

Wivelsfield School Full Governing Board Meeting – 28/05/2020

Meeting held via Teams @ 18:00 – 19:00

Attending:

Chair Rob Milton

Vice Chair Rhodri James

Head Helen Smith

Philip Dawson

John Wigzell

Tom Edwards

Lesley Corbett

Ashley Hards

Karen Hornby

Marion Whear

Susan Halliwell

Clerk Sarah Thompson

Apologies Katie Wollaston

Purpose of meeting:

To decide whether to adopt the Wivelsfield Policy Re Covid-19 (Draft 2) – 28th May 2020

Adoption of the policy is required to reopen school on June 1st 2020 to Years R, 1 & 6.

RM introduced the purpose of the meeting. Govt advice today 28/05 suggests schools will be able to reopen on 01/06 but it is up to school and governors as to whether they want to go ahead and accept the policy.

LC asked if HS was confident and happy with the policy?

HS advised that she was as happy and confident as she can be in the circumstances. HS made it clear that the school cannot guarantee everyone will be 100% safe, but the school have minimised risks as much as possible. Teething problems are anticipated but the fact that the school is reopening with a limited offering – small groups, alternate days – will enable any issues to be addressed.

RM asked how many families are taking up offer? Approx 60% of Years R, 1 & 6. More key worker children are expected back too. Key worker children in Years, R, 1, 6 need to make a choice to be with key worker group or year group. They cannot switch between groups as the goal is to keep the pods as small and tight as possible.

The Government has said maximum group size is 15

Year 6 numbers around 9 – 10 3 days each week

Year R numbers around 18 so 8 – 10 with 5 days over 2 weeks

Year 1 numbers around 16 so 8 – 10 with 5 days over 2 weeks

HS advised Families are still changing their minds a little.

RJ asked what the view of staff was. HS said staff are very positive. HS has been completely transparent with staff throughout the whole process and she is very grateful for their positivity and support.

Obviously staff are anxious about certain aspects such as children separating from parents, and cutting up children's food. (Chartwells should keep sausages off the menu!

The school has been set up to include one way systems, an additional staff room and an isolation room

RJ asked PD whether he was content that all possible measures had been implemented as a staff member. He replied that he was and added that he was the union rep for the NEU and that no members of staff, who were also members, had raised any issues with him about the prospect of returning to work given the measures being implemented.

RJ asked if there were specific risk assessments for specific children. HS advised TR was writing risk assessment for child with EHCP who is returning and for any other children who have a tendency to demonstrate behaviour such as biting in stressful situations.

The risk assessment was discussed, and it was agreed that it should be changed as follows:

2, 5, 6, 7, 8 rating 2 then 4 – all go up to 8.

With outcome as major illness or death not just 7 days off with covid-19.

It was noted that no number was added for column 7 – risk of transmission. HS will add a number.

It was asked for catch the children being good to be changed to acknowledge or notice!

RJ asked if anyone else had questions about the policy?

AH asked if risk assessment would be extended to for vulnerable families. HS knows families with vulnerabilities took their children out early in March and won't be back until September. HS agreed that this may need to be looked at again in September when it is no longer parents choice whether their children return to school or not.

AH asked whether it would be possible to keep the pods separate if there is a major first aid accident or a disclosure. HS advised that in those circumstances it would not always be possible.

JW commented that he was very impressed with the work done. But stated that it was a myth that people were at heightened risk of contracting covid-19 if they had to go to A&E. I

HS gave a huge thank you to PD for help with policies, RM and esp. RJ for their assistance in pulling everything together.

Congratulations were offered to PD on his new role.

The governing body decided to vote during the meeting rather than by email.

It was a unanimous vote in favour of adopting the Wivelsfield Policy Re Covid-19 (Draft 2) – 28th May 2020

The Policy will be posted on the website along with the relevant policies.