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
MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2022 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Revd Peter Francis (Chair), Mrs Lynn Pennington (Head teacher), Mrs Sally Bull, Mrs Helen Evans, Ms Becky Mullen, Ms Gemma Read

Item no		Action
01.06.22	The meeting began with a prayer from Revd Francis	
02.06.22	**Apologies** – Revd Sarah Haslam, Natalie Elliott	
03.06.22	**Welcome -** Revd Francis welcomed our new governors, Ms Gemma Read (LEA) and Ms Becky Mullen (Foundation), to the meeting and everyone spoke briefly about their role.	
04.06.22	**Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th January 22** Mrs Evans proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 24th January 2022 were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Mrs Pennington.	
05.06.22	**Matters arising:** 02.01.02 Mrs Bull said she had still to organise for minutes from the Covid period to be signed and filed in the school office. 03.01.22 – Mrs Pennington reported that the wall is being used and that Revd Haslam had ideas for developing its use further. 04.01.22 Mrs Bull had made preliminary inquiries of the LWF team which were well received but infection rates had made participation difficult at that stage. She will speak again to lunch club coordinators to see what sort of participation would be welcome. 06.01.22 The Illuminate meeting had been attended by the HT. Other items were covered by the agenda	**Chair**
06.06.22	**Bible Focus Week** **When?** It was agreed that the week beginning 3rd October worked well as Year R would be attending full time by then. Positioning the week at the beginning of the year means learning can be revisited as the year goes on. **Who?** A working party, consisting of Revds Haslam and Francis and the HT will work out the detail. A date of July 20th at 1.30pm was proposed. Revd Francis will check that Revd Haslam is available. Mrs Bull said she had come up with some preliminary ideas for shaping the week which she hoped would make it accessible to all age groups. She will email these to members of the working party.	**PF, SH and LP and staff** **SB**

07.06.22	**RE Subject Lead – the future** Following Mr Smith's 2 term secondment and subsequent resignation, a new subject lead will be needed. Governors expressed their gratitude to Mrs Pennington for taking this on in Mr Smith's absence. She explained that development of assessment in RE was part of a whole school development focus and that this will feed into actions for next year in the SDP. She spoke about the use of Insight for online tracking and the facility to manipulate data. She has set up a system to record results in units of work for RE but is aware that more work remains to be done. The NATRE site has brilliant resources and it will part of the SDP to purchase membership as staff need more support. This offers a subject leader toolkit too. Mrs Pennington is going on the Understanding Christianity course in June which will look at how to maximise resources. Revd Haslam's visits to lessons where she took questions about being a curate and vicar were very useful as were the communion and baptism activity where Revd Francis baptised a doll with children standing in as parents and godparents. Mrs Pennington mentioned that Debbie Helm offers an MOT for RE which is something we may consider.	**LP**
08.06.22	**SIAMS SEF** Mrs Pennington reported that she had been entirely clear about what was required for this document pre-Covid but changes to the SIAMS document had confused. She is booked to go on a diocese course on 30th June – Help My Siams is due!. LP will then report back on what governors can do to help. Mrs Bull will check to see if she is available to go with her. The HT reported a focus on courageous advocacy and said that our Young Leaders work fitted into this. Governors were reminded that Mrs Bull had sent out an updated version of her simplified SIAMS schedule but she too had found changes confusing.	**LP** **SB**
09.06.22	**Lions Storyteller Bible** Mrs Pennington explained that there had been a letter expressing concern from a Year R parent who objected to the violence in some of the stories, suggesting there was a safeguarding issue. She and Revd Haslam had met with the parent and explained the part played by Open the Book who do put the stories into context. There was discussion about the donation of the Bible to our youngest pupils and while governors appreciated concerns over elements of some stories, it was not felt to be in any way a safeguarding matter. The Headteacher has also spoken to Rod Harris who takes worship to make him aware of the concern. It was felt that Reception children could not read the Bible independently and that parents could choose which stories they considered suitable. Governors who are also parents were happy with the gift. Revd Francis and Mrs Pennington said there had been plenty of positive comments and thanks from parents over the years. It was felt that it would be useful to have Revd Haslam's input.	**SH**
10.06.22	**Visits and Monitoring** Mrs Bull reported that she had visited two worships, one a celebration worship in March, and the second the school's Easter service. Both were demonstrations of the school's vision in action. The celebration worship celebrated all aspects of children's lives, from the academic to music, sport and acts of kindness and support. Children are generous in their praise of each other and respectful as they	

	listen to the performances of others. The Easter service, the first in two years in the church, involved age-appropriate presentations by all year groups with a focus on Christian symbols and the significance of Easter while linking with more familiar aspects for many children – eggs, chocolate, chicks and rabbits. GQ What should be visit next? Mrs Pennington would like us to wait until modifications to RE teaching are in place and to organise visits then to confirm changes and progress.	**Ethos Govs**
11.06.22	**Spirituality** - Ows, wows and nows were explained for the benefit of new governors. Revd Haslam has ideas for moving this forward and making it more child-friendly.	**SH and LP**
12.-6.22	**AOB** Our new governor, Ms Mullen, inquired about making a visit to the school. It was explained that subjects will be allocated to governors in September. In the meantime it may be possible to arrange a visit to Worship so she can see the school in action.	**BM and LP**
10.10.21	**Suggested Dates of Next Meetings:** **Ethos** – Monday 11th October 2022 at 4pm? **Focus week working party:** July 20th at 1.30? **FGB** – Monday 12th September 2022 at 7pm	

Signed as a true record ……..

Dated ……