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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 23RD JANUARY 2023 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: Rev Sarah Haslam (Chair), Mrs Lynn Pennington (Head teacher), Mrs Sally Bull, Ms Becky Mullen, Mrs Alison Harris

Item no		Action
01.02.23	The meeting began with a prayer from Revd Haslam	
02.02.23	**Apologies** – Rev Peter Francis	
03.02.23	**Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 11 October 2022** Rev Haslam proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2022 were accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Alison Harris. Minutes to be signed by the chair and filed.	**SH/Chair**
04.02.23	**Matters arising:** **05.10.22 Minutes** - the Chair has not yet filled all gaps in the office file but all minutes are on the website. **LWF links** The choir sang to LWF at Christmas and SB has inquired of coordinators about how else the children might be involved. There was discussion of how the children could be given opportunities to talk to guests and it was suggested they might make the table decorations for the Easter meal, delivering them and talking to guests as they arrive. SB will talk to the coordinators. **06.10.22 Bible Focus Week follow-up**. Rev Francis reported after leading a recent worship that children had not made links to our vision Bible text as he had hoped, although they had shown good knowledge of a range of Bible stories. LP felt that had been confused by the use of the word stories in this context. **06.10.23 World Links** AH has asked her husband, heading out to Nkoto in Tanzania with the Minchinhampton-based charity if he could deliver something from our children. LP spoke about the Rotakids charity with which the school is now working. The project supports children and communities living on rubbish dumps in Indonesia. The collection of ring pulls feeds into the creation of a range of items, some of which were sold at the Christmas fair where the project was publicised with posters. The Rotary Club will return to work with the children. **06.10.22 Posada** - Rev Haslam and AH were thanked for this very successful initiative and the book, containing responses from children, the congregation and village residents was shared.	**Chair** **Chair** **LP/RE Lead**

05.02.22	**New SIAMS schedule** – advance warning Key differences between the old and the new were summarised by SB who has produced a summary which she will share. A very useful presentation, produced by the C of E, is available online too. There will be only two judgements in future. The school will be judged by 7 questions (an 7th as we are a VA School) , all linked to our theologically rooted Christian vision. Overall it looks much easier to understand than the previous version. This applies from September 2023 and will apply to us as we are not on the list of inspections for this academic year. LP spoke about a conscious move to address the monoculture context of the school through curriculum planning eg the choice of Mary Jensen. The Spirituality policy focuses on the whole curriculum. She stressed that key to preparing for SIAMS is ensuring we can evidence the impact and that opportunities must be there to do that – a chance for governors to be involved.	**Chair** **All Govs**
06.02.23	**Feedback from RE and Focus Visits and next steps** SB, RM and AH had all visited Worships, written up and shared their findings. SB had attended and written up the Subject Leader meeting between LP and Miss Smith (who may take on the RE subject lead once she is no longer an ECT). LP said she would like to build on the Tuesday class worship, giving it more of a common structure and ensuring it was more special, with children leading wherever possible. RM knew the worship she had attended was atypical and asked to attend another. LP explained the week worship pattern and invited her to come to a Friday Celebration worship. SB expressed a desire to attend an RE lesson which LP suggested she could organise with Claire Banks or Helen Latham.	**RM** **Chair/RE teachers**

07.02.23	**RE – exploring children's work in the light of SIAMS questions** LP pointed out that we need to find our own Woodchester answers to the questions. LP explained that Miss Smith is being prepared to take on the subject leadership which she has had take after Mr Smith's secondment and subsequent departure. She proposed a visit by Debbie Helm in the summer term for undertake an MOT for RE as a starting point for developments. LP shared a document from Willow's working wall which showed work on genre of the creation story. They will move on to look at the views of scientists who are also Christian. SB proposed getting in touch with a scientist and business woman in our congregation who will share her views on faith and science. She will liaise between LL and the possible visitor.	**LP/DH** **Chair**
08.02.23	**Bible Focus Week** - feedback on developments and follow-up activities LP pointed out that the Queen's death had meant the planned board in the hall had been taken by the children's responses and prayers. SH offered some follow-up before she departs for her next placement and will pass on her thoughts to Rev Francis. LP asked her to pick up on the sky diver image which had been successfully used to illustrate team work. Better engagement with the wider world community had been addressed in matters arising. AH inquired about the purpose of the school board in church and it was agreed that it is there to communicate some of the language used in school about spirituality and to share the range of experiences our children enjoy. It was suggested that we might ask children in the congregation and school to help with the display.	
09.02.23	**Bibles for Reception Class** – letter and timing SH explained the Bibles have book plates and are ready to go. RM will hand them out a celebration worship, perhaps 3rd February. The Bibles are in the vestry in the church. LP's accompanying letter was approved and she was thanked for writing it. .	**LP/RM**
10.02.23	**Spirituality Policy** – KH was thanked for this. Links to DH's training on the language of Spirituality were much in evidence as was the school's vision. The document reflected the embedding of the children's spiritual development in all aspects of school life. LP spoke about the floorbooks produced by our TAS DA and MB which are very much tied to the curriculum with spirituality shining forth. SB had been very impressed by the one she had seen. Rev Haslam suggested KH should attend an Ethos meeting . The policy was ratified, proposed by Sally Bull and seconded by Becky Mullen.	**LP/KH**

11.0223	**AOB** There was an inquiry about the source of a display stand which had appeared in church and was not required. It will be removed, possibly by AH's son.	
10.10.21	**Suggested Dates of Next Meetings:** **Ethos** – Monday 24th April 2023 at 6.30pm Chair to check date with Rev Francis	**SB**

Signed as a true record …….

Dated ……..……