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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 19th JUNE at 7pm

PRESENT: Mrs Alison Harris (Chair), Mrs Lynn Pennington (Head teacher), Mrs Sally Bull, Rev Peter Francis

Item no		Action
01.06.23	The meeting began with a prayer from Revd Francis	
02.06.23	**Apologies** – accepted from Becky Mullen and Rev Sarah Haslam who will be resigning from the governing body as she takes up a position as Rector for the Beacon Benefice.	
03.06.23	**Minutes of last meeting held on 23rd January 2023** were accepted as a true record, proposed Lynn Pennington, seconded Alison Harris. The minutes were signed by the Chair and will be filed by SB	**SB**
04.06.23	**Matters arising:** **04.01.23 LWF** GQ – has there been a discussion with LWF co-ordinators about developing the children's involvement? SB reported that she had had a discussion, suggested the Easter involvement but pressures on organisers' time meant this had not happened. Co-ordinators aren't clear on how the children's role could be developed further. There was discussion of what else the children could do. It was agreed that the serving stage is too frantic and busy and that something at coffee time was worth pursuing. A small group of children could bring something to talk about like a poem or piece of artwork. SB will supply LP with dates for the rest of the year to help her come up with suggestions and SB will speak again to the co-ordinators. Christmas involvement is certain with children singing and distributing cards and/or gifts which would enable them to talk to guests. SB is in co-ordinating this event so it will be easier to liaise with the school. **07.01.23 SIAMS preparation** Debbie Helm is visiting on 22nd June for an RE MOT. LP aims to involve both herself and the RE subject lead designate in the process. **08.01.23 Church Display Board** – AH inquired about the focus for the next display in church. LP suggested community – the children working with the Parish Council on the play area and football field and the planting of trees. LP will provide pictures. AH may inquire about a child helper to assemble the display. **08.01.23 Bible Text Focus** PF inquired about LP's reinforcement of the work done on this. She has used a sky diver image to convey the concept of a team. **04.01.23 World church links** PF suggested using the church's mission partners and pointed out that the family currently in Peru will return to the UK shortly. **10.01.23 Spirituality** GQ What work is being done to develop the children's	**LP/SB** **LP/AH**

	understanding? **LP** talked about the ongoing use of Ows, Wows and Nows, the display board, KH's whole school worship. LP has talked to DA re Forest School and the floor book is providing a record of special moments. LP shared the work she is doing on the website with a children's page building a record of special moments and feelings. This included the Eco Committee at work. Children will be encouraged to think and talk about their feelings at the next Rotakids and Eco Committee meetings.	
05.06.22	**New SIAMS** - a brief reminder The school is not on the list of school's to be inspected next year. GQ Should we talk to other school's about their experiences as the new inspections get underway? Sharing others' experiences will be possible in the course of next year. LP pointed out that preparation is now about a tight action plan, the SEF and gathering pupil voice about their experiences of worship and what they would like. Governors pointed out that they are always willing to help with pupil voice, something they enjoy and where they feel they can take a small thing from staff workload. LP will arrange discussion with her co-head about getting the children more involved in planning worship, possibly involving house captains. I Sing Pop have created a resource to support pupil involvement. LP wants to think carefully about how to make this happen. Picture News is used successfully for class worship on Tuesdays but LP wants some elements in place throughout eg the opening words and responses, the candle. SB suggested the new SIAMS should go on the FGB agenda for September as an area to be embraced by all governors. LP suggested booking a governor and co-head on next Diocesan support for SIAMS preparation.	**LP/LL** **All Govs** **LP/Gov**
06.06.23	**The RE Curriculum – what is taught and when** LP shared the curriculum map for RE which was adjusted some while ago to overcome the considerable challenges of mixed age classes. This syllabus should have finished in 2022 but is unlikely now to be replaced until 2024. LP pointed out that a parent's objection to RE focused simply on Christianity is easily disproved but the wide list of topics covered. A challenge with fitting in higher and lower attainment/concepts remains.	

07.06.23	**NATRE –** resources to support our RE Curriculum LP reported that she has purchased the higher tier of resources to provide support for our new subject leader. She shared the range of resources on offer. Governors agreed that Becky Mullen should be asked to be the Subject Link Governor for RE from September.	**RM/SB**
08.06.23	**Feedback from RE and Focus Visits and next steps** SB reported briefly on the Easter service which she has written up. It was a delightful occasion with the Christian story at the heart, delivered with a series of well-read Bible extracts. Each class participated with age-appropriate activities which acknowledged aspect of Easter – rabbits, eggs – more familiar to some children. There was strong parental attendance and parents were welcomed into the church with tea and coffee served by FOWES. **RE Visits** - staff absence has made organising visits difficult but it was agreed that we need a programme of visits to RE, possible 3 over the next 12 months. LP will ask HL about a visit to Beech or Juniper. There have been several write-ups of worship this year.	**LP/HL**
09.06.23	**Bibles for Reception Class** – parental concerns LP explained that another parent had expressed concerns about the violence in the Old Testament stories. It was felt that Open the Book story-telling happens with an encouragement to comment, to reject violence and to understand the context. LP had found the problem discussed on a Facebook group for Christian schools and another recommendation – *Thoughts to make your heart sing.* LP agreed to order a copy so that we could consider this as an alternative. .	**LP**
10.06.23	**Leavers' Gift from the PCC** SB reported that the church will be giving Year 6 leavers *The Diary of a Disciple,* each with a bookplate provided by our church calligrapher. The service is on 19th July at 9.30 and a Foundation governor will be present to hand the books over.	**SB/AH?**

11.06.23	**Recruitment of Foundation Governors** SB reported that she had sent an inquiry to the PCC meeting about whether they would support candidates who were not churchgoers, given that there are 100 Foundation Governor vacancies in the diocese and that one vacancy has been unfilled for at least a year. We now have 2 vacancies with a possible third on the horizon. PF reported that there had been some resistance to the idea of Foundation Governors who are not active Christians and that he wanted a final big push before we went down the route of accepting candidates who support our values but do not worship. There was discussion about the possible loss of a good candidate, the likelihood of anyone coming forward and the urgency of the situation. It was agreed to ask Becky Mullen to speak in Sunday's service about the rewards of being a school governor. SB urged a deadline for prospective governors to come forward. She pointed out that her own term expires in January. SB agreed to write a piece for What's on, highlighting the positives of the Governor Role and urging people to consider taking it on.	
12.0223	**AOB** – none The meeting finished at 8.45	
10.10.21	**Suggested Dates of Next Meetings:** To be arranged as part of next year's plan between LP and SB. It was agreed that Tuesday evening would be a better choice and that SB should see if the meetings could start a little earlier.	**SB/LP**

Signed as a true record …….

Dated ……..……