Woodchester Endowed Church of England (VA) Primary School

Our church school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be.

MINUTES OF ETHOS COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 24th January 2022 @ 7.00 PM
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PRESENT: Revd Sarah Haslam (Chair), Mrs Lynn Pennington (Head teacher), Revd Peter Francis, Mrs Sally Bull (Minutes), Mrs Helen Evans

Item no		Action
	The meeting began with a prayer from Revd Haslam	
01.01.22	**Apologies** – Natalie Elliott	
02.01.22	**Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th October 2021** Mrs Evans proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 5th October 2021 were accepted as a true record. This was seconded Revd Haslam. The Chair will sign the minutes at a later date.	**Chair**
03.01.22	**Matters arising:** 04.10.21 A Governor asked if there were still regular contributions to the ows, nows and wows wall. Mrs Pennington said they had faded somewhat and that opportunities to record and share were probably being missed. Another Governor asked about prompts or incentives eg appealing notelets. Mrs Pennington explained that speech bubble post-its were available. She will ask Mrs Holmes, who started the wall, if she has any more thoughts on keeping it alive. 04.10.21 Revd Haslam said that a request to use the church's mission budget would need to be tied to a particular project. 06.10.21 The staff meeting to look at strand 2 will happen later this term. 09.10.21 The Lion Storyteller Bibles were handed out at a worship led by Revd Haslam	**LP & KH**
04.01.22	**Bible Focus Week from 16th May -** Suggestions for unpicking and exploring the Bible text had been sent out by Revd Francis in advance of the meeting. Revd Haslam had sent out details of possible South African songs to introduce a world community dimension. Revd Francis had suggested an area for consideration for each day of the week with questions. During the discussion about what form the week should take, Revd Haslam proposed activities which enabled children to apply the teaching such as serving at the lunch club, baking for parents or as a fundraiser for the school. Mrs Bull will sound out lunch club leaders about the children's involvement.	**SB**

	Mrs Pennington explained that there is a now a problem with the dates agreed as the Young Voices competition has been moved to the Thursday of that week, taking out 40 pupils for a long and tiring day. She suggested it might be possible to ask if Bikeability could be moved form 23rd May. However, May 20 is the LWF date, meaning this week works if the children are going to be actively involved in a community activity. Mrs Pennington will discuss the possibilities, including the best date, at a staff meeting and the committee will pick up what comes out of that, possibly with another working party meeting.	**LP, Staff & Ethos Committee**
05.01.22	**RE Curriculum – Developments and Assessment** Mrs Pennington reminded Governors that the RE Lead is seconded to another school for two terms and that she has picked up this extra responsibility. There had been a hub meeting in October which the Lead did not attend but information had been sent out including SIAMS changes and the RE Award. Mrs Pennington said that Assessment appeared to have been removed from the revamped document but will check this with the Diocese. The RE Lead's Action Plan included a look at planning and assessment with end of unit assessment sheets linked to Understanding Christianity. Mrs Pennington will now decide priority areas. The other action point was to improve the quality of writing for RE. The teaching schedule has been revamped with a 2 year cycle so that content is age-appropriate. Understanding Christianity is not an easy resource to use. Mrs Pennington will share the planning document via email. Governors felt this to be a very positive development. Covid continues to restrict what is possible. Mrs Pennington would like visitors from other faiths, visits to other worship centres and a chance to get out into the community.	**LP**
06.01.22	**SIAMS –** Mrs Pennington reported that inspections were halted for a period so there now appears to be a backlog of about 2 years. Inspections are arranged centrally so the Diocese won't know when ours will happen. The SIAMS SEF is a huge document but Headteachers have been advised to aim for a summary running to 2 sides of A4 but the whole document remains very useful preparation and evidence when speaking to inspectors. At the hub teachers considered how they would answer some of the key questions. Some schools have shared questions asked round vision and RE and how they might respond which is very helpful. The next steps are for the Ethos Committee to look at the document together and for LP to look at it with the staff. She will attend the next hub meeting on 7th March. A Governor asked what else we can do to help to support LP. Could we attend the hub meeting? LP suggested a governor might join her for the next Illuminate meeting on 15th Feb between 1.30 and 2 on Teams.	**Ethos committee/LP** **Govs**
07.01.22	**Visits and Monitoring** Mrs Bull shared the draft of three-year plan for Governors, focusing on the section on Church School Identity. Revd Haslam suggested fleshing out the focus on community including inter-faith communities, the wider community	

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	and communication with the rest of the world to encourage our pupils to question and explore. **Visits -** Mrs Pennington reported the beginnings of a return to normality with some collapsing of bubbles and some helpers returning but recommended leaving it several more weeks before asking staff about meeting face to face and visiting lessons.	**SB**
08.01.22	**Spirituality Policy** – this is unfinished and will be revisited at our next meeting.	**KH/LP**
09.01.22	**AOB** Revd Haslam shared a WOW with an example of the values of the school (friendship) reflected in a pupil's work – evidence that spirituality runs through all that is done at the school. LP spoke of a WOW email, celebrating the children's fantastic achievements in response to the Young Leaders' programme. Revd Francis shared the PRAY acronym used by the Diocese. Revd Francis spoke about free Lent resources, including some for families, on an app which could be publicised with parents.	
	Dates of Next Meetings: **Curriculum, Standards & Comm** –26th April 2022 at 4pm **Ethos** –13th June 2022 at 7pm **Finance & Resources** – 25th March at 1.30 **FGB** – 7 February 2022 at 7.00 pm **Fundraising Working Party 1st March at 7.30** **The Meeting closed with the sharing of the Grace at 8.15 pm**	

Signed as a true record ……..

Dated ……

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