

St Alban's Catholic Primary School

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held in the school
at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 22 January 2015

No. 2014-2015-3a

Present: Mark Broadbent (MB, chair), Jo Coward (JC), Mgr Peter Leeming (PL), Sally Livesey (SL), Joseph McCrossan (JMcC), William Merrick (WM), John Moore (JMo), Janet Muir (JMu), Julie O'Connor (JOC), Jo Wager (JW), Rachael Beale (RB, clerk)

Apologies: Graham Hughes, Sarah Slattery

1. Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 27 November 2014

JMu was incorrectly recorded as both present and giving apologies (the latter is correct). Aside from this, the minutes were confirmed.

2. Matters arising

SL has contacted Christine Head, but as yet has not received more information regarding moving Dorothy Head's painting to St Alban's.

ACTION: RB to circulate extra copies of the Internet AUP to those yet to sign it.

3. Feedback from subcommittees and training

None.

4. Head Teacher's report

There are currently 210 children on the roll (full capacity). 38 SIFs have been received for Reception admissions in 2014-15, which is lower than last year. Attendance is healthy; JMcC is in contact with the EWO regarding children with persistent absence, having requested regular meetings to ensure that the school is following the correct process. There are 14 children on the SEN register; requirements for this are changing in accordance with new legislation.

Post-Ofsted, the LA has recognised St Alban's as a school with a great number of strengths, and the LA has begun to request support from the staff in other schools.

Curriculum priorities for this term are science observations, and RE and writing drop-ins. The school is continuing to use levels to monitor pupil progress. Statements are being phased out under the SEND act, and children will be transferred to Education and Health Care Plans. The school will be introducing bespoke Learning Support Plans for the children that require them.

The Cambridge Evening News has contacted the school regarding its policy on photos of schoolchildren on social media. Along with other schools, St Alban's has received additional guidance and will be updating its policy.

WM met Mr Gawthorpe to advise on science resources to support the new curriculum. WM commented that Ofsted had observed a relative shortage of time devoted to science in the curriculum; St Alban's will be addressing this.

The wall is almost finished.

There are around 5 School Alliances in Cambridge, which have been identified as the best route to attracting funding. The LA is working in partnership with Cambridge Primary Heads and with the Alliances, which are a relatively new development; it is as yet unclear what impact the new structure might have. JMcC has been invited onto a steering group, examining the strategic approach of how alliances might work together. The 'Schools South of the River' alliance is now known as 'The Kite' (St Alban's is not part of this). The criteria for becoming an alliance included having a training partner and having specialists in particular areas.

The PFA continues to do great work, with a very successful Winter Fair and an upcoming parent social at the Rathmore Club. The new structure of class representatives is working well. The school has been selected as the chosen organisation to benefit from John Lewis's 'Community Matters' in the spring.

The family of Kate Gross, who died over Christmas and whose children attend St Alban's, have asked whether it would be possible for St Alban's to partner with one of the schools in Sierra Leone to be founded by a charity Kate supported. JMcC met the local CAFOD representative and explained that the school would like to pursue this for the next year. The GB all agreed to support this decision.

Fr Henry has arranged dates for class masses and liturgies, and preparations for Lent have also been discussed. The 'Footprints of Faith' Catholic Walk in Cambridge has also nearly been completed. The choir will be performing at the Barbican in February.

5. Post-Ofsted action plan

The school needs to look at bringing together all of the initiatives currently underway, such as the Vision Evening, the Diocesan Capital Plan and the School Development Plan, to create a three-year strategic plan with a vision for the future for the school. This will be done via the Performance and Standards and Resources sub-committees, with the creation of a task-and-finish group. Science will be part of this; capital is also a key topic.

6. Item of Reserved Business (minute 3b)

7. AOB

JC and MB will attend the Governors Conference on Saturday 7 March.

Historically, the county has paid for a service that filters Google search queries so that potentially unsafe outbound queries would be blocked. Google now encrypts outbound queries, so this filtering can no longer happen; a certificate on every device on the school network could be installed to do this, but there is a high overhead in terms of time and cost. The recommendation from the steering group was to educate pupils and staff about the implications. MB noted that although search results could potentially contain unsafe content, access to any unsuitable site would still be blocked.