



Trust Board Meeting Confidential Minutes

Thursday 09 February 2023 – Teams

Present: Paul Howieson (PH), Brendan McCarthy (BMc), Martin Copsey (MC) (part), Louise Ellis (LE) (Chair), Les Lane (LL), Justin Hughes (JH), Sue Bowen (SB), Kat Hearn (KH)

In Attendance: Sue Bennett (SEB), Minutes

Apologies: Fiona King (FK), Brendan Mullany (BM), MC advised that he would be late for the meeting

[illegible]

		Action
	What impact has the blocked application had on those two schools, can they put any pressure on the Regional Director to allow the applications to proceed? PH replied that the headteachers at both schools have written to the Regional Director strongly setting out their feelings. LE advised that an article had been put in the Church Times showing a picture of St George's with a headline of "Small Schools out in the cold, rural school left looking for a home". The article refers to a 'Trust' but doesn't name CLP. ■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Trustees confirmed they were happy for the draft letter to be sent. Martin Copsey joined the meeting	
7.	Pupil Numbers and Future Organisation (documents circulated with the agenda) <u>St Clements and St Johns and Bethany</u> PH submitted a paper with a proposal that in time, these two schools become a single primary school through the discontinuation of St Clements and St Johns Infant and the expansion of Bethany from 7-11 year olds to 4-11 year olds resulting in an all-through-split-site primary school across the two existing sites. <u>Trustee comments / questions</u> - It makes some sense to explore this further, maybe not full amalgamation but some joining across the schools. We should be looking for financial advantages and a better educational delivery model. - There are currently some small schools with merged groups of children and this is likely to increase, however, when looking at delivery models mixed classes is not optimal. - There is logic in the proposal, but we have to be mindful of the cohorts of children in the area, not just educationally but socially and ethically. - One single primary school could achieve better results for the community and this could be done in a phased gradual way. Therefore, I feel a key question to consider is whether we can achieve leadership restructuring without the need to formally request the DfE to recognise them as one 'establishment'. There may be other less tangible benefits of the school being considered an all-through primary, but we need to be clear that these compensate for the loss of some guaranteed lump sum funding. Trustees supported PH exploring this proposal further.	

Meeting closed at 8:50

Next meeting: Thursday 23 March 2023

Minutes approved on: 23 March 2023