

# 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 26 November 2015

## No. 2015/2016 - 2

**Present:** Mark Broadbent (MB, chair), Jo Coward, Sally Livesey (SL), Janet Muir (JMu), Jo Wager (JW), Rachael Beale (RB, clerk)

**Apologies:** Graham Hughes, Fr Peter Leeming, Joseph McCrossan

**Absent:** William Merrick (WM)

### **1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 7 October 2015**

Confirmed.

### **2. There were no matters arising or reports from termly briefings/training/subcommittee meetings**

### **3. Headteacher's Report/Data (JMu)**

In Foundation stage, Mrs Paul has provided her predictions alongside actual outcomes for the 2014/15 cohort. The school expects 26 out of 30 pupils to pass the Year 1 phonics, which although slightly down on last year's excellent result, is still above the national average. This year's cohort includes more children with SEN, and a higher proportion of boys.

The KS1 3-year trend report shows the school to be slightly above the national scores across the board. The school's intention is still to be working towards equivalent levels of attainment, but the new curriculum requires pupils to cover more ground in order to achieve an equivalent level. The KS2 3-year trend report also demonstrates a consistent level of attainment above the national average.

The KIT light-touch visit was very successful; the head teacher's performance review will take place in early December.

Mrs Felipe is leaving in January. One TA is also due to go on maternity leave in February, and one new child has started in Year 2 with a full-time statement. It is likely therefore that 3 new TAs will be recruited. There was only one applicant for the IT office assistant post, but the interview went well and the school has made the appointment. The School Council met MB, and would like the opportunity to meet more governors in future. It was suggested that governors might join the school for lunch on Monday 7 December.

The minibus that has been donated to the school is under discussion. Father Anthony has made several chaplaincy visits to the school. The school choir is singing at the station and to the residents of St George's Court. There have been several educational trips, particularly to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. The majority of Year 6 children recently achieved their Level 2 qualification for Bikeability. The Mumford performance went very well. Link governor visits need to be arranged, in particular in RE regarding the impending inspection. There have been visits between Sacred Heart and St Alban's by staff from both schools.

Multi Academy Trusts were discussed comprehensively at the recent Diocesan headteachers' conference.

MB asked if the governors should be concerned about the dip in 'good level of development' at Foundation. RS said that this could be a manifestation of one SEN child that does not yet have a statement. JW asked about the Advent service; it has been moved once already, but was not included in the recent list of dates circulated to parents. JMu confirmed that it will take place on Monday 7 December.

#### **4. Nomination of Local Authority Governor**

MB proposed Graham Hughes's nomination as LA governor; this was seconded by JC, and unanimously agreed by those present.

#### **5. Meeting dates for sub-committees**

Performance & Standards: Monday 11 January 2016, 6.30 p.m.

Resources: Wednesday 13 January 2016, 6.30 p.m.

#### **6. Review committee compositions and link governors**

To be deferred to the next meeting, once parent governors have been appointed.

#### **7. Living Wage paper**

This report was tabled ahead of the meeting. The implications of this are complex. Increasing wage levels may result in loss of benefits, offsetting any increase in salary. MB asked if the unions have provided an official opinion; RS suggested checking the Unite website for guidance. Only midday supervisors are affected by this change. JC felt that in principle, the governors should support this initiative; however, in order to avoid having a negative impact on staff for the reasons noted above, it would be a good idea to seek further advice. JW asked if it was possible to implement exceptions? JC noted that it would mean that there were different pay-rates for work of equal value, which is discriminatory. The current UK living wage is £8.25 an hour outside London (as opposed to the £7.65 stated in the paper), which has implications for the overall cost. The governors agreed in principle that it is desirable to pay a living wage, and that the governing body should support Option 3 as set out in the paper, subject to a satisfactory outcome of a more informed assessment of the real cost of implementation (delegated to MB as chair and Mr McCrossan as head).

#### **8. Religious Education SEF (Miss Swindell)**

The RE SEF is currently being prepared as part of the Section 48 inspection due to take place later in this academic year. RS has attended training on what will be expected of the school. A child-friendly phrase to accompany the school's mission statement has been implemented, and the next step is to review the impact on children's understanding of this. This has taken place via consultation with the school council; the children have been involved in creating their own definitions of the statement, to be presented on banners.

Assessment levels for RE will be maintained; a portfolio of children's work is being kept, alongside assessment and moderation meetings among staff. In addition, work has taken place on raising Catholic awareness amongst staff; pupil chaplains have been appointed in Year 6, who plan and produce meditation assemblies. Awareness of the mass form and new prayers has taken place. A new curriculum has been put in

place since the last inspection, resulting in the purchase of new schemes of work, which have now been embedded. The curriculum directory has been updated, and is awaiting the Bishop's approval. Pupils' books are regularly inspected, and reflection time on a Monday morning has been refocused on RE. The staff are confident that RE has high profile and status within the school, and that pupils know and recognise this. A lot more other faith visits and presentations have also been embedded (including a Jewish synagogue and Sikh Gudawara).

JC commented that RE seems to have made significant progress since the last inspection. JMu thought that the 'special book' has really helped. RS commented that pupils really like having a school hymn; the spiritual and moral development in the school has been acknowledged in the gaining of the EQualities Award. SL asked if there were any non-Catholic children in the school? Yes, a small number, but they all participate enthusiastically. JW mentioned that Fr Anthony's homily at the recent Year 4 mass was as germane to parents as to the children; would it be possible for him to include something in the newsletter, perhaps?

**Action:** RS will discuss this with Fr Peter at their link governor meeting.

Creating opportunities for pupils' quiet prayer during the week has also been discussed. JW commented that the fact that pupils no longer serve at the 12 o'clock mass is having a noticeable impact on the parish.

## **12. AOB**

One parent has contacted MB to express an initial interest in standing as a parent governor, but is concerned that it may represent too great a time commitment.