

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2023;  
COMMENCING AT 5.30 P.M. AT WHITESTONE INFANT SCHOOL, MAGYAR CRESCENT, NUNEATON,  
WARWICKSHIRE.

.....

Present : Mrs. N. Green, Mr. C. Atkins, Mr. M. Hartopp, Mr. P. Johnson, Mr. D. Robinson,  
Mrs. P. Jones, Mrs. F. Chadaway, Dr. S. Hill, Mr. S. Shaw, Mrs. R. Warwick and  
Mrs. E. Johnson.

In Attendance : Miss. J. Ivers (observer and Deputy Head) and Miss. G. Matt (Clerk).

In The Chair – Mr. D. Robinson (Vice-Chair).

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair, Mr. Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mrs. Johnson, the new Co-opted governor.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr. Stokes and Mrs. Burdett.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising.

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th September 2022 were read, agreed and signed by the chair.

ACTION Pay Policy. Action completed.

ACTION Governors suggested that Mr. Shaw, Pupil Premium governor monitors the situation of the online difficulties of access booking to use the vouchers. Action completed.

ACTION Mrs. Green to email governors with dates to look at the SEF in depth in preparation for Ofsted. SEF discussion (re away day) to be a standard agenda item at future meetings. Action completed.

3. Declaration of Interest.

Mr. Atkins declared an interest in items relating to Chetwynd Junior School and Etone College.

Mr. Johnson declared an interest in items relating to the Stockingford Academy, Nursery Hill Primary School and Trustee of Nuneaton Foodbank.

Mrs. Johnson declared an interest in items relating to the Central England Academy Trust.

4. Headteacher's Report.

Mrs. Green presented her report that had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Since September 2022, there has been much pupil movement and all the pupil vacancies are immediately filled.

Earlier this term one of the kitchen ovens briefly set alight. The cook smothered the fire with a fire blanket. The LA was informed about the incident. A new oven had been ordered under the property indemnity scheme.

Under the “Improving Energy Efficiency” scheme capital grant Whitestone has received £15,436.26. We have also received an Energy Sparks Grant of £495, to be used for monitoring energy usage; this plus the £15,436.26 will be used for the project concerning the installation of sixty sensors for lighting throughout all areas of the school. For which quotes have been received. LA purchase price is £11,495. Leaving a balance of £3,941.20 in the additional capital funding.

**ACTION After a discussion, governors agreed to the installation of the lighting sensors using the ring fenced capital from the two grants.**

Quote received for installation of solar panels was £60,000, too expensive.

**ACTION Governors agreed to a working party comprising of Mrs. Green, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Knox and Mr. Stokes to explore the installation of solar panels.**

The new Caretaker, Mr. Hurst has settled in well and has undertaken the LA training that has been signed off.

At the beginning of the Summer term, Mrs. Mistry returns from maternity leave three days (0.6) in class 6, job share with Mrs. Gage 0.4.

The new playground markings have been installed on the Year 1 & 2 playground.

Maths workshop for parents was held today. **Governors suggested the pre-recordings of workshops for parents who cannot attend school during the day time.**

**ACTION After a discussion, Mrs. Chadaway offered to meet with Mrs. Green regarding communications with parents via the “WhatsApp”.**

**ACTION After a discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Atkins (on behalf of the GB) would send a letter of appreciation to “The Friends of Whitestone”. Thanking them for their continued support in organising fund raising events and supporting the school throughout the academic year.**

A group of thirty pupils had attended a performance called “Heroes” by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, in Birmingham. All pupils enjoyed the experience that was aimed at KS1 pupils.

**ACTION Mrs. Green and Mr. Johnson to meet and complete the WCC annual Safeguarding Audit before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

All schools are experiencing lower attendance following Covid. At Whitestone the Pupil Premium attendance is lower than that of the whole school.

There have been no suspensions, PREVENT, homophobic cases and no physical restraints have taken place.

There has been one racist comment made by a pupil who did not understand the concept of racism. The parents were informed and a whole school assembly conducted regarding diversity and inclusion.

A parent stated that their child was being “bullied”, the case was dealt with. The situation in this class is being monitored.

No child protection plans in place, as 1 has just moved to a child in need case and there are 3 Early Help cases in progress.

Operation Encompass, two alerts concerning two families.

SEND, 4 EHCPs and 1 may progress to an EHCP in the future.

The LA is moving forward on investigating the feasibility of expansion of Whitestone from a three-form entry to a four-form entry school. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Mrs. Thornicroft (Educational Capital Coordinator) visited Whitestone and Chetwynd Junior School. School spaces are at a premium in Nuneaton and sustainability forecasts show that new schools are required plus five expansion projects.

The LA would attend a governor's meeting in the Summer term 2023 regarding architectural designs for the new build. Mrs. Green stated that at Whitestone we require the same standard of classroom build, wall space and size allocated as in the original build. There is an urgent requirement for extra storage space throughout the whole school.

**Governors held a discussion on the proposed school expansion plans.**

**Governors thanked Mrs. Green for her report.**

#### 5. Review monitoring activities to evaluate progress against LIP.

Mr. Atkins, Miss. Ivers and Mrs. Green undertook a Learning Walk observing writing in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2. Mr. Atkins commented upon the calm learning environment throughout the school.

Miss. Ivers is a Moderator for both Whitestone and the LA.

Art lead by Mrs. Obrey. Good quality of drawings and development confidence. SEN pupils art was prominent and the expectations were high, a great representation of these pupils.

The financial support given to Phonics has resulted in good pupil progress. Whitestone has invested finance in Covid catch up. When monitoring the RWI activities it indicated that pupils need to have the ability to read.

The school Library Bus will be relaunched for after school opening beyond the Easter holidays 2023; it would be open for fifteen minutes daily after school. Parents and pupils would be able to choose a book to read at home.

#### 6. Review any SSER updates.

Reception roller shutters require replacing when the ring-fenced capital grant is available.

**ACTION The governors agreed to the Reception roller shutters replacement when the capital grant is available.**

**Governors discussed the WES fees in detail. Whitestone pays into the WES scheme.**

Next financial year, server £7,500 to replace on to i-cloud and £1,200 one off migration fee. Increase in broadband costs via the LA. School staff absence insurance will move to a scheme recommended by the DFE, for lower costs.

At this point Dr. Hill left the meeting at 6.50 p.m.

Lettings Income and Recharge for accurate invoices needed, presently the recharge agreement is held by the LA, the landlord. Whitestone should also have access to this in order to keep accurate financial transactions.

FSM uptake 66%. UIFSM uptake for whole school is 65%. Parents could save £400, if all pupils have a FSM. Pupils not liking the present menu are encouraged to inform the School Council what they would like to eat. This is to be investigated.

**ACTION UIFSM 65% uptake to be investigated in order to increase the uptake.**

IDSR (Inspection DATA Summary Report) overall absence 2.9% was in the lowest 20% of all schools in 2018/2019. Persistence absence Autumn term 2020, 4.4% was in the lowest 20% of all schools. Overall absence, Mr. Johnson, Attendance governor undertakes a termly Attendance Report. With ongoing daily absence parents received support from the school regarding any issues that pupils have in regular attendance. Persistent absence for pupils in receipt of FSM, 55% was in the highest 20% of all schools in 2021/2022.

**Governors discussed the above absence data.**

At this point Mr. Atkins left the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

Mrs. Green stated that there is no longer an LA action line for support.

Non-attendance especially affects PP pupils when planned external interventions have been arranged in order to support their individual requirements.

Next term both Mrs. Green and Mrs. Knox are attending an Attendance course.

7. Start Annual Budget Review.

Mrs. Green talked governors through the Pupil Premium Impact of Spending which had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

**The governors held a focused discussion and agreed PP recommendations.**

WIS Pupil Premium Impact of Spending – Report to Governors March 2023.

Number of pupils in school 268. Proportion of Premium Pupils 15%.

Service = 1. CIC = 2. Post = 3. FSM = 35.

Learning For All. Celebrating SEND provision and inclusion at Whitestone. Copy with original minutes.

Raising Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY). Copy with original minutes.

Mrs. Mathieson is trained to run the Lego Club.

**Governor asked the impact of music tuition.** Mrs. Green replied that music enriches everyone and that pupils undertake many skills when they play an instrument.

PP profiles are reviewed once a year. This highlights the areas in which given the opportunity pupils can become successful.

At this point Mrs. Chadaway left the meeting at 7.20 p.m.

#### 8. Attendance Report.

Attendance Report compiled by Mr. Johnson, Attendance governor had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Along with many schools our current attendance level is below target, a number of special factors at this time of year. Good tracking in place on a daily basis providing good quality reporting which means that absences can be followed up immediately.

Meetings held with parents where required, some are hard to reach. Link between absence and poor progress being highlighted for some pupils which does get parental attention. Parenting support being provided if needed and wanted. A range of improvement strategies being used and training and networking opportunities accessed.

Safer recruitment training is up to date for staff and Mrs. Green & Miss Ivers will be attending a refresher course next month. Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Knox did a workshop on SCR completion in January. We are confident that our SCR meets requirements, all legal requirements are met and the document is Ofsted compliant.

#### 9. Policies.

There were no policies to review.

#### 10. Governor Vacancies.

There are no governor vacancies.

#### 11. Governor Training/Visits.

Governor Day on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - Visit Report had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Mr. Hartopp – Observed interventions where groups were concentrating. Enquired who support the interventions. Mrs. Green replied that the TAs are highly trained to meet the needs of pupils.

Mr. Johnson – Observed RWI interventions, good at all levels. 1:1 Reading interventions impact of complex pupils needs. Saw some examples of difficult behaviour and staff knew exactly how to address the situation and how to keep the noise levels down. Difficulties at home reflect pupil's energy in the classroom.

Mrs. Warwick – Difficult to get the right noise level due to pupil's ages. Observed a pupil with EAL, but they understood the story through pictures.

Mr. Robinson – Observed 1:1 interventions. Good to observe the class flow from Year 1 to Year 2. Pupils understood what to do when teachers did hand signals.

Governors thanked staff for welcoming them into Whitestone to observe a normal school day first hand. It was a structured day and that they had time to wander around the school observing many different situations.

12. Any Other Business.

The Clerk as emailed the Governors Information from the L.A.

13. Dates of next meetings.

FRSC – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Governing Body – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023; from 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m.

Performance and Standards – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

Pay Committee – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

FRSC – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25p.m.

Date ..... Signed .....

(Chair)