



St Laurence Governors – Full Governing Body

Minutes of the meeting held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 10th February 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Lauren Ash	Trudi Chatfield	Tim Farrar
Ian Blagbrough	Sean Cooper	Lindsay Driscoll (Vice-Chair)
Michael Smith	Peter Lambert	Tim Lerwill
Joanna Abecassis	Mark Lee	Ingrid Maher-Roberts
	Kieran Kilgallen (Chair)	

Apologies: Michael Dooley

In Attendance: Emma Roberts (Clerk)

ACTION

40/20 Welcome/Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Michael Dooley.

41/20 Register of Pecuniary Interests

None recorded.

42/20 Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of 9th December 2020 were approved as a correct record subject to:

The addition of Joe Scaithe who attended for the Audit Item and left the meeting at the same time as Lorna Lumb.

43/20 Matters Arising

All matters arising were noted as complete.

44/20 Headteachers Report

TF presented his report (circulated with the agenda) which provided an update as at Term 3 2020-21. TF set out the context of his first few weeks in post, noting that the COVID situation had not allowed for the consideration of as many strategic issues as he might have liked.

Governors noted the report and with it the suggestions for strategic issues to be considered at the Strategy Day, which included:

- the curriculum (to include discussion around the vocational offer,

- the options process and its ability to meet the needs of all students.
- student leadership
- forthcoming inspections and the training needs attached to these.
- the school's approach to some underperforming subjects

TF highlighted some areas of the report, including that the remote learning offer had been remarkably well received and Governors noted that sharing of good practice amongst teachers continues. Governors noted the family survey result. It would be felt that the level of return (13%) would be slightly lower than optimal but the responses were very positive. In relation to free text comments, a number were about lessons not continuing for a full hour. TF advised that the policy had always been not to teach for longer than 45 minutes, and this has been reinforced.

In relation to catch up; it would be noted that catch up programmes for all years except Year 9 had been implemented.

In reviewing return to school plans, TF advised that information was anticipated on 29 February and it was felt likely that Year 11 and 13 would need to return on 8 March. In relation to return to school planning, Governors noted that this would require staff to come back to work before this date as there would be a range of logistical issues which would need resolving. A plan for the keyworker and vulnerable children currently in school is to be finalised; although this might include them being taught in their usual classroom, and the teacher also teaching the children working from home via MS Teams.

Governors noted that the Summer assessment plan is yet to be finalised; the Department of Education curriculum consultation plan was still open. It was anticipated that it would likely involve a combination of methods, and this would be finalised in due course. Teaching staff had been asked to plan for assessment. TF explained that Year 11 are in a more favourable position with all bar two students with a mock result for all subjects. For year 13, AB and TF are developing a plan to include a formal mock exam on the return to classroom, with sufficient notice to include a week in school to ask questions and work with staff.

The Chair asked about the optimal length of a lesson and TF confirmed in his view the use of the time is most important; the 45 minutes would be to allow sufficient screen breaks in a 5-hour day.

A Governor observed that the achievement of the teaching and staff teams had been astonishing, particularly in response to the late changes in government policy.

Governors asked that their thanks should be shared with staff. **Action: TF to pass on thanks to staff.**

TF confirmed that attendance at 95% was very high. Engagement might be different, and tutorial is running at 80%, although the plan to continue with that is agreed. TF confirmed that he was aware that some schools had reduced the curriculum to core

TF

subjects at KS3; and the efforts of St Laurence staff in continuing to deliver practical lessons is even more impressive.

C Governors commented on the strength of the feedback and expressed support for the importance of Tutorial time. Further information was requested around how engagement would be being monitored, specifically about having cameras on. TF confirmed that engagement could be a challenge, and cameras being on are encouraged although not a requirement. TF advised that some schools had introduced it as an aspiration/policy. Staff have been checking engagement in various ways; direct questioning, register, asking for hands up. Governors noted that the challenges are the same in a classroom in relation to making sure all students are engaged. TF confirmed that additional strategies to engage students other than cameras were being explored.

C TF was asked for clarification in relation to the statement in his report that 'some coursework had been completed in some subjects' confirming that the coursework requirements for subjects differed and had changed during lockdown and he hadn't carried out a full audit. Governors were assured that Heads of Department had autonomy to design the curriculum as they see fit.

The report was noted.

45/20 **Committee Reports**

Strategy

Governors noted the draft minutes of the meeting of Strategy Committee held on 11th January 2021. LD reported on behalf of the Chair on SIAMS and reminded Governors that there would be a need to prepare early for the inspection.

Standards

C Governors noted the draft minutes of the meeting of Standards Committee held on 25th January 2021. IMR confirmed that the Committee would be looking at the achievement of pupil premium students. A Governor asked for clarity around the number of students achieving 9 – 5 and/or 9 – 4 in certain subjects. TF explained the measures. It was confirmed that JA had been in touch with the SEND team in her role as SEND lead governor, and reported some feedback including the lack of certainty around assessment measures and impact of the SEND students in particular.

C&E

Governors noted the draft minutes of the meeting of the C&E Committee held on 26th January 2021. PL advised that the lockdown had been challenging for both wellbeing and pastoral support as well as teaching. PL confirmed that the Child Protection Policy had been updated again and this set out the wide breadth of measures put into place to support children. Governors noted that there had been an increase in mental health issues in line with the national picture and the Committee had been very impressed with the response to this which included a raft of different measures. The Committee also wanted to recognise the efforts of staff to support the wellbeing of students

included working in the holidays, acknowledging the outstanding contribution of Rachel Purnell and her team. LA confirmed that, as Safeguarding lead governor, she was confident that My Concern was working well, and patterns of referrals were consistent with national patterns. Staff were working with students who were experiencing difficulties and supporting and signposting. Relateen had been introduced and was being received favourably. LA confirmed that all referral processes were continuing as normal including support measures for families in need. Governors noted this assurance.

FFE

Governors noted the draft minutes of the meeting of the FFE Committee held on 27th January 2021. ISB confirmed that the management of the finances was being led very well by LL. IBS confirmed that the government COVID funding had been slow to arrive, with only £5k received thus far. Other costs were increasing. ISB advised that the planned Committee Tour at 8.30 am on 13th March may be rearranged for 4pm.

46/20 Strategy Day

Governors discussed plans for the Strategy Day which was hoped to take place in June. Returning to the Headteacher's report, Governors noted the proposed focus areas to include:

-Curriculum

SC advised that Curriculum Subgroup agreed four questions (get these from SC) for the Strategy day. TF confirmed this should include the vocational offer, the options process, and its ability to meet the needs of all students. Action: SC to report back.

-Student leadership

-Forthcoming inspections and the broader training needs attached to these for all Governors

Governors agreed that it might be useful to have a team of Governors who were able to talk to SIAMS and begin to start developing a folder of materials. **Action: KK to arrange.** **KK and JA**

-The school's approach to some underperforming subjects

-Reports from the subgroups:

- Campus Plan Group
- Estates Strategy Group

In relation to the Estates Strategy, DC confirmed that a statement would be required for the Local Authority Planning Strategy Growth strategy by 9 March 2021. LA

TF/KK/LL/LA/
DC

confirmed she had approached LL to set up a meeting. Action – KK, DC, LL and LA to communicate via Whatsapp to agree content for submission. TF to lead with LL.

DC agreed to provide a list of statements from landowners in previous planning and development rounds.

DC

Governors were asked to send further ideas to KK by end February to facilitate the finalisation of the agenda. Action: All Governors.

All Governors

47/20 Committee meeting schedule

C Governors considered proposed changes to the Committee Schedule for the remainder of the Academic Year. Governors agreed that whilst working remotely a 5pm start would be reasonable; this may need to be reviewed if Governors returned to offices.

48/20 Governors agreed the recommendations:

- That all meetings commence at 5pm.
- That C&E Committee moves to take place on the third Monday of the month.
- That Minutes would be produced within 48 hours of the meeting for checking by SLT lead and Committee Chair.
- That all papers would be uploaded to the portal with the Agenda by 5pm on the Friday before the meeting.

ER

49/20 Any Other Business

ISB advised that the CIF bid timetable for responses was still to be confirmed. It was agreed that Heads of Department briefings to Committees would be introduced only if staff felt it was reasonable given current pressures of work.

(The meeting ended at 7.10pm.)

Signed..... Date.....
(Chair)