

# The Coastal Federation Governing Body

Bacton Primary, Mundesley Infant (SRB) and Junior Schools



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## **(Extraordinary) Meeting of Full Governing Body**

Thursday 21 May 2020 at 6.00pm via Google Meet  
(during 'lockdown' due to Kovid-19)

***Governors' questions/comments/actions are in bold and italics.***

Present: Kevin Cheetham (Chair), Simon Wakeman (Executive Head), Steve Lunniss, Jennie Rooke, Annie Edwards, Helen Peck, Emie Croft, Abi Howett, David Hopkins (Associate Governor), Jenny Goodman (Associate Governor), Gill Leah (Clerk).

### **1. Consideration of Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had not been received from Ed Maxfield and Jeremiah Williamson (he sent an email saying that he had not received any communications about the meeting until too late). Apologies were received from Jen Tupper, Alix Mann, Rev Andrew Jones and Julie Watts, who for technical reasons could not take part in the meeting. (She sent an email giving her views on agenda item 3, supporting the Governors' decision not to admit Reception children on 2nd June.)

It was noted that the meeting had been called at very short notice and Governors were thanked for their attendance.

### **2. Declaration of Business Interest / Conflict of Interest**

None.

### **3. Consideration of whether to admit reception children to school on 2nd June**

The following document had been available on Governor Hub prior to the meeting for Governors' consideration: "Impact of Reopening to the Federation's Reception children". A precis of the report was provided explaining that one of the main principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage was to provide a multi-sensory curriculum and to integrate children socially. Children and staff were used to a close and trusting relationship which could not continue with social distancing regulations in place. Staff therefore feared a long-term impact on the children's development through the change in interaction and lack of consistency; they might well have different adults responsible for them. After a 11 week period off school, they might find it very difficult to return to school.

**Does this not also apply to Year 1s?** This was not so much of a problem with Year 1 children who have been at school for over a year, are used to reduced interaction with adults and are far more used to working separately at tables; in addition, they have been working in a class with Year 2s.

It was hoped that by September the situation would be different and at that point a special plan would be put in place for the Reception children on their entry into Year 1.

**Governors voted unanimously that Reception children should not be admitted to school on 2nd June.**

#### **4. Approval of plans for wider opening of Federation schools on 2nd June**

The Executive Head explained that the preparations for school reopening had been made. However, the Governing Body was responsible for determining whether the school is safe and whether it is appropriate that it should open.

The following documents had been available on Governor Hub prior to the meeting for Governors' consideration: Parent Leaflet "Returning to School", FAQ, Staff Booklet "Returning to School".

He explained that any child returning to school would receive as much nurturing as was possible according to their needs, while following the guidelines as carefully as possible.

**What arrangements have High Schools made for transition for Year 6s?** The children in the Federation go to a variety of different high schools. Some have made 'virtual' arrangements, e.g. meeting their teacher online, and others have not.

**How do staff feel?** Teachers came into school on Tuesday and a meeting was held with all staff today. A lot of anxiety was expressed, which will hopefully decrease as staff become more accustomed to the different classroom layouts, arrangements, etc. Some people have been shielding and they will be even more anxious. In some cases there may be a phased return to work.

It was noted that Fed School for vulnerable children and children of key workers, including Reception children, would still be open.

**Governors voted to approve the plans to open the schools to Years 1 and 6 on 2nd June.**

#### **5. Any other business**

As the Chair had lost internet connection, the Vice Chair on behalf of the Governors thanked the Executive Head, the rest of the Senior Leadership Team for managing a very challenging time. He asked the Executive Head to pass on Governors' gratitude to all the staff of the schools. [This was reiterated in a subsequent email from the Chair.]

A Governor said the amount of information going out to parents was laudable as was the planning of home education for the children by the teaching staff.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.