



Gillespie Primary School Safeguarding Governors Committee

Attendees: Bhavini Doyle, Mark Owen, Claire Bolderson, Ashley Smith, Dan Hamilton

Apologies:

Time & Date: 18.15 Monday 22nd November 2021

Minutes

1. Policies for review

Governor Statement of Behaviour Principles: Requires a change of wording at the end to reflect the fact it has been *reviewed* by this committee and will be put to the FGB to be *approved* 2nd March 2022.

Volunteer policy: Discussion about whether “one-off” volunteers are always parents and if not, whether they too should be obliged to agree to the policy. Mark confirmed that to date, one-off volunteers have been family members. It was resolved to leave the wording as is and the policy was *approved*.

Governors sought more detail of the nature of the “confidentiality contract” (p.3) and the extent to which it is binding. Dan will look into it and adjust the wording accordingly. The policy was *approved* subject to above clarification.

Health and Safety Policy: Discussion as to whether there should be a line in the policy referring to the Covid Risk Assessment. This was agreed and the policy *approved*.

Data protection policy: Questions were raised as to whether the policy references the correct legislation given post-Brexit changes. Ashley will check and adjust as necessary. The policy was *approved* subject to any such clarification.

2. Update on any Covid related issues/Risk assessment changes

Mark informed governors that as of 22nd Nov, 29 pupils have tested positive for Covid this term. Advice has been sought regularly from Local Authority Public Health. As a result, Year 5 were restricted to a class bubble for 10 days. Year 2 are currently in a bubble which has had to be extended for a further 10 days because cases continue to arise.



Two adults tested positive this term.

The Risk Assessment is being updated to cover school concerts and other end of term activities. It will be sent to Claire and Ashley for review Friday 26th November.

3. Annual Safeguarding report to governors

This is a working document to be approved at the FGB Spring 2022

Discussion on clarity of the information and the best way of presenting the data. Currently it is not clear whether some LAC and CIN are being counted twice. Mark will confirm numbers in each category with the SENCO and adjust the tables accordingly. He will look at improving the presentation for additional clarity, though the LA template does not allow for much flexibility

Discussion about the extent to which children know who to talk to about safeguarding concerns, and whether they feel confident in doing so. Pupils are to be surveyed as part of the wider wellbeing programme. Questions that illuminate attitudes to safeguarding issues will be included.

Bhavini will liaise with Mark over specific questions that might tease out which adults children feel most comfortable talking to.

4. Health and safety update including any incidents reported on IRIS (on –line reporting system to the Health and safety executive)

Bhavini – has done the induction and did a Health and Safety visit to school with Mark and Pete. Discussion around whether to expect a Health and Safety audit – the last one was in 2017. Bhavini reviewed various checks, presented by Pete. All seemed to be in order and had been done on time. Discussion around a lightning cable/conductor that needs to be fixed that will need to be progressed. May be worth progressing other work on the library roof at the same time.

Smaller issues include a need for new gym mats and dinner tables, and the poor state of the raised beds. Mark will approach FOG for possible funding.

Bhavini was impressed by Pete’s very thorough knowledge of Health and Safety matters and his understanding of the school’s needs.

There had been three reports to IRIS.

A Child’s tooth had been chipped

A child broke their arm while swinging on a metal bar in the playground.

A child broke their finger playing football.

All incidents were recorded as “horse play” (official designation) on the



system. No further action.

5. Peer on peer abuse and sexual harassment

Discussion about the recent Ofsted report on sexual harassment following revelations from several schools. The LA is doing a lot of work on this and Mark has completed their survey. The LA will produce guidance next term.

While the focus has understandably been on secondary schools, Governors agreed that Gillespie needs to think about how to address the subject in a primary school context. Mark has begun by raising the profile of peer on peer abuse/harassment by including it in relevant policies and through discussions with staff.

It was suggested that, rather than rush to make new policies (as some schools have) explicitly addressing peer on peer abuse, the subject should be treated as part of general behaviour policies and principles and within the context of the RSE. Curriculum. It was felt that the culture of respect for diversity strongly encouraged at Gillespie provided avenues for developing conversations around this kind of harassment in a sensitive, non-explicit way.

It's an important issue and further discussions will be had with Governors as thinking in the school and the LA evolves.

6. AOB. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.30