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

Making memories for LIFE
Learning; Inspiration; Faith; Everyone

MINUTES OF ETHOS COMMITTEE, HELD ON 12th October 2020 via Zoom

PRESENT: Revd Peter Francis (Chair), Mrs Lynn Pennington (Head teacher), Mrs Sally Bull (minutes), Mrs Tessa Pemberton, Mrs Emma Limburn, Mr Ashley Smith (prospective LEA Governor observing the meeting)

Item no		Action
01.10.20	**Apologies**: Mrs Natalie Elliott, Mrs Helen Evans	
02.10.20	**Minutes of the last meeting held on10th February 2020** (No Ethos meetings in the meantime as the school focused on managing the impact of Covid.) The minutes were agreed.	
03.10.20	**Matters arising from the minutes** 03.03. 20 GQ What progress has been made with concerns expressed by Alison Locke about RE marking? Progress on this had come to a halt as Jo Weatherall had not been able to visit and the follow-up visit planned with Alison Locke had not been possible. Most children had not been in school anyway. Revd Francis will revisit this with Jo and arrange a visit. 06.02.20 The Prayer Week follow-up had been postponed until next January because of the current situation. 05.05.20 Mrs Bull had visited Beech assembly as planned and had been very impressed by the level of pupil involvement and interest. She has adjusted the form for worship and RE visits. 08.02.20 Revd Francis has found a suitable Foundation Governor who is willing to proceed. Approval of the PCC will be sought. 09.02.20 Revd Francis will check what Kids' Stuff are able to do at present. The HT reported that all classes would make a video of their Worship celebration which she hoped to put up on the school website. A harvest collection may still be possible at some point over the next two weeks. LWF – the link with pupils is to be kept alive via the creation of Christmas cards by children for our guests. If possible names will be supplied so the children are creating a card for an individual.	**PF** **PF and PCC** **SB**
04.10.20	**SIAMS action plan (version 1) – update by HT** A section of this had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting. The HT spoke about progress so far, indicating that the planning picked up points from the mid-cycle review and areas identified for focus. She had shared the C of E Spiritual Development document with Mrs Holmes who is leading work on spirituality. This is going well with a focus on Forest Schools and outdoor learning. The HT and KH went together to a course at Lydney on Mud, Mystery and Mess and KH has attended a couple more training sessions too.	

DRAFT

	A whole school spiritual policy is essential. The HT spoke of the importance of developing teachers' confidence to plan opportunities for spiritual development as part of the standard curriculum. Nurturing relationships is vital. The HT has established a children's community group and is keen that the children take ownership. This being very successfully coordinated by Kath Clarke, a TA and MDSA who has worked with all the classes except Ash who will be included later. So far the group has cleaned and reorganised the library and sorted out fruit for the infants. The aim is that children should contribute to the community, understanding that someone needs to take responsibility or change does not happen. The children have had opportunities in worship to talk about what they have done. A workshop, with the Revd Francis, will help to tie all of the work completed so far to the biblical text. Monitoring of worship will recommence with SB watching the ISing Pop worship this week and speaking to children later in the day via Zoom. She will focus on the impact of this worship on the children's thoughts and feelings and about how the children are feeling about what they are missing at present. GQ Can children represent others in their bubble so we get wider feedback? The HT spoke of the difficulties of the current restrictions with children unable to talk and play with those outside their bubble and missing the singing too. She explained that the school had learned to sign a song to say farewell to Year 6 at the end of last term. GQ Can more use be made of outside spaces to get round restrictions? The HT referred back to the Lydney course and the focus on outdoor experiences, eg gathering a range of leaves, as a way of encouraging reflection and spiritual development. Revd Francis spoke about the new Wild Worship initiative and the opportunity it offers to get whole families involved and build links with the village.	**PF and HT** **SB and HT**
05.10.20	**Development of reflection areas** The HT said she is looking for consistency and clear expectations of how they are used. Some pictures of outdoor reflection areas had been shared before the meeting. The HT spoke of the importance of using our outdoor spaces as opportunities for conversations. GQ What progress has been made with reflection areas in classes? The HT reported that 4 were very good and she shared photos of them. They had been used to support children back into school eg the use of a worry box, breathing activities. GQ How are children encouraged to engage with the spaces? The HT felt that this is an important area for development and that there need to be opportunities for the children to own the space. Revd Francis referred to examples supplied earlier by NE and spoke about the possibility of moving round activities and providing fresh stimuli. The HT pointed out that the whole school area was lost due to restrictions on movement and she is considering other possibilities, eg a trolley.	**HT, MS and staff**
06.10.20	**Establishment of Community Groups** The HT would like more interaction with the community eg pupils delivering *The Woodchester Word*, more regular involvement with the lunch club and more communication between the worshipping community and the school eg exchange of prayers.	

DRAFT

07.10.20	**Young Leaders KS1 and KS2 enrolment** Information about the scheme had been circulated to all governors before the meeting. The HT explained that the scheme is in its infancy in the school at present but that she has enrolled pupils using Sports Premium money as the scheme develops leadership skills and presents good personal development opportunities.	**HT**
08.10.20	**Developing wider links (global)?** The Revd Francis suggested making use of our mission partners in Peru via Zoom. He will speak to the Testers and explore the possibilities and timings which suit both countries. Lots of material on toilet twinning had been received NE. This initiative could be led by the school council or community group. Links with Andrew Pemberton's charity were also suggested. TP has lots of photos. Minchinhampton's link town, visited by worship leader Rod Harris was also mentioned as was the church's link with Frovi in Sweden. GQ Could children be encouraged to make personal links with letters and postcards?	**PF**
09.10.20	**RE update** Matt Smith took over RE last year to cover a maternity leave but will continue in the role. He has reviewed the plan from last year. The 2020 to 21 Action Plan was distributed before the meeting. The major area for improvement is establishing progression in the children's understanding. The HT said that they found the concepts in Understanding Christianity very challenging and that mixed age classes increased the challenge for staff. Key is finding ways to teach the concepts to meet the needs of all the children. The teaching of other faiths and spirituality also needs consideration. The HT acknowledged that there was a huge amount of work to be done here which will take more than one academic year. GQ Monitoring of RE teaching is now very difficult How can it be managed? The HT suggested waiting to see how SB's Zoom monitoring goes on 15th October. It was also suggested that we could look at a teacher's planning and learning objectives for a lesson and then speak to the children to establish the impact on them.	**HT and MS** **SB and all governors**
10.10.20	**Collective Worship** Revd Francis spoke about the difficulties of being interactive with Zoom when you cannot even see all of the children. He and the OTB team are already making use of more visual stimuli. The HT reported that she has to lead worship from her office for technical reasons and that while she lights the candle, she is aware that children cannot see it during the worship. The HT reported a successful adaptation of Celebration worship where children go to the front of their own bubble to receive certificates and receive applause. Revd Francis, Rod Harris and OtB were seen as very important constants and the HT spoke of reusing photos from Rod Harris' PP in reflection areas.	

DRAFT

11.10.20	**Governor involvement – how, where, when** Experimental monitoring of worship arranged for SB on 15th October, followed by Zoom conversation with children. If this works, it can be extended to other monitoring. Subject leaders should be contacted by link governors after half-term.	**All governors**
12.10.20	**AOB** EL asked what she could to help with development of the reflection areas and offered to provide photos from other schools. The HT said she was particularly interested in interactive activities.	**EL**
13.10.20	**Date of next meeting: 11th January at 9.45** A mini meeting between SH, PF and HT was suggested to discuss the focus week. **The Meeting closed at 11am**	

DRAFT

Signed as a true record …….

Dated ……