



YERBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the governing board meeting held **Virtually via Zoom** on Thursday, 26th March at 7.00pm.

*Rosemary Marsh (RM) - Parent Governor and Chair (22.01.21)	*Rosamund Webb (RW) - Parent Governor (01.03.23)
*Cassie Moss (CM) - Headteacher	*Michael Delaney (MD) - Staff Governor (01.03.24)
*Laura Keough (LK) - Co-opted Governor (22.01.21)	*Emily Briggs (EB) – Co-opted Governor (26.06.23)
*Ben Fitzsimons (BF) – Co-opted Governor (14.03.22)	Sam O’Leary (SOL) – Co-opted Governor (28.11.22)
Revathi Raghavan (RR) – Co-opted Governor (27.11.23)	*Fenella Bolton (FB) – Parent Governor (19.11.23)
Sarah Thornley (ST) – Parent Governor (19.11.23)	

***Denotes members present**

Also present:

Liam Frost (LF) – Associate member

Alan Skea (AS) – Associate member

Brida Donoghue - Clerk

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
	WELCOME RM welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting.	
1.	<u>APOLOGIES/CONSENT FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from SOL and ZR and consent was given for their absence. Other absences were noted.	
2.	<u>MEMBERSHIP COMPLIANCE ISSUES</u> It was confirmed that MD, new Staff Governor, had DBS clearance. A governor stated that he had conducted a SCR visit where checks had been made on DBS clearance, 128 checks and of the single central record and all was found to be compliant.	
3.	<u>NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</u> <u>Coronavirus – Actions to Date and Epidemic Planning</u> 3.i. Report from the Headteacher CM was invited to update governors. She stated that the Business Continuity Plan had been circulated on Governorhub and invited questions about the plan. She provided an update for governors on what had happened in the last few weeks.	

	<p>On the Friday after February half-term CM had been tested for coronavirus which tested negative but this had raised the alert for everyone as to the potential direction in which the school was heading. The school had been quite quick off the mark to start taking concrete action with deep cleans and upgraded hygiene routines.</p> <p>A parent had then tested positive for the virus which was the first known case for LB Islington and Camden. The school liaised very closely with Public Health England as well as with Islington and Camden services and their media teams to ensure that communications went through them and were appropriate. After that procedures quickly focussed on managing parental concerns and making sure that the school kept parents up to date about what the school was doing in response. SLT interpreted the guidance to understand the impact for staff, pupils and parents.</p> <p>The school very quickly started limiting group meetings, reduced assemblies and agreed to have no trips that would use London Transport. Staff were fantastic in maintaining confidentiality, as there were numerous occasions when information could have been leaked, considering the impact this could have had on the community's trust in the school.</p> <p>Some weeks after the half term the school began to receive enquiries from parents. One family was kept up to date about everything that was going on in school because of a parent's medical condition.</p> <p>The week beginning 9th March saw about 25/30 pupils being kept off school at the last minute. The week beginning 16th March saw a quite significant impact on attendance. That week 45 children were absent and this figure rose to 81, then 148, 225 and reached 231 by Friday 20th March. Feedback from parents was that the school was keeping them very well informed and they were aware of the precautions the school was taking. On the Wednesday schools found out from the TV press conference that they were to close on the Friday.</p> <p>CM stated that two weeks before the closure LF and Margaret preparing resources for home working. They had held staff meetings with teachers and worked with them to ensure that when the school closed there would be something to send home almost immediately. Work went out with children on the Friday so that parents had two days to get their heads round it before the Monday. A lot of thought went into learning packs – especially around the ICT issue – as it was felt that learning could not just be an on-line format.</p> <p>LF stated that it was tricky for households where parents are working and also having to deal with home learning. An online programme was provided so that there was a little bit of learning going on – albeit not the same as being in school. Education City has some learning resources, although limited compared to the school. Years 3 to 6 went with Google Classroom. SEN children received hard copy packs and the Literacy teacher set homework for dyslexic children. The school also prepared for staff absence. The school was aware that sending logins to parents would be an issue and Louise dedicated her time to this. Families were left to manage home learning for the week with a bigger update for parents be done on Friday, 27th March. It was stressed that the school did not want to create a source of stress for parents as it was more important that children were happy and safe.</p> <p>In terms of usage of Education City, the company is currently migrating its servers but 222 of 240 pupils had logged in and were doing work. There were lots of photographs from families of children doing their work at home.</p>	
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CM continued that the school had closed on Friday and at the weekend a staffing structure for the following Monday was devised. Parents were very good at responding about the service. Guidance stated that if one parent was a key worker, the other parent should be looking after the children if possible and parents were called to clarify that once the initial email had been sent out.. Most families with one key worker are keeping their children off school. The school had anticipated accommodating between 10 and 30 children daily. A temporary staffing rota for the first week, taking into account personal circumstances and the health risks to staff, was devised. The safeguarding lead was on hand in school and there was a team of 6/7 staff in school and anywhere between 12 and 17 children on any day. A rota for the next 4/5 weeks was drawn up which had proved challenging and had been sent to staff. There are now two teams in place with sub-groups and staff are either working or on holiday. The school will remain open over the Easter holiday and the school was keen to ensure that staff got their holiday over the next 4/5 weeks.

CM stated that she was incredibly impressed with staff and how many were still able to come into school. Numerous staff have medical conditions or live with vulnerable adults and have to stay at home but there was still a big group of staff able to come in and there was a lovely atmosphere in school with a structured day. In the morning children work on their home learning packs. Children attending are from Year 1 to Year 6 and are spread across two classrooms to maintain physical distancing. In the afternoon children do project work with a lot of outdoor activity which they enjoy. It was stated that teachers had volunteered to stay on at school.

RM commended CM for her amazing work and for a virtually seamless organisation given the lack of notice and the rapid pace of change. CM stated that it was not just her - everyone had been involved and she felt incredibly supported by SLT and all staff. It had been absolutely incredible with such a sense of pulling together.

A governor stated that he had visited the school on 6th March and felt that the Office staff were incredibly empathetic and considerate when talking to parents. He also commended the Headteacher and all staff. Office staff were front of house dealing with concerned parents and were absolutely brilliant, very calm and on top of things. The Premises Manager, in addition to the usual cleaning, was disinfecting key surfaces twice a day to keep children and staff as safe as possible.

A parent governor stated that she felt that the Headteacher and staff had prepared children really well in terms of their anxieties and worries.

A governor congratulated CM and staff for the work done and **asked** how CM saw matters progressing and what the next expectations were. CM stated that the school would have to react to what happens. At the moment this week the team were setting expectations for what the future might look like. A local school had been approached to be a hub school. The current arrangement was a temporary measure and going forward the thought was to set up hub schools. Many Headteachers had spoken to the local authority, wanting to keep their school open for their own community to reduce the health risks of mixing children and staff and, in terms of vulnerable children, to ensure they felt safe and not cause more anxiety for them. The idea will now be reviewed by the local authority in May or June following so much feedback on the subject. The school is working on the assumption that things will continue as now for some weeks and this week has been about getting children settled in. There is one week of school left and then two weeks of Easter holidays. No work is planned for the Easter holidays so that teachers

can have some down time and the matter will be reviewed after Easter. With so much changing at short notice it will be good to get more advice from the local authority regarding longer term arrangements. There will need to be some borough-wide parity of what children are getting. The local authority is also working from day to day with a focus on free school meals. The school had contacted all FSM children and daily deliveries of packed lunches were being made to seven families with one family picking up the packed lunch from school.

The local authority plans to move to a hamper service every ten days. It was currently providing sandwiches to schools and next week the school kitchen will provide lunch with a view to moving to a hamper service. A governor **asked** if this was for Yerbury children only and this was confirmed. The kitchen is cooking lunch for children and it is absolutely delicious. A governor felt that PTA funds could go to supporting this area but felt that from what CM had said this was covered.

CM stated that Becky had done a risk assessment for all EHCP children, and for those who have an allocated social worker and whom parents were keeping at home. The school had communicated with every parent asking them to be part of the risk assessment and liaising with them to ensure that children are safe. The delivery service was also a good way to touch base with these families.

A governor **asked** if exams had been cancelled and this was confirmed. It was not clear at this stage if assessments would still happen.

A governor **asked** the staff governor how the process had been from a teacher's perspective. In reply it was stated that, although the situation was unexpected, the school was more on the ball than many other schools. LF and Margaret had led planning some weeks before and children were more ready for the websites to be used. The class had been shown the plan for the first week and the expectations had been talked through. All children had handled the situation really well. RM stated that this class had been prepared brilliantly and thanked the staff governor for this.

A parent governor stated that the arrangements had been a life saver and provided structure and security for families. The surprise was the desire from children to do the work. This was common across children and meant that the children have been well prepared. She thanked all staff for their work.

A governor stated that it was evident that the school was creating independent learners – a subject about which the school was passionate. This was an example of how deep rooted that is. The internal motivation the school had built up over the years had been proven. This was seconded by a governor. The question of whether children might be too independent to seek help was **asked** and felt to be something parents and teachers should pay attention to.

LF stated that there would be an expectation that the gap between PP and non-PP children would widen and the school needed to be conscious of this and consider how it will respond.

A governor summarised that a small number of children were attending school and the school is connecting with EHCP children at home. The question of whether some PP/SEN children had got lost, whether the school had a handle on vulnerable children and was holding on to every child was **asked**. CM stated that it was possible that this would happen and teachers had been asked to let SLT know if they needed books, physical packs, etc. The school was aware that there may be families where siblings were fighting

	<p>over one laptop and teachers had used their knowledge to pre-empt that. The school was concerned that some children might fall off the radar because of not being followed up. To counteract this, teachers had been asked to keep an eye on how many children were logging in and to alert Becky where children were not doing so.</p> <p>RM asked if strategies were in place and CM hoped that this was the case as the school had done as much as it could. However, the school would see a difference between children who were supported at home and those who were not. RM thanked CM for her report which had been great to hear and with which she was very impressed. She encouraged CM to raise any issues that might occur.</p> <p>3.ii. Report from the Chair</p> <p>RM reported that she had been involved in discussions and decision making when suspected cases were reported and was updated every day. There would be a need for her to inform the board if she is asked to step in when the Headteacher is not present. Whilst CM was being tested, she was not available and RM was making decisions with SLT about how to communicate with parents and the steps to be taken. The decision was taken not to communicate information until certainty of the result was known. Staff had been told to keep the matter confidential and this was the right strategy. Maintaining CM's confidentiality from the media prevented panic amongst the community. CM thanked RM for her work which had been a huge support and which was greatly appreciated.</p> <p>RM stated that with the school almost closed at the moment the board needed to think about governing body activity. The format of meetings had been changed and this would continue as it was working reasonably well. However, there might be times between governing body meetings when there would be discussion and decisions RM would be asked to make. She hoped the board was happy with the decisions made over the last few weeks and, where this was not the case, asked that governors let her know. She proposed to proceed in a similar manner going forward but if there was anything very significant the board would be involved. She felt it would be helpful to hear the views of members about anything of which the board would like to be informed.</p> <p>A governor stated that it was an entirely appropriate approach as someone had to be the first port of call. The question of what additional spend had been incurred as a result of the situation and how it might affect the budget was asked. CM stated that additional cleaning products had been purchased at a cost of approx. £2k but there had been nothing that could not be absorbed by the carry forward. HR had advised that the school continue to pay casual staff with agency staff being paid by the agency. CM would be liaising with HR to see if this would continue and would take advice from them.</p> <p>A governor felt that there was quite a lot to think about and discuss at the F&GP meeting and there was a need to think about prioritising time and activity. However, there were currently no key issues to affect the running of the school. Questions were invited.</p> <p>A governor asked for clarification that LK as Vice Chair would be the back-up decision maker if RM was not available and this was confirmed.</p> <p>In terms of financial impact, CM stated that the school was trying to get information from the local authority regarding funding for EYFS as the school</p>	<p>LK</p>
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	<p>was expecting to lose £15k in Nursery fees. It was hoped that other savings the borough might make would enable them to pay this amount.</p> <p>She stated that in an effort to limit staff leaving the premises this week the school had offered to pay staff for school lunch as they are having lunch with the children and the school did not want them to go off site. She asked for the board's approval that the school continue to offer lunch to staff during this time which might cost in the region of £1.6k for twelve weeks. She felt it was a nice and sensible suggestion and left it with members to consider. RM stated that this was a sensible measure that could be fund raised by the PTA as they respond quickly to specific requests and asked if it was worth talking to them. Whilst CM felt this was possible, she felt it would be a nice gesture from the board as the school would be relying on the PTA to support other items in the budget. After discussion it was agreed that CM would approach the PTA in the first instance and if unsuccessful the cost to be met by the board.</p> <p>3.iii. Review of Policy</p> <p>The contingency plan was circulated with the papers and questions were invited. CM stated that the emergency planning document is 72 pages long but the information on pandemic planning was minimal. As a result, the school had developed its own plan that was updated on a day to day basis. A governor felt that the plan was very useful and extremely thorough and asked if this was a template document from the local authority. The document had been shared amongst other headteachers.</p> <p>RM thanked CM and staff for their hard work on this issue.</p>	
4.	<p><u>COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY, COMMITTEES, LINK GOVERNORS</u></p> <p>4.a.i. Composition Changes:</p> <p>The term of office end for JG was noted. RM expressed her thanks to JG for her contribution to the board and asked CM to pass on the thanks of the governing body to her.</p> <p>4.a.ii. Staff Governor Appointments:</p> <p>RM welcomed MD, new Staff Governor, to the meeting and introductions were made. MD introduced himself. He is a Year 5 teacher in his second year at the school but had been a governor previously in Malawi which was different but he felt the experience might be useful in this new role. He was looking forward to working with everyone. MD's term of office will end on 1st March 2024.</p> <p>4.a.iii. Appointment of LA governor following nomination – update</p> <p>There was no update for this meeting and it was anticipated that in the current situation the local authority would be too busy to deal with the matter. RM will continue to follow up.</p> <p>4.a.iv. Appointment of Associate Member</p> <p>Having absented himself from the meeting, the re-appointment of LF as an associate member another year to end 27.06.2021 was proposed. This was agreed and LF was welcomed back to the meeting.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>RM</p> <p>Clerk to update Governorhub</p>

	<p>4.b. Committees</p> <p>Two new Parent Governors. FB and ST, had recently joined the board and had been appointed to committees that aligned to their link roles as follows:</p> <p>FB – F&GP Committee ST – CLC Committee</p>	
5.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of 28th November 2019 be agreed as a true record.</p>	
6.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <p>All actions had been completed with the following exceptions:</p> <p>3.d. The clerk to ensure that the code of conduct is signed by remaining governors as soon as the board can meet again in person.</p> <p>7.a. To develop an overarching policy for all policies. This item was carried forward as SOL was absent from this meeting.</p> <p>7.c. To add the governors' self-evaluation as a standing item to all committee agendas</p> <p>10.h. For clarity, a governor stated that this was about whether there was a target staffing structure in place for when vacancies arise so that governors had something to refer to. It was agreed to take this forward at F&GP committee as an agenda item. Governors were informed that the work to identify staffing structures in other schools was currently on hold because of the coronavirus but will be presented to the F&GP meeting in May 2020.</p> <p>19.a. It was noted that no training information from governors had been received and members were encouraged to let LK know when this happened.</p> <p>21. It was confirmed that the date of the next FGB meeting had been rescheduled to 25th June 2020.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>SOL</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk to add to F&GP agenda</p> <p>All governors</p>
7.	<p><u>CHAIR'S ACTION/REPORT</u></p> <p>In addition to actions outlined at Item 3, RM reported that she had also supported SLT actions and the formation of a working party for the Ocado project.</p>	
8.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>The reports from the CLC and F&GP committees had been circulated with the papers and AS and RW were invited to add additional comment. AS stressed the need for the board to find a way of using the back building and invited ideas from governors.</p>	All governors
9.	<p><u>HEADTEACHER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Given the unusual circumstances there was no usual report from the Headteacher but RM invited CM to inform the board of anything that had not already been mentioned.</p> <p>Staffing</p>	

	<p>CM reported that the dyslexia teacher is doing an excellent job. The substantive postholder is due back after Easter for one day per week until the end of the summer term with a role to attain the Dyslexia Quality mark again. The current postholder will work two days per week with children to maintain provision until the end of the academic year. The school has two additional adults until the end of the academic year supporting children within mainstream education. Both have applications for EHCP in progress.</p> <p>Attendance</p> <p>It was not felt appropriate to report on attendance because of the current situation as the office staff were unable to prioritise this work at the moment. However, the Government had agreed that all children absent would be recorded as a Y code which equated to the school being closed.</p> <p>Fire Drill</p> <p>A fire drill had been held on 9th January 2020 and had been completed in 3 minutes 55 seconds. This was particularly impressive as all children had been in assembly with two SLT whilst all other staff were dispersed across the site. It was a very impressive achievement.</p> <p>School Closure</p> <p>The school was closed to all pupils except those identified as vulnerable children or children of key workers since 23rd March 2020.</p> <p>Ocado</p> <p>CM updated members with the current position. There had been a little bit of a lull because of the coronavirus and because Ocado was liaising with the council. Ocado are calculating what it will need in terms of vehicles, electricity needs, infrastructure, costs and time frame. Once complete an impact assessment will go to the council and the outcome will not be known for some months. A governor asked if building work was still going on despite self-distancing guidance. It was stated that it appeared that work was still in progress. LF had written to Lee Casey this week and will chase tomorrow. It was understood that other residents had also written to them. A governor believed that construction work had now stopped but it was confirmed that this was not yet the case. Advice to construction was still inconsistent and there had been no blanket stop but this could change in the next few days. A governor stated that there was currently a lull in campaigning but this was expected to pick up. A governor asked if building work might be expedited or whether completion was a long way off. The latest information available was that there was a view to completing before Christmas 2020. In answer to a governor's question it was confirmed that completion was still a long way off.</p> <p>RM thanked CM for her report.</p>	
10.	<p><u>REPORT FROM EXTERNAL ADVISER</u></p> <p>There was no report for this meeting and the next report is due in the summer term.</p>	
11.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/BUDGET</u></p> <p>In depth discussion on the budget will take place at the F&GP committee meeting on 9th April which will review the current position, the outlook for next year and anything that is different from current expectations.</p>	

	<p>CM reported that the school had received its final budget and VO, previous SBM, had come from France before the lock down to work through the budget with her. There had been no budget planning meeting with the local authority but CM and LOK had met with Debbie Stevenson, LBI Finance Officer and the calculations were agreed as correct. The budget was in deficit because of PP funding, etc., but it was not anticipated that there would be any further surprises when the National Funding Formula takes effect. The funding had been impacted by the change in Nursery numbers because of changes to nursery places and funding. Unlike the rest of the funding, EYFS funding is given in advance and then clawed back if children don't attend. The school currently has 23.5 full time equivalent children funded and will have to reimburse the local authority approximately £20k.</p> <p>The school is looking at a deficit budget and is currently finalising a number of different scenarios. Savings will have to be made whilst looking to keep provision as similar as possible. Various staff on fixed term contracts will be leaving at the end of the year and cannot be replaced. This was part of strategic planning and the reason for having fixed term contracts. There will be a need to make savings and change the way of working a little. Scenarios will be scrutinised at the F&GP committee meeting.</p> <p>A governor asked if additional resources would be needed because of the impact of the pandemic and if there would be additional expenditure to make up for the period of home schooling. In response the question of whether the school could afford it was asked. The school is working with the Foundation and the PTA to flood the provision gap with resources. It is also looking at increasing charges for clubs and considering requesting voluntary termly donations from parents to try to maintain provision. It was a challenging situation. The Government had changed the pay policy which now gave 3% increase to staff and there were other additional pressures affecting the budget.</p> <p>RM acknowledged that it had been a great juggling act at a stressful time over the last few weeks but felt that things sounded a little more reassuring than 2/3 weeks ago. She thanked the SLT for the work over the last few weeks to make the budget work and congratulated them on their achievement. Questions were invited.</p> <p>A governor asked if the EYFS clawback would come from the 2019/20 budget and this was confirmed. It was further confirmed that this would affect the carry forward. However, CM stated that the school had been scrupulous in making savings and the carry forward would still be above the agreed carry forward last year. A governor asked if there would be a deficit for 2019/20 and it was confirmed that this would not be the case for 2019/20 but would be the case for 2020/21.</p>	
12.	<p><u>CONTRACTS AND SERVICES 2020/21</u></p> <p>This item was noted.</p>	
13.	<p><u>ITEMS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW</u></p> <p>a) Health & Safety: the policy had been updated by EB and LOK with minor changes only.</p> <p>b) Attendance: This policy had already been reviewed and approved.</p> <p>c) Complaints: CM stated that the school wished to stay in line with HR's policy as they provide advice to the school. The procedure had now changed with two stages rather than the original three. However, the</p>	

	<p>previous Chair had written a fantastic introduction which focussed on resolution and the school wanted to retain this. It was confirmed that from page 3 onwards the policy was entirely the policy from HR. A governor asked if the new policy was very different from current practice and it was confirmed that it was not. There had been no complaints that went beyond the initial stage. The appeal process had changed and it was very much about the complexity of how the appeals process was run if a complaint goes beyond the initial stage.</p> <p>A governor asked if there were implications for the structure of the Appeals Committee and whilst it was felt not, it was agreed to double check. It was felt that generally wording is the same for all policies and the school has a named group of governors who form part of the panel for any of these things. It was felt unwise to change HR wording.</p> <p>d) Governors Attendance Policy: This was not yet ready and would come back to the board at another meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Health & Safety policy be approved. In addition, that the Complaints policy be approved subject to RM checking to ensure the panel is set up correctly.</p>	RM
14.	<p><u>GOVERNORS' VISITS</u></p> <p>Visit reports for health and safety, revenue generation, maths focus, data review and SEN strategic report were on Governorhub and were circulated with the papers. RM thanked all link governors who had completed visits as it triangulated the information received from the school. Questions were invited.</p> <p>In terms of the maths focus visit, there had been a plan for a second visit to review progress which might now have to be adapted for this year. A governor felt that the data review report was particularly interesting considering that data would be lost because of school closures. It was even more important that the link governor could see how thorough the assessment system was and how detailed and deep children's knowledge is. Children are really well known by several staff, not just one, which was very powerful. It was hoped that out of the pandemic it would be noted that exams are not that important and to go back to a system of trusting teacher assessment. Governors could be confident that the school has really strong data on children and mapping is also very strong because of all the information in place. It went much deeper than data alone and will be particularly useful. Becky is using it to make sure vulnerable children are looked after at this time. Thanks was expressed to staff for the huge amount of effort put in from which children will reap the benefit in the current climate. The school knows children so well it is able to look after them. RM thanked RW for her notes that provided suggestions for governors on ways of looking at data and questions to ask which was extremely useful.</p>	
15.	<p><u>GOVERNOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNORS' BRIEFING</u></p> <p><u>Training Session on SEND from the SENCO</u></p> <p>CM stated that it had been planned to have a briefing session on SEN to inform and educate governors on the system and how it is applied in school. In view of the current circumstances it was decided to strip down input from SLT at this time.</p>	

	<p>It was confirmed that the document provided in the papers was used by Becky to base meetings on. It was stated that the school was at the “bare bones” of SEN provision which was excellent, thorough and creative at Yerbury. How Becky found resources was fantastic but ultimately it could not all be free resources and it was important to fight the Government for SEN provision so as not to lose a penny. Any further loss of provision would impact on every child in the school. All children have a need at some point and the root of education was to meet all children's needs. This would be forgotten at the school's peril. Questions were invited.</p> <p>A governor stated that she was pleased that the F&GP committee would be considering budgeting scenarios but stressed the need to ask what impact these would have on SEN provision. A governor felt that the quality of provision must be at the root of all decisions. A governor asked if the information provided in the report was a snapshot in time and whether the statement that 50% of pupils were neurotypical was static or increased over time. 50% of children at any one time needing interventions was felt to be an extraordinary figure. It was stated that every year is different in terms of EHCPs. The school is very strong at picking up on difficulties children have. The number of children coming through are not changing from earlier years and more challenges are coming through and it was acknowledged that the situation will be tighter. LF stated that each cohort is different. One cohort has a lot of need and staff are better at spotting and diagnosing difficulties. The rise in the standard of the curriculum had also impacted. The literacy specialist had made the whole school acutely aware of blockages to learning and with dyslexia being vastly under diagnosed nationally, she was a very valuable resource.</p> <p>A governor felt it was worth highlighting that special schools are not expanding and mainstream schools will be picking up the shortfall. The number of TAs at the school had been stripped to the bone and this put enormous pressure on teachers. Having a TA makes a huge difference to the teacher - for example, in preparing the classroom. There was a need to consider the needs of teachers and if there were any further loss of SEN support, teachers could not be expected to manage children in the class. Every child was then impacted. Nothing further could be taken away. TAs are the eyes and ears of the teacher and having relationships with children are able to deal with behavioural issues. They are often the adult children will talk to and that is very valuable and important.</p> <p>A governor felt that a lot of valid points had been made. For a school with limited finances the support staff are incredible given how stretched they are and the school would struggle without the structure. There were literacy difficulties in Year 5, for example, and the amount of support in place makes a difference.</p> <p>It was felt that a very good overview of the situation had been given by Candy Holden. There had been an 11% increase in EHCPs in the borough. There was strong commitment from parents with Parent Charters and there were successful examples of charters in other schools that had helped to promote high quality SEN provision.</p> <p>CM stated that Becky had set up a SEN ambassadors' group for parents with whom she will meet regularly to discuss school provision, the SEN system and what is available. The idea is that these parents have a personal interest in SEN provision and a willingness to be an ambassador and will communicate with other SEN parents and can address their questions. LF reported that the targets and aims for the group had been set up and things are in progress. It was acknowledged that Becky was a fierce advocate for SEN. It was noted that the Tea Event did not happen but RW had spoken</p>	
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	with parents and there was a very positive feeling around it and it will be a powerful voice. RM encouraged governors to read the information on the website regarding SEN provision at the school which is updated annually.	
16.	<u>FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS</u> Next meeting: Thursday, 25 th June 2020 at 7.00 p.m.	
17.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u> There was no other business for this meeting.	
18.	<u>CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS</u> There were no confidential items for this meeting.	

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m. CHAIR: _____

Brida Donoghue
Clerk to Governors
Islington Governor Services Islington Council

DATE: _____

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON 26th March, 2020

ITEM NO.	ACTION	BY
	Agenda Items for next Meeting Agenda Items for F&GP Committee	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider a target staffing structure for when vacancies arise • Identification of staffing structures in other schools 	
3.ii.	To be the back-up decision maker in the absence of the Chair	LK
4.a.i	To convey the board's thanks to JG for her work and support of the board.	CM
4.a.iii.	To continue to liaise with the local authority on the appointment of an LA governor	RM
4.a.iv.	To update Governorhub with Associate Member new term of office	Clerk
6.	3.d. To ensure remaining governors sign Code of Conduct once face to face meetings resume 7.c. To add the governors' self-evaluation as a standing item to all committee agendas 19.a To provide details to LK of any training undertaken	Clerk Clerk All governors

8.	To suggest uses for the back building to F&GP committee	All Governors
13.	To check that the structure of the Appeals Committee is in line with the Complaints Policy	RM