Woodchester Endowed C. of E. (Aided) Primary School

Making memories for LIFE
Learning; Inspiration; Faith; Everyone

MINUTES OF ETHOS COMMITTEE, HELD ON 16th September 2019 at 9.45

PRESENT: Revd Peter Francis (Chair), Mrs Lynn Pennington (Head teacher), Mrs Sally Bull (minutes), Mrs Natalie Elliott, Mrs Helen Evans, Mrs Tessa Pemberton

Item no		Action
01.09.19	**Apologies** none Revd Francis opened the meeting with a prayer.	
02.09.19	**Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th June 2019** These were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chair.	
03.09.19	**Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2019** **03.04.19 Christian Distinctiveness Learning Walk** GQ What do we do next to follow up and measure progress? Revd Francis passed on comment from a visiting church member who had been impressed by the display on Generosity. The HT explained that one of the newly installed boards in corridor will be used for promotion of the school's vision. Looking at the report, she has identified reflection areas in classrooms as a key area for development. SB suggested that this focus must be shared at the FGB so that all making school visits know to look out for evidence of interactive reflection areas in current use. The HT is hoping to build on the prayer board in the hall with individual prayer trees or boards in classrooms. She also suggested that pupils could send prayers to the church to be included in the services. GQ Is the HT aiming for consistency in the reflection areas in classrooms? NE spoke about the requirements in her school which include a Bible open at the relevant story and an activity box. Spiritual reps from one class take the box to the next and explain the activity. NE will take photos to send to the HT. Revd Francis suggested that diocese may have suggestions and information about how other schools provide reflection spaces. NE offered to send HE activities for the year linked to the values and they will work together to come up with suggestions. Revd Francis recommended that they should contact the diocese to ask for resources. The HT has produced a Collective Worship Policy which was shared with all present.	**All govs** **NE** **NE and HE**
04.09.19	**Vision** SB apologised for not having adjusted Governor Visit forms in the light of the new vision statement and promised to do so before the FGB meeting. Jo Munn has responded to the vision statement suggesting we have too many Bible links. After some discussion, it was agreed to select the Corinthians quotation which is particularly relevant to the agreed focus on community. JM	**SB**

	had stressed that the children need to understand the context of the quotation and its relevance. The HT has introduced the children to the idea of the body in worship this term.	
05.09.19	**Siams** The HT said there was limited support to fill in this large document but that she had made a start, focusing on collective worship. Looking at SEFs of other similar schools on line had proved helpful. The school needs to show what it is doing now, the impact this is having and what needs to be done to improve. The HT has led staff INSET looking at strands 3, 5 and 7, thinking about strengths and areas for development. The RE leader will shortly be going on maternity leave. GQ What can we do to help and support with the completion of this document? The HT is managing by focusing on one section at a time. She is developing the variety of collective worship, identified in the worship schedule at the end of the new policy document with a focus on a range of pupil involvement and leadership. Revd Francis suggested that the Tuesday singing could be developed so that children really understand what the songs are about. He also pointed out that the Wednesday worship has already changed and follows the Open the Book focus on Mondays. TP pointed out that the Open the Book team are now using the symbols from the Understanding Christianity curriculum to encourage children to make links. Governors felt time slots for worship looked short but the HT pointed out that the timings for worship are experimental. A SIAMS interim visit is expected in 2020 and it was suggested that we need another meeting before the one scheduled for February 10th.	**HT and staff**
06.09.19	**Prayer Week** The HT reported that staff preferred to place this in the week after half-term, commencing 4th November. Revd Francis proposed breaking the Lord's Prayer into 5 sections for 5 worship sessions but said he needed to do more work on this. Each day will begin with collective worship which will establish themes to be explored further during the day. GQ Is there still an intention to come up with a school prayer as part of the week? The HT suggested prayer stations with a theme, possibly two in school and three in the church, to be visited by groups of up to 10 children. These need to be interactive and accessible for all age groups. Staff need to know what is being organised so they do not duplicate the activities. There was discussion about how we could use our links as a church, perhaps involving our mission partners in some way (eg a recorded message) but there are practical difficulties with this, even with modern technology. The HT stressed that organisation and activities must not be overly complicated and that the focus must be on the Lord's Prayer and the creating a school prayer. HE will contact Jo Wetherall re possible resources. There was discussion about arranging five slots across the day so that each class had its own slot to visit stations and could do so in small groups. We will need volunteers from the church community. TP will ask the Messy Church team to see if they are willing to oversee stations in the church. The HT stressed that staff need a clear picture by the last week before half-term at the	**PF** **HE** **TP and OTB team**

	latest. It was agreed to have an extra meeting to share ideas and agree arrangements on Tuesday 1st October at 10.15. All governors will think about possible ideas beforehand and share ideas via email. Revd Francis pointed out that we need a number of people willing to lead the worship. The HT offered to take one or two. Revd Francis will explore other possibilities eg Rod and Pauline.	**All Ethos Govs** **PF**
07.09.19	**New Foundation Governor** Helen Latham's term is finished so we have a vacancy. TP suggested we need to conduct an audit of skills and will send out the diocese skills forms. Our current finance expert has not much longer to serve so we need to bear this in mind as we look for new governors.	**PCC** **TP and all govs**
08.09.19	**AOB**	
09.09.19	**Dates of Next Meetings:** Tuesday October 1 at 10.15 to organise the Prayer Week activities Tuesday 11th February at 9.45 Tuesday 12th May at 9.45 **The Meeting closed at 11.35am**	

Signed as a true record …….

Dated …….

DRAFT