

Governors of Fairisle Junior School

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Whole Governing Body Friday 22 May 2020, 2.30pm

Governors present:

1. Steph Thurston (Chair)
2. Peter Howard (Headteacher)
3. Jess Planter-Dixon
4. Phil Chapman
5. Mike Dant
6. Katherine Minns

Associate members present:

Bev Bessey
In attendance:
Sophie Lee (Clerk)

This meeting was held entirely online.

1) Apologies

Brent Schwarz, Alison Powell, Nikki Webb (Vice Chair).

2) Declarations of Interest

Declarations relating to today's agenda: none. Changes to the register of business interests: none.

3) Risk Assessment for Extending School Provision/Behaviour Principles

The risk assessment for potentially extending school provision to Y6 pupils from 1 June had been emailed to governors in advance. JPD needed to leave the meeting early but had no questions to raise about the risk assessment.

(JPD logged out of the meeting).

We are planning to extend the school provision to all Y6 children whose parents wish them to return. All Y6 parents have been called and 39 pupils wish to return, split 50/50 boys and girls with 12 disadvantaged or pupil premium children.

They will be allocated a "bubble" of no more than 10 children (the government maximum is 15). A staff rota has been drawn up. Support staff can take a bubble and two TAs will work in Y6, which means teachers will work in school one in every four weeks.

Question from ST: Why are we sending pupils back if they won't have a teacher? Is that going back into education?

The Deputy Head confirmed they will be going back into education. The two TAs in Y6 are experienced (one already teaches maths to a group) and because there is one bubble of nine it will be like taking a group. There will not be a full curriculum but pupils will do maths and English every day. Bubbles are mixed ability.

A planning meeting will be held on Thursday and the two TAs will be part of that. The critical worker children will be split into two groups and will also have maths and English every day. Days will be structured and all children will wear uniform.

Each teacher will have two mornings of PPA time a week via five hours of PE per week. We cannot use musical instruments but will cover generic areas of the curriculum. In Y6 there will be some PSHE transition which will also go on our website.

Question from PC: Will the teaching be provided by qualified teachers?

The Deputy Head noted that the two TAs are not qualified teachers but they took

groups, sometimes of nine, prior to covid-19 and taught children lessons.

In total there will be between 50 and 60 children attending per day, 10 in each bubble, with 39 Y6 children (four groups) and two groups of critical worker children.

Question from PC: Are their classrooms on the ground floor?

The Headteacher said yes, all of them, but if a third critical worker group needs to be formed they may need to be upstairs. Each class will have its own access straight in off the playground, apart from a critical worker group who may use the side entrance. That group will take their break outside the community room and on the grass outside the staffroom.

Question from PC: Will they all start and finish at the same times?

The Headteacher stated that pupils can arrive in a half hour window from 8.40 to 9.10am and are used to coming straight in to the building. If they arrive late it is not so much of an issue now as we are not accountable for attendance figures.

Question from ST: Why use TAs if we have enough teachers? What would happen if we used all teachers?

The Headteacher noted we are only using our specialist maths TA and Tracey Rankin. The government guidance states we can use TAs in this situation. Teaching staff will work one week in four but would need to come in more often if they were all used. The Deputy Head said it was partly to safeguard teachers so they are not in school so much. We also have teachers with childcare issues.

Break and lunch times will be staggered and each bubble will remain with their own staff member. When pupils have PE their break will be included in the PE time with the PE coach. Each bubble will have its own slot in the hall with a lunchtime supervisor. If we do picnics outside there can only be one bubble outside at a time.

Question from ST: Isn't there space in the playground to have more than one bubble at a time?

The Deputy Head said that was not allowed. The Headteacher explained there was not enough space until the building was finished, plus the infant school have more children returning and need some of the field.

We have been advised to have teachers working the whole week rather than a few days and we have spaced that out to one week in four. We have staff with shielding letters and those who are clinically vulnerable who need a risk assessment before they return to work. PC stated he has every confidence in the measures school leaders have put in place.

Question from PC: So you are not giving some staff an easy pass?

The Headteacher said no. Any TA who takes a group will do so under the guidance of a teacher and work is being planned by the Y6 team. TA Lara has worked in Y6 and delivered effective maths interventions whereas a qualified teacher may have no Y6 experience.

The kitchen will re-open for hot meals after half-term with children eating in their bubbles. Some toys will be used in the playground and sterilized with Milton; lunchtime supervisors will clean all toys at the end of lunch.

There will be stringent handwashing with signage on this and social distancing. Infrared sanitizers will be used in classes and a pedal sanitizer in the front entrance. Parents will be asked to visit as infrequently as possible and email/phone first.

Question from PC: Has the upstairs been cordoned off so you do not need to clean the

whole school?

The Headteacher confirmed it has been. All surfaces, chairs, tables and trays will be cleaned with doors held open electronically. Children will use tissues to touch the toilet door handle after washing their hands. Four classes have also been redecorated upstairs so far plus one set of toilets and a corridor.

Question from PC: Is the building work progressing?

The Headteacher said workers were back in last Tuesday week and he met the team yesterday. They have solved the plasterboard issue but there may be an issue with plaster supplies.

Question from KM: Have you spoken to the Head of the infant school? Infants are leaving through the field and I am worried about infants leaving as FJS pupils come in.

The Headteacher stated that if he insists children walk round to Fairisle Road then more will go through the small gate in that road. The infant school are staggering year group arrivals from 8.30 to 9.40am. For us the issue is more about children who walk to school alone who must not meet friends and keep away from the infant building.

UPDATE (24/05/2020): The headteacher spoke again with the Head of the Infant School and went into school to check all the gates and can confirm that the infant school parents will be using the large gate the grass cutters use and NOT the field gate our children will be arriving through. John Pennells has spray marked the path leading to the exit for infant parent so that it is clear that they do not cross our arriving children as they are leaving the site. This answers the following five questions marked with a *.

*Question from ST: Should we have a separate exit and entrance for social distancing?

The Headteacher said the only way to maintain social distancing is to keep telling people to do so.

*Question from KM: Could children enter via the car park if we made it just for pedestrians?

The Headteacher noted they would have to come in with cars as staff arrive.

*Question from ST: Could we say our car park can only be used between certain times?

The Headteacher stated this was possible and to leave it with him. If infant parents are exiting through the field gate and FJS children are arriving through the field gate they would have to stand back. However, infants are leaving over an hour and 10 minutes so there is less chance of a bottleneck.

*Question from PC: Could you put a sign at the gates saying please allow people to leave before you enter?

The Chair noted that children may not follow the instruction.

*Question from KM: What about the gates onto the field where grass cutters come in?

The Headteacher reported he will speak to the infant school to see if they can use that as the infant exit gate. For FJS pupils it would make a potential bottleneck if we asked all our children to come in via Fairisle Road.

Question from ST: Will the cleaners clean regular touch points on a timetable?

The Headteacher said yes, we will have a regular timetable and they are also cleaning during the day.

Question from ST: As chemicals must be left on for different times, how long will they be left on toys for example?

The Deputy Head said toys will be left in Milton overnight and each bubble will have its

own tub.

Question from ST: Will a child use the same pencils and equipment every day?

The Headteacher said yes, they will all have personal resources and their own tray on their table.

Question from ST: How will you socially distance when serving hot dinners?

The Headteacher reported there are marks on the hall floor where pupils must stand and the distance from the hot plate is two metres. The lunchtime supervisor hands cutlery to the child.

The Deputy Head noted the hall will be set up in two bubbles but only one bubble will use it at a time. We could put cutlery out on tables beforehand.

Question from ST: Will you have signposting for equipment not in use like hand driers?

The Headteacher explained that only one child will be in the toilets at a time.

Question from ST: Have teachers been set up similarly in staff areas?

The Headteacher said yes, with minimized time in the same room together and the staff member looking after their bubble at break. Nobody who is not working should be in school (eg: PE coaches).

Question from ST: Why would PE coaches be in school at all?

The Headteacher stated he needs to give staff PPA time.

Question from ST: Why not give staff PPA time during their three weeks working at home?

The Headteacher said it does not count like that. There are three PE coaches for three groups. We are asking staff to have bubbles through break and they will probably sit with them at lunch. He would rather pupils had quality provision for PE and he wants to treat staff well. He also pays the company for a year and the law does not allow him to furlough the staff.

Question from KM: What happens at pick-up time?

The Deputy Head stressed there must be only one parent attending for each family. The Headteacher stated that half of Y6 walk to school by themselves and Y6 is a very mature year group.

The Chair said if we were worried we could space pick-ups 10 minutes apart but that should not be needed as there is enough room in the playground.

Question from ST: How long will pupils be at school?

The Headteacher reported it will be a normal day, five days a week.

Question from ST: Do you feel you have the capability to change the plan if it is not working?

The Headteacher said yes.

The Chair noted we need to make sure teachers do not become complacent with social distancing as they spend so much time together. The Head stated that each week there will be a new set of adults.

Question from ST: Would non-uniform be easier for washing clothes every day?

The Headteacher said they had thought about that and have asked children to wear a polo shirt, either school trousers or PE shorts and shoes or dark trainers.

(BB logged out of the meeting.)

The Chair aims to visit the school on 3 June and asked one or two governors only to

visit during the first few weeks of expanded provision. The Chair stated that the risk assessment has been completed really well and will adapt.

AGENDA

Governors have all received a copy of the risk assessment, had the opportunity to ask questions and stated they were happy it has been set up correctly and for it to be adopted. Any major changes may involve a Zoom call to governors. NW has had input into the risk assessment by phone.

An amendment to the behaviour policy was emailed to governors today. Governors approved this amendment in principle and will be asked to ratify it formally on 2 June.

The Headteacher thanked governors for their support and help. He also thanked BB, Holly Cleveley, Robin Hayes, Maria Hughes and all teaching and support staff who have willingly done anything asked of them.

Critical worker provision continues next week. We have received brilliant feedback from parents about the school's communication. Governors decided not to take part in the NGA survey on covid-19.

Governors thanked the Head and Deputy Head for all their hard work and the board stated that they have confidence in the Headteacher and teaching staff.

4) Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next whole governing body meeting is on Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 3.30pm.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.