

BOARD of GOVERNORS

MAY 2024

Together we aim for the stars

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors for Victoria School on **Tuesday 14th May**

Members Present

Miss Christine O'Callaghan, Chairperson

Mr David Adams

Mr Alistair Davey

Mrs Sam Davies

Mrs Beth Hales

Mrs Laura Halliwell

Mr Simon Husband

Mrs Judith Jones

Mrs Cerys McDonald

Miss Jeanette Minns

Mrs Helen Moreton

Ms Julie Plumb

Dr Rhiannon Slade

Apologies

Cllr. Rhiannon Birch

Mr Marc Cahill

Mrs Rebecca Connor

Mr Peter Hall

Mr Mark Petherick

Cllr. Mark Wilson

Apologies were given and accepted by Governors.

Presentation from VPS Diversity Group

The governors were pleased to welcome the members of the VPS Diversity Group which comprises pupils from YR3-YR6.

The children gave an insightful presentation to the governors, sharing their Action Plan, Pledge and Assembly Plans.

Their action Plan was to:

- Create a pledge to express their commitment to diversity and inclusion
- Review assembly plans to ensure that they are inclusive and diverse
- Create a welcome video which demonstrates their commitment to anti-racism, diversity and inclusion
- Complete an audit of resources and displays around the school
- Create a display in the library that promotes books reflecting diversity and inclusion
- Ensure that curriculum opportunities, assemblies and resources provide information about the Muslim faith

The children stated that it was important that every child was reflected and knew that they belonged to the VPS community.

The pledge was read to the GB:

'We share a commitment to fight racism, prejudice and discrimination, of all types, within our school and the community we serve. We pledge to use our collective voices and actions to help create a world that is inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible for all. We will not ignore our differences, but rather embrace and celebrate the strength and power that our diversity brings.'

The GB were informed that the whole school community were aware of the pledge.

The children shared that some of them had led assemblies where they were able to celebrate their differences and reflect the diverse make-up of the school community.

Furthermore, they had taken the opportunity to raise awareness of various issues e.g. allergy awareness. The GB were informed that the children had planned an allergy awareness day where pupils and staff were invited to wear yellow, donations received would be used to purchase an anaphylactic kit.

A welcome video had been made for the school website which demonstrated their commitment to anti-racism, diversity and inclusion.

In addition to this the group had undertaken an audit of resources and displays around the school, which resulted in various resources being purchased.

A display in the library had been created, promoting books that are diverse and inclusive.

Information regarding the Muslim faith had been shared in assemblies

The governors were impressed with their clear presentation and posed several questions. They wondered whose idea it was to set up the group, the children responded that Mrs Davies had suggested it. The GB also asked if their ideas had worked, they responded enthusiastically that 'people were kinder and nicer'.

The children informed governors that they met approximately every 2 weeks, they enjoyed meeting, they all agreed that they felt part of the VPS community.

On behalf of all the governors, **BH** thanked the children, she acknowledged that it wasn't easy to stand up and give a presentation, however, they were extremely eloquent and their passion was evident. **BH** advised them that it was important that they kept speaking up. The presentation concluded with the children inviting the GB to one of their assemblies.

Following the vote of thanks, the children left the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on Tuesday 27th February were approved by the Governors; proposed by **CMcD** seconded by **LH** and signed by the Chairperson.

Matters arising

SD informed governors that the proposed new canteen was scheduled for September 2025. The option selected meant that less of the playground would be affected by the new design. Furthermore, **SD** had requested round tables in order for the children to socialise. Once completed the existing canteen would be transformed into a much-needed family hub. **BH** posed a question regarding the amount of food waste generated. **SD** advised that a different process for serving lunches had now been implemented which reduced the amount of food waste.

Feedback from finance & Personnel Committee

CMcD advised that the canteen was on track and the budget remained challenging.

Safeguarding

JJ provided an update. **JJ** and **SD** have both attended updated training pertaining to 'My Concern'. The school is part of a Vale pilot scheme trialling, 'My Concern – My Voice' which is an open access reporting system. Access is via a QR code or a website link which has been shared via the newsletter and displayed around the school. This enables anyone with a safeguarding concern to report it, the report is sent directly to **SD** and Mrs Hall the safeguarding leads.

Following a recent safeguarding incident involving YR6 pupils' use of WhatsApp outside of school, a letter has been sent to parents highlighting the risks of the use of such platforms. The school has liaised with the Vale and South Wales Police regarding advice in relation to e-safety. A police liaison officer has attended school and spoken to the YR6 children.

Correspondence

None

AOB

CO'C commented how impressed she was with the plants at the front of the school, on behalf of the governors she would write to the parent involved, expressing thanks.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th July 5.30PM

Finance & Personnel Committee 14th June @ 8.30AM

Matters Confidential – See Attached

