of the human person, and it lists what pupils should be taught at each key stage.

The Model Catholic Primary RSE Curriculum [rather than Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)] emphasises the importance of healthy relationships to human beings as the core learning within an RSE curriculum.

All Catholic schools are required to produce a written policy on RSE following the guidance issued by the DfE and to deliver RSE in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic faith.

The Catholic Education Service, in conjunction with the Department for Education, and in partnership with TenTen Resources has produced an **E: Learning Platform, Relationships, Sex and Health Education**, which provides a free on line training

course for teachers on the new curriculum and is very much in line with the Catholic teaching.

The resource gives a step by step guide on what the process should be, the aims of RSE, what should be taught in schools, what should be included in the policy, and the legal requirements.

The school has purchased the TenTen resources and there is no requirement for those using it to purchase any additional resources [eg books].

The Headteacher encouraged all the members of the Curriculum Committee to engage with the Learning Platform which is in modules and in total takes less than four hours to complete. He explained what the programme includes and suggested that the Governors may wish to complete a module a day. This will ensure that the school and the Governing Board fulfil their responsibilities for RSE in a Catholic way.

The Deputy Headteacher commented that the school nurse comes in to do a talk, purely from a puberty point of view, and it does not really cover sex education. The school tended to have an evening for the school nurse and the parents, before doing it with the children.

She continued that there has never been an issue where someone has withdrawn their child from the lesson, apart from one parent who withdrew their child when Islam was being covered.

A comment was made that LGBT was probably a sticking point, but it was important for families to understanding that Life to the Full is inclusive of all children, families and teaching staff.

5.1 CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS/CARERS: The programme recognises that families are made up differently and include single-parent families, blended families, step parents, carers; it celebrates the family in whatever form it takes. It does not refer explicitly to transgenderism.

The only optional aspect for parents is in the key stage 2 session, '*Making Babies*'; the rest is statutory in accordance with the guidance from the DfE.

The Headteacher invited comments and questions.

A committee member asked: '**Do all the staff have to deliver it?**'

The Headteacher enquired if the Committee were happy with the proposal to begin the consultation with parents over the next three/four weeks. The aim of the consultation was to provide parents/carers with a full and honest appraisal of the Life to the Full programme. He had drafted a letter that could be sent to the parents/carers, with a questionnaire and a list of FAQs.

The Committee raised no objections to the arrangements to consult the parents/carers.

RESOLVED: To authorise the Headteacher to start the consultation process on Relationships, Sex and Health Education with the parents/carers and other stakeholders within the next three/four weeks.

6 PUPILS

6.1 PROVISION FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN: SUMMER TERM 2020: The Deputy Headteacher advised that the number of children attending the provision had increased slowly over time, with well into the 40s last week, between 44 and 49 children each day this week, and more are expected to attend Year 6 next week, ie 22 out of 56. Many parents whose children are already attending are asking if they can send their children to school on the days they are not working.

6.2 RE-OPENING OF SCHOOL TO MORE CHILDREN: The Committee members were aware that the school had remained open to vulnerable children and the children of NHS staff and other key workers throughout the lockdown period.

In order to safeguard its pupils, staff and parents, the school has acted in accordance with all NHS and Public Health England Advice, as well as the DfE guidance for schools. Robust risk assessments had been put in place, based on models received from the LA, and in this connection the Headteacher appreciated the support and advice received from a parent with expertise in health and safety.

The plan was to use a carefully phased approach to re-opening the school. A decision had been made to re-open the school to pupils in Year 6 on Monday, 8 June. The parents had been notified accordingly.

On Friday, 5 June, a communication had been received from the Director of Children's Services that the Covid-19 'R' number for Wirral was 1.1, and inviting schools and Governing Boards to re-consider their re-opening arrangements individually, and reach decisions accordingly. This school had made a decision to temporarily pause the planned return of year 6 on 8 June.

At a meeting with Headteachers and Wirral Public Health, earlier in the day a statement had been issued advising that the Directors of Public Health for Cheshire and Merseyside had carefully considered the phased return to schools, based on the latest available evidence and good practice. The Directors had advised that provided schools had carried out risk assessments and had taken measures to ensure strict adherence to health and safety arrangements, such as social distancing and containment such as bubbles of staff and children, they could not see no reason why the planned return of year 6 pupils need be delayed further. The consensus at the meeting was that the risk in school settings is minimal; schools have continued to operate each day for key worker children, without any issues.

This school has acted in accordance with all the recommendations to safeguard its pupils, staff and parents. A decision had been taken to re-open the school to year 6 children from Monday, 15 June, ie a week later than originally planned.

The Committee's comments/questions –

How many key workers' children attending for five days a week?

How many children are vulnerable children?

What happens to the children during the summer holidays?

What is the response from the parents in sending children back?

There is a need to start to think about what happens with the First Communion programme; it will need two years' work.

There is also a need to look at the numbers of children whose parents are not working a full week who are coming in for the whole week and to be more stringent about the number of days the children come in.

The Headteacher continued that the two bubbles for year 6 are not expected to be full on Monday. The Deputy Head has organised the groups for the transition to secondary schools. The Deputy Head commented that all credit is due to Teresa.

She continued that this school has always supported St Mary's College; it is pushed in progress meetings and to parents year after year. Feedback has been received from groups of parents about Open evenings. There has been a drop across all the feeder schools, but this school has continued to push it.

Lucy Lowe commented that there were lots of positives about St Mary's; it's not necessarily a St Alban's issue.

7 MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OF PUPILS AND STAFF

The Headteacher commented that there is a considerable level of anxiety amongst the children who are attending, which appear to be related to boundaries. The staff have reported two incidents. Appropriate advice has been taken and followed in each case.

A professional discussion took place between the school staff on the situation concerning a child who has high levels of anxiety and has an ABC plan.

8 OTHER BUSINESS:

The Headteacher stated that he was really excited about yesterday's meeting, and the discussion about literacy. Something will be coming up with a catch-up programme for Maths.

The Deputy Headteacher stated that the school has been looking at a scheme which is very comprehensive in the way it covers the Pathways to Write. The staff are writing plans for the first half term in the Autumn which means that all the things the children should have learned in the previous year will be reviewed, which is a really good way of doing it. There will be a lot on punctuation and structure within the programme. It's all about mastery in English and the Writing Curriculum – it's a good move in the right direction.

The Headteacher stated that he wanted the Committee to feel confident about asking questions, during or following this meeting.

The Assistant Headteacher stated that she appreciated the offer in an email to the staff encouraging them to ask questions. She had asked a question and the Headteacher had responded straight away. She wanted other people to have those answers as well.

The Headteacher replied that questions are really important and helpful, and he wanted people to ask questions on any topic, or raise any concerns they may have.

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm.

**SIGNED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF
THE STANDARDS [ASSETS] COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2020.**

CHAIR

DATE: