

Minutes of The Devonshire Hill Nursery and Primary School Full GB Meeting

Date: Friday 12 June 2020
Time: 1pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting

Present: Julie D'Abreu (Headteacher)
*Steven Lock (Chair of Governors)
Giuseppe Sollazzo
Steven Feldman
Michael Cutting
Penny Woolley
Sarah Male
Shaheen Ferdous

Also Present Gary Wong (SBM)
Corinne David (Clerk)
*denotes absent

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Steven Lock.
- 1.3 The Clerk confirm the meeting was quorate with 7 Governors.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHERWISE IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interests made in respect of any of the agenda items.

3. REVIEW AND FEEDBACK OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The Headteacher provided a verbal update for Governors on the School's plan to reopen to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. The School would be reopening on Monday with 63 children; double the original expectation.
- 3.2 The School had been opened this week for key workers with 13 children using the provision. The key worker bubble had a reception teacher and support worker. Having the key worker provision open has been good to understand what has worked well and even better if, for example:
 - a) Children can't socially distance unless they are sitting at desks. Even older children forgot and had to be reminded.
 - b) Younger children had to be reminded not to hug or touch each other, in a child friendly way.
 - c) Children needed reminding about hand washing and not to touch their faces.
 - d) Children needed reminding about not touching things.
 - e) It was easier if all the resources were ready for the children.
- 3.3 The Headteacher informed Governors that the children in the key worker provision had really enjoyed themselves, the children were smiling in school uniform and trainers.
- 3.4 Forty staff members attended training sessions at school; which included a Q&A session, operational information and safeguarding covering the reintegration of children back into school. The training was well received by staff. Colleagues expressed how good it was to come back and have an opportunity to see each other again. Staff have been accessing lots of online training: Health & Safety and education models around reintegration.

- 3.5 There have been many challenges to opening the school for Monday. There will be 63 children in nine bubbles; with various numbers in each one. Parents continued to change their minds about having their children attend school. Noted that today more parents continued to register their children. It is anticipated that numbers will start to increase.
- 3.6 The School has put siblings in the same bubble to prevent numerous bubbles having to go into isolation in the case of an infection. Where possible older siblings have been put with younger siblings. The School is trying to keep age related children together and then siblings and key workers. Noted that the model was fluid and adaptable.
- 3.7 The School has 5 children coming back with an Educational Health Care Plans. The School have created 2 bubbles; one for older children and one for younger children. Rachel Bates is undertaking one to one conversation with parents.
- 3.8 The School has targeted some vulnerable children to come back. There have been challenges trying to reach those children who tend to be in the hard to reach group pre-covid-19.
- 3.9 The Headteacher provided learning from other Heads with in the NLC. The highlights were:
- a) Registering children on the day, to ensure the right children were in and all the paperwork was signed
 - b) Important to meet and greet the children when they arrive.
 - c) The children came into school and got on with the day.
 - d) In some schools the children meet up after school in a local park (not with school approval).
 - e) Continued communication and reassurance of staff.
 - f) Noted that some staff had over reacted to normal childhood illness like coughs, sneezes and throwing up.
 - g) Important to have visible PPE for staff and lots of hand sanitiser.
 - h) Children can't socially distance, which is the reason for the bubble model; reminded pupils in a child friendly way about expectations.

3.10 **Q: Are children able to social distance from the teacher?**

A: Children understand what social distance is; they can show what 2 meters is, however they are not always able to practice it. Younger children find it very difficult. The School wants the children talking to each other and on the field. Adults will make sure they are safeguarding themselves; however, this is difficult, particularly for those children that have an EHCP.

3.11 **Q: Not all the children will be able to come back this school year, has the School considered how teachers could have some interaction with their pupils?**

A: Teachers have noted the benefits of Google classrooms and reviewing options of how to continue with the platform. Some children have embraced the home learning, some have dipped in and out and some haven't accessed the learning. There are challenges with live face to face contact between teachers and pupils on line, some colleagues are more comfortable to interact online with pupils than others; some teachers have recorded sessions for their children.

3.12 **Q: Do most of the children have access to Google classrooms?**

A: No, however the School has been in contact with families that weren't accessing the platform. This resulted in the School loaning out 30 i-pads and offered hard copy packs to some. Noted that in some families there were older children who were dominating access on technology, so the school has done the best to support families.

3.13 Governors suggested the school explores a social distancing event on the field with the wider school classes. Governors further noted the potential risks with having more children on site; however, if the transition rate was below 1 and there were no new cases then there would be a reduced risk. The Headteacher noted that 2 bubbles were timetabled to use the field at the same time.

ACTION a) Headteacher to have conversations with teachers about what is viable to keep in contact with their classes with live face to face sessions or a session on the playing field.

b) Headteacher to circulate the weekly Covid-19 transition and infection rate for Haringey to the GB.

3.14 The Headteacher noted that staff felt supported from the decisions the GB had made. Steven Feldman thanked the Headteacher and the School, on behalf of the GB, for all the hard work and preparation to open the school on Monday. Well wishes for the reopening was provided.

4. AOB/ DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Catch up meeting on: Friday 19 June at 1pm.
Next Full GB meeting on 24 June 2020 at 6pm

4.1 Agenda items for the next Full GB meeting:

- Formal agreement of the budget.
- Staffing matters including staffing restructure.

The meeting finished at 1:40pm. Steven Feldman thanked all Governors for attending the virtual meeting

Signed: Date:
Steven Feldman, Chair of Governors