

SASS CurrStand NonConfMins 26.01.21 CA

STEPNEY ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Curriculum and Standards Committee held via
Zoom on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 5.00 p.m.**

In attendance

Governors

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Abzal Ali (AA) | Parent Governor |
| Nurur Chowdhury (NC) | Parent Governor |
| Angela Hancock (AH) | Foundation PCC |
| Nicki Regan (NR) | Staff Governor |
| Ann Slater (AS) | Committee Chair, Foundation Governor |
| Paul Woods (PW) | Headteacher |
| Julia Clarke (JC) | Local Authority Governor |

Present

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| Nicholas O'Brien (NO) | Observer, Deputy Headteacher |
| Benjamin Siaw (BS) | Observer, Deputy Headteacher |
| Charmaine Strelitz (CSt) | Director, Clerking and Appeals Associates Ltd |

The meeting opened with a prayer.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies. CSt reminded all present that attendance at meetings should be in a private and confidential location.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. TWO-WEEK HALF TERM PROPOSAL

PW provided an overview of the proposal to move to a two-week half term in the Autumn Term of the 2021-2022 academic year. PW said the Autumn Term was the longest and often a term which had an impact on staff and student wellbeing.

PW noted the proposed change was not dissimilar to other schools locally and nationally and said he thought would contribute to improved staff wellbeing, pupil wellbeing and pupil attendance.

PW summarised the legal requirement for teaching days for students which was 190 days, plus five teacher inset days totalling 195. PW said Tower Hamlets dates included 197 days, which included provision for EID.

The Committee noted that the UK Government had issued an additional bank holiday in 2021-2022, which would reduce the teaching days to 189.

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NO presented the proposed dates for 2021-2022 spreadsheet circulated to the meeting, which included the additional bank holiday. NO summarised the changes to inset days and moving back the end of the Summer Term, to facilitate the proposal.

NO said the first day back at the start of Autumn Term would be a full inset day, which was essential. NO said an impact of the lockdowns and Covid-19 had been a flexible approach to CPD, such as twilight insets. NO said the plan was to increase twilight sessions to enable the leadership team to deliver strong CPD throughout the year.

Governors discussed the proposal.

Governors asked if the proposal would be permanent. PW said they would review it at the end of the first year's pilot, to consider its effectiveness. Governors noted that for some parents two weeks in October would provide a flexible travel opportunity for families.

Governors discussed the proposal and agreed broadly it was a good suggestion which might benefit the school, staff, students and parents and suggested it would be interesting to look at the comparative data for pupil attendance.

Governors noted the potential impact where there were two working parents and what provision might be offered.

In response to questions the leadership team confirmed the school was legally bound to provide 190 teaching days (189 in 2021-2022) and five inset days were in addition to teaching days.

Governors discussed the additional teaching days in Summer Term and the move of inset days to twilight sessions which provided for the additional week's holiday whilst maintaining the statutory provision and strong CPD.

Governors asked what the requirement was to consult on the changes proposed. PW said there had been a mixed response from the Local Authority, Diocese and DfE but they intended to consult with parents.

Governors asked what staff response levels had been to provisional consultation and if there was anything to consider. PW said there had been in excess of 100 responses. BS noted those who were against or unsure had been due to the childcare for young children if dates were different from primary schools.

BS stated those concerns were due to not providing the actual dates, so those staff were not able to see immediately the dates remained the same and therefore would not affect those with young children who had been concerned about childcare arrangements.

Governors asked if a one-day inset at the start of the year was sufficient. PW said it was an ongoing self-evaluation process through the year and the increase in twilight training allowed the leadership to respond rapidly to findings from observations and teacher drop-in sessions. NO agreed and said it also provided for new staff to have ongoing CPD over time.

Governors noted that other schools who had moved to this strategy had seen a positive impact in pupil attendance and attainment.

In response to the Committee's request PW provided assurance the dates suggested met the legal requirement for 2021-2022 of 189 days teaching and he was inviting

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Governors to support the proposal in principle so the school could start the parent consultation process.

The Committee suggested the consultation only provided current dates and suggested dates and an explanation of twilight inset days and if the school could consider offering provision for working parents. Following discussion, the Committee agreed it could be counter-productive to the broader strategy but the school could consider partnerships with other providers.

RESOLVED: that the Committee unanimously supported the proposal in principle and approved the beginning of consultation process.

4. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4th May 2021 5.00 p.m.

- Curriculum Presentation to be confirmed
- Impact of Catch-Up Funding
- Headline proposals of School Development Plan – suggested priorities

AH noted the Holocaust Memorial Day on Thursday 27th January 2021 and as part of her work with the Holocaust Memorial Trust was asking communities to light a candle to put in their window at 8.00 p.m.

Meeting closed 6.18 p.m.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:.....

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12-10-2021

DATE SIGNED:...../...../.....