

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FOREST ALLIANCE OF NURSERY SCHOOLS (FANS FOR THE CHURCH HILL AND LOW HALL NURSERY SCHOOLS) GOVERNING BODY HELD ON 25 APRIL 2024 AT 5PM VIRTUALLY

Present: Sally Davey (Chair)-Co-opted Governor
 Helen Currie-Head Teacher Governor
 Lindsay Read-Staff Governor

Clerk: Caroline Russell

Summary of agreements and actions:

Minute reference	Formal agreements and/or actions identified	Named person(s) for action(s) identified	Completion date
6	Disability Link Governor: HC/SD to liaise re dates.	HC/SD	May 2024
12	Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday 20 June 2024-5pm-Virtual.	All to note. School/Governor Services to action.	20-06-2024

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** All were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Aalia Chaudhary and Abrar Malik.
2. **NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS/CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS:** There was none.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.
4. **MINUTES**
 - 4.1. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 09 November 2023: Governors received these and agreed them to be an accurate record of the meeting, considered signed for retention by the School and Governor Services.
 - 4.2. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising not considered elsewhere on the agenda.
5. **POLICIES:**
 - 5.1. Policy Review: These have been reviewed by SD and are considered to be clear, accessible and family friendly ('we do our best to', articulation of and reference to curriculum goals and the 5 Pillars of Well-Being).
 - 5.2. Behaviour Policy: The need for punctuality has been added, deletion of references to COVID and consistent references to Toolkit.
 - 5.3. Equalities Policy: This includes references to social activities for parents and staff well-being.
 - 5.4. Schedule of Policies Signed and Ratified by the Governing Body: -Safeguarding Statement.

- Teaching and Learning Policy.
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy.
- Getting Along Together.
- Behaviour Policy.
- Equalities Objectives 2023-2026.
- Behaviour Principles Statement.
- Church Hill Nursery School Special Educational Needs and Disability Report.
- Low Hall Nursery School Special Educational Needs and Disability Report.
- Attendance Policy.
- Food Policy.
- Communications Policy.
- Private Fostering Policy.
- Intimate Care Policy.

5.5. Food Policy: This is unchanged with links given to NHS guidelines re diet. At LHNS there has been a move from school dinners to packed lunches (not cost-effective) so before and after school and lunchtime staffing at LHNS is being reviewed.

6. REPORT FROM SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY LINK GOVERNOR (SD):

6.1. A visit will be done this term prior to 15/05/2024 GB meeting and Equalities Kitemark accreditation.

ACTION: HC/SD to liaise re dates.

6.2. SD noted that the learning walk attended by the School Improvement Partner went well with the CHNS pm session particularly commended. Cooking and shared practice on both sites were seen but with particular challenges re LHNS which is not currently full for September but, on past experience, is expected to be.

6.3. 16 children are on the Early Years' Pupil Premium register at CHNS.
29 children are on the Early Years' Pupil Premium register at LHNS.
This is a very high number reflecting early childhood experiences during COVID but with high quality interactions seen at both schools.

6.4. LHNS finances are very challenging with support from CHNS continuing to be needed.

7. PARENTS' CHARTER IN PRACTICE:

7.1. This has been updated to reflect the need for parents to speak to each other and staff respectfully. Good relationships are maintained with families including re punctuality, Health and Safety and promotion of school readiness.

8. CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

8.1. Teaching and Assessment and Learning Matters: Analysis on Governor Hub has been shared with staff terms to progress this team including re communication and language, physical and social development and understanding of the world. The curriculum includes 'artist of the month' incorporating contemporary artists and artists with disabilities. There is regular Forest School provision, a minimum of 1 educational visit per annum for all children with 2 for pupil premium funded children.

8.2. Parents' Charter: Equalities Objectives are being revised and shared with families e.g. Be Active disco, 1st Date celebration at LHNS, music therapy at LHNS, family learning sessions for targeted families re learning at home and school readiness activities.

- 8.3. Development of Garden Areas at Both Schools:
Low Hall Nursery School: £9,000 funding has been received from the Royal Horticultural Society for development of the garden.
Church Hill Nursery School: An onsite Forest School garden is being developed. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds resources have been purchased re bird song.
- 8.4. Special Educational Needs and Disability Report: This is on the federation website with 20% and 28% of children having Education and Health Care plans at CHNS and LHNS respectively.
- 8.5. Admissions: LHNS is full for the summer term with 51/70 places filled for the autumn term. LHNS could take more 2 year olds to include provision for breakfast, lunch and after school club.
- 8.6. Transitions: School places have been allocated with deferrals at LHNS as special school places are needed.
- 8.7. Attendance: This has been reviewed (LHNS 84%, CHNS 88%, primary school target usually 96%). Attendance is reviewed with parents and noted on IQM assessments. However, attendance is difficult to monitor given staggered starts throughout the year so measured on possible attendance and is not statutory. The Schools have a high proportion of children with special educational needs and disability, attachment and speech and language delay issues.
- 8.8. Children's Outcomes: Overview analysis noted.
- 8.9. Children's Voice and Tales Toolkit: Noted.
- 8.10. Children's Behaviour, Well-Being and Involvement: SD will review this in her planned learning walk.
9. **SAFEGUARDING MATTERS:** HC reported that there is no social worker involvement at present. There has been some support from Early Help but no children currently have Child Protection or Child in Need status. There have been fewer safeguarding issues recently but with hours reduced for 1 child to 15 on advice and support from the LADO and LA. However, allocation of a primary place is of concern.
10. **DIFFERENT BUT EQUAL:** Equal objectives have been reviewed.
11. **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT:**
- 11.1. Educational Leadership Matters for 2 Year Old Provision and 30 Hour Changes: 15 hours Universal Early Educational Entitlement provision has been offered to 7 families at both schools. Some fee income is received at both schools but there are financial implications re the inadequacy of delegated funding especially at Church Hill Nursery School which is in an area where there are private sector alternatives. £9 per hour is needed to break even. Advice has been taken from Roland Hill Nursery which is on a larger site offering baby rooms. It is hoped to offer joint training.
- 11.2. Leading on Resources Development and Curriculum Related Changes: The federation has supported B***** Primary School re learning environment and INSET with the FANS curriculum to be implemented with effect from 01/09/2024. Sale of the FANS curriculum has been agreed to Stoneydown Park Primary School

with curriculum goals written for each area for review in 2025.

- 11.3. Early Education Networks and Organisations: LR noted involvement on work on an Early Years conversation projects to develop interactions for 2 year olds in 2 settings in LBR and LBWF. This is a paid research project (Educational Endowment Foundation) with payment to be used for resource purchase by the Federation.
- 11.4. Book Look: This is planned with a focus on resourcing and School Development Plan objectives. Assessment of Early Years practitioners is being reviewed with staff meeting formats revised e.g. watch a podcast and peer review to develop a selected area for reflective development. Supervision arrangements are also under review.
12. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**: Thursday 20 June 2024-5pm-Virtual.
13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**:
 - 13.1. Oral Hygiene: Advice to parents will be given re oral hygiene and general health education matters.
The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.