

# **BANKS LANE JUNIOR GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

## **SPRING TERM 2021**

Date: 28 January 2021  
Time: 4.30pm  
Venue: Zoom call

### **GOVERNORS PRESENT**

Mrs J Graham (Chair), Mr J Vali, Mrs A Power, Mrs A Boulderstone, Mrs J Patel, Mr D Bennett, Mr M McDermott, Mr P Thomas, Mrs E Battersby, Ms J Sturch, Mr A Bassett, Mr E Milner (Headteacher)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr A Lane Governor Support Officer

#### 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs K Pixton and Mr T Ellison.

#### 2. **MONITORING REPORT**

The report had been considered in detail the previous week by the Monitoring committee. It had been circulated previously to governors and comments/questions had been invited. The Headteacher explained that it had been formulated prior to Christmas but it had been necessarily changed by central government decisions. The focus on remote learning had overtaken the action plans. Governors felt that there would be value in an extra column in the report which denoted mitigating circumstances.

#### 3. **COVID REPORT**

Numbers on roll were rising, with the roll figure currently 101. There had been 88 pupils in today. Although 6 pupils were self-isolating, no bubbles had had to be shut. All EHCP and LAC children were in. The school was currently operating at 28% capacity. There were 8 classes and it had been agreed with teachers that there would be a maximum of 15 children to every class. Year 3 was currently the fullest, followed by Year 5.

To support the children, especially the vulnerable ones, the School had set up a google drive database which detailed a break-down of additional support for relevant children. All teachers were able to access this and the data contained in it was updated every Tuesday. The school had, to date, contacted every child to ensure that they had access to the curriculum and were able to engage with their learning. All pupils were colour-coded to flag up any pockets of concern which would then be addressed.

The school had moved away from the provision of food parcels to a voucher system.

A significant amount of team work had gone into the arrangements for the remote learning provision for the children. Every child had access to the Google classroom. Each child was provided with a timetable and a video for the day's activities. There was a menu of curriculum lessons for the child to access. The Headteacher stressed that in the current climate the school was mindful of safeguarding every child's wellbeing and would not compromise this at the expense of academic demands. Parent-governors and governors with children at the school were asked for their feedback on the school's provision; the following comments were made:

- The provision was commended.
- Their child's love of the Spanish interactive classes was cited.

- There had been teething problems with the marking. More than one governor praised the staff for instant re-marking and solutions to problems which allowed for pupil feedback. The work of all staff in school was commended by governors..
- Very impressed with the facility for children to “dip into” classes.
- It was key that solutions to problems were SMART and not time-intensive.
- The structure set up by teachers had been very useful and teachers were accessible to parents.

The Headteacher expressed his appreciation for this feedback.

The Headteacher had delivered three briefings on the lateral flow testing. A total of 37 staff members had tested negative. It was intended to have twice-weekly collection points on Monday and Thursday, both at 7.30am.

***What was the % change in pupils not engaging over the weeks ?*** This fluctuated and was attributable to access problems. The school had recently given out 15 I-Pads and a number of laptops. A rate of 90% of children had confirmed access to Google classroom or Google Meets.

***Had the school started to give thought to catch-up programmes for full school return ?*** Not yet, but it had carried out a data collection exercise following Years 5 and 6 pupil progress meetings. This would also be carried out for Years 3 and 4 before a full return.

***Did the Headteacher expect a full return on 8 March as implied by recent government announcements ?*** This was deemed doubtful, especially so close to the end of term break-up.

***Would the SATS be going ahead ?*** These had been ruled out a month ago.

***Would the residentials also not be going ahead ?*** These were now cancelled. Governors expressed regret at this and expressed sympathy especially to Year 6 children who were hardest hit.

#### 4. KCSIE CONSULTATION

The Deputy Headteacher informed the meeting that consultation was open on this until the beginning of March and invited governors to respond to the LA’s briefing paper – **ACTION 1**

#### 5. EU-BASED APPLICANTS’ SCREENING

The Deputy Headteacher informed the meeting that the school would no longer be able to carry out DBS checks on candidates from EU nations and that, currently, there was no guidance for schools on how these could be carried out. Due to the current circumstances, this was not a problem for the school, but this could become an issue more long-term.

#### 6. AOB

Following discussion between the Headteacher and Chair of Governors, It was recommended that, with effect from the start of the summer term, the two main governing board meetings would be reversed with the LA business to be covered now at the first termly meeting; this was agreed by the governing board.

The Headteacher invited Mr Thomas, Health and Safety governor, into school to carry out a Covid safety walk/inspection.

Both the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher recorded their appreciation of the ongoing support from governors; in turn, governors asked that their appreciation of the dedication and commitment of staff be fed back to all staff. The Headteacher undertook to do this – **ACTION 2**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 5.36pm.

<b>ACTION POINT</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>ACTION FOR</b>	<b>ACTION TIMEFRAME</b>
1	Respond to KCSIE consultation	Governors	Post-meeting
2	Convey governors' appreciation to staff	Headteacher	Post-meeting