



**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the FGB held on 27th May 2020 at 2pm
by video conference**

Present: Ms J Hudson (Chair), Ms T Clarke (Headteacher), Dr A Pawley, Mr D Allen, Mr B Twist, Mr G Whitmore, Ms F Moxon

In Attendance: Ms D Waters (SBM)
Ms B Kybett (Governance Advisor, CYC - Clerk)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting,

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Snowden and Ms A Last. Ms C Johnson was absent without consent.

There were no new declarations of interest.

2. HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF RISK ASSESSMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR WIDER RE-OPENING OF THE SCHOOL

Previously distributed.

The Chair reminded governors of the purpose of the meeting which was to consider the plans for opening the school to a wider group of pupils and the associated risk assessments. She observed that as another government announcement on the re-opening of schools was scheduled for 28th May, there may yet be changes to the guidance. It was noted that the LA had signalled its intention to permit its schools to re-open from Tuesday 2nd June.

The Headteacher referred governors to the previously distributed risk assessment, noting that the school's plans to re-open would not be open to challenge if the risk assessment was robust, and it was for governors to make the final decision on whether the risk assessment was fit for purpose, taking into account that the medical evidence for re-opening remained uncertain and that re-opening could not be considered completely risk free. The Headteacher advised that the LA was also scrutinising the risk assessment. The school had made every adjustment possible to keep pupils and staff safe and the process would inform re-opening to further cohorts of pupils in September.

The Headteacher guided governors through the risk assessment line by line, providing further details where appropriate, and invited questions and comments. She advised that numbers of EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 children returning would be small at first, but were likely to increase as parents' confidence grew. She reminded governors that the school's experience of caring for the children of key workers and vulnerable children had already given staff confidence that the systems worked.

The Headteacher explained that there would be some staffing changes to manage the system of smaller groups or "bubbles" into which children would be allocated. Children and staff in each "bubble" would not interact with any others.

The Headteacher continued through the risk assessment and responded to the following questions:

Q: Will children in EYFS be expected to play on their own?

A: It is understood that the very youngest children are likely to play together. Adults will assist as appropriate if children are hurt and will use PPE equipment where necessary. There is a clear rationale behind re-introducing the youngest children first but governors could challenge this.

Q: Will wraparound care operate?

A: The school has never offered wraparound care and Funfishers will remain closed.

Q: Will children be allowed to use the water fountains?

A: Water fountains will be used to fill water bottles which will be brought in by the children and kept in school.

Q: Will the school be invoiced for extra costs, for example, for cleaning?

A: Yes but these are being logged and can be reclaimed.

Q: Can anything be done to mitigate the effects of extra handwashing for children with sensitive skin?

A: The children will wash their hands frequently with soap which can be harsh on skin but parents could send their child with appropriate hand cream.

Q: Will the sandpit be used in EYFS? There is evidence that sand can harbour the virus.

A: The sandpit will be kept closed.

Moving to the Staffing section of the risk assessment, the Headteacher reported that the government guidance around which staff would continue to stay at home had changed. However, as there was currently capacity in the number of staff available to come into school, there would be no need for staff previously deemed "clinically vulnerable" to come into school. She added that the LA were working with HR on identifying which staff should be available to come into school, if needed.

A governor noted that singing had been identified as a high risk activity due to the levels of aspiration. The Headteacher responded that singing would be prohibited on this basis.

Governors spent some time discussing the issues raised in the section entitled "Site user becoming unwell". It was agreed that any decisions would be informed by the latest guidance from Public Health England and the procedures would be kept under review. There was further discussion around if and how the school would be advised if a child or parent tested positive for COVID-19.

Action: the Headteacher agreed to seek clarification from the LA on the procedure for receiving a report of a positive COVID-19 test.

The Headteacher referred to the overall risk level at the end of the paper, noting that the risk had been mitigated as far as possible and was judged to be medium, based on the likelihood being possible and the impact, major.

Action: the Headteacher agreed add a note to the relevant cell in the “potential outcome” table, to indicate the risk level.

The Chair thanked the Headteacher and the SLT for their work in completing the comprehensive risk assessment.

It was noted that no midday supervisors would be returning to work; each teacher would work with a TA to allow for breaks while the children ate their lunch.

In response to a query, the Headteacher advised that she had completed separate risk assessments for children with SEND and had already added an annex to the Safeguarding Policy referring to the COVID-19 emergency.

The Headteacher confirmed that she had followed the relevant DfE guidance on the re-opening of the school to EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils.

Resolved: After due scrutiny of the risk assessment, governors approved the preparations made by the Headteacher and staff for the re-opening of Fishergate Primary School from Tuesday 2nd June 2020 to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, noting that the final decision on re-opening would be in line with, and subject to, guidance from the DfE and the Local Authority.

Governors agreed to meet again on Friday 19th June 2020 to review the risk assessment.

A governor asked if the risk assessment would be sent to parents. The Headteacher responded that she had no plans to do so. She commented that she had made clear in communications to parents that the return to school could not be regarded as risk free.

Governors thanked the Headteacher for her leadership during the emergency and wished to record their thanks to the whole staff for their continued efforts in challenging circumstances.

3. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business.

4. DATE OF NEXT LGB MEETING

- Friday 19th June – time to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Approved

Ms J Hudson
Chair

19/06/2020

Date

Action Points from the extraordinary meeting of the Full Governing Body held on 27th May 2020

Action		Item	Who	When
1	Seek clarification from the LA on the procedures for receiving reports of a positive COVID-19 test	2	HT	ASAP
2	Add a note to the relevant cell in the “potential outcome” table, to indicate the risk level	2	HT	ASAP

APPROVED