



MINUTES

ADDINGTON VALLEY ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 4 PM

HELD VIRTUALLY

- Present:** Lucy Davey, Chair (LD)
John Reilly, Principal (JR)
Jordana Berk (JB)
Kemi Arogundade (KA)
Will Scott (WS)
Janet Sherborne (JS)
- In attendance:** Joe Shepherd, Senior Teacher (JS)
Jackie Van West, Director of Safeguarding (JVW)
Susanne Wicks, Clerk (SW)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

LD opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Governors noted the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting and received a further verbal update from the Principal. Governors welcomed the succinct format of the written report.

JR reported that, following a positive test for Covid-19 by a staff member on Monday, consultation was carried out with the appropriate agencies and the school was directed not to open on Tuesday morning pending completion of a risk assessment. Six staff members are now self-isolating out of a staff body of twelve, four of whom are from one class. After discussion with senior colleagues in the Trust, it was decided to keep one class at home, to protect the rest of the school community.

JR described other factors which impacted the first few weeks of term and noted his frustration and disappointment that the high standards he had set had not, in his view, been met. However, he was pleased to report that staff and parents have been very supportive and the atmosphere in school is calm, orderly and purposeful, although children have been impacted by the lack of therapy which should be provided by LB Croydon.

JR outlined how children have been put into three separate groups and each have an individual pathway. One class comprises children who are independent, communicate

verbally and can access a semi-formal curriculum. Another comprises children who are non-verbal communicators, spending around 50% of the time in the classroom, and the third class comprises those learners who are non-verbal and display emotions through behaviours which can be unpredictable. The third is the largest group and it has been challenging to agree the appropriate staffing levels required with colleagues in LB Croydon. Whilst they continue to refer children for placement in the school, those children require one to one support which the school currently can't provide due to staff and space limitations. In addition, the Principal is keen to ensure that there is an even mix of need in the school, in accordance with its ethos.

LD commented on the amazing job that JR and team have done, even if everything has not gone as he might have wished. She asked JR to pass on the thanks of all Governors to staff for doing so well in the face of challenging circumstances. JS echoed those comments and particularly noted how difficult it can be to negotiate with local authorities about funding and therapy provision.

JR welcomed questions from Governors and matters discussed are detailed below.

JR reported that all staff will undertake training on an online safeguarding system, 'Safeguard' on 1 October, which will be in use across the school next week, replacing the current paper-based system.

Governors were pleased to hear that staff morale is good with relationships developing well. An independent Occupational Therapist observed a child in school last week and gave a glowing report on the quality of the lesson she witnessed. Staff understand that children are adapting to a new environment so it will take some time for them to settle, although JR and JS expect that by the end of term, they will be much more used to the new environment. Staff have undertaken Team Teach and Signalong training.

JR reported that staff are considering what provision can be provided remotely to those pupils who cannot come into school and described the challenge in providing this facility to a cohort with such a wide range of ability. For those who are not in school at the moment, a series of resource packs are being compiled for parents to do with their children.

Governors discussed the school's funding and JR explained that he had met with colleagues in LB Croydon about the need for 1:1 support for many of the children in school, to which LB Croydon are resistant. JR described the challenge in staffing a school of this size, which enables very little of the flexibility which you would have in a larger school. He confirmed that the school would receive Government catch-up funding, but it would not be a large amount.

Action: JR and KO undertook to meet to discuss the school's budget and funding streams.

LD reiterated her previous comments, thanking JR and all of his staff for achieving so much by this point in the term.

4. SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING

Governors received a briefing from OHC&AT's Director of Safeguarding, Jackie Van-West. The presentation covered the key aspects of the Safeguarding Governor Portfolio and updates to this year's edition of Keeping Children Safe in Education, which is available on [GovernorHub](#). JWV encouraged all Governors to read Parts 1 and 2 of the document.

LD thanked JWV for her detailed presentation.

5. GOVERNANCE BRIEFING

SW delivered a briefing on the governance of OHC&AT, including the role and responsibilities of all layers of governance. The presentation is available for Governors to access on [GovernorHub](#).

It was agreed that Governors Visit Week should take place in the week commencing 8 November 2020. During the week, all portfolio visits would be carried out, with reports to be submitted to the Principal by 19 November for including with the papers for the LGB meeting on 2 December. The meetings may take place virtually, but this would be agreed nearer the time.

Action: JR to liaise with Governors about dates for portfolio visits.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2 December

27 January

24 March

19 May

30 June

To start at 4 pm.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i JR reported that on 8 December, David Scott will carry out a quality of education visit and submit a report. JR described the role of David Scott and how his work is beneficial for the school and leaders.
- ii JR gave an update on the construction of the new school building, completion of which is scheduled for September 2021 which may impact on the start of the new academic year.
- iii LD undertook to deputise for JS as Safeguarding Governor whilst she recovers from surgery after half-term.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

No items were deemed confidential.

The meeting ended at 5.20 pm.

Signed: _____ **(Lucy Davey, Chair)**

Date: _____