**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE HELD AT 6PM ON WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020 – PUBLIC VERSION**

Present: 6 governors; Brendan Finlow (Clerk)

Apologies: Nil.

**ITEM 1 – OPENING PRAYER**

1. A governor opened the meeting with a prayer.

**ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. There were no apologies for absence.

**ITEM 3 –APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2020**

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2020 were read and agreed. The chair would sign them at a later date for the record.

**ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2020**

4. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10 Jun 2020.

**ITEM 5 – ST MARY’S SAFEGUARDING UPDATE**

5. A governor presented his report for the academic year 2019/20 to governors. He covered the designated safeguarding leads in the school and the training school staff had received during the course of the year. He detailed referrals made to MASH or LADO for the full academic year 2019/20 and to date in the current academic year. He mentioned the number of social care meetings that had taken place.

6. The governor covered the numbers of children in the specific categories of: early help, child in need, those on a child protection plan, and looked after children. He showed a slide depicting the number of referrals made via MyConcern, both week by week and concerns by type. A governor asked if many of the items were linked to one child, to which the reply was yes. Finally, he briefed governors on changes that had been made to the extant child protection and safeguarding policy and introduced a new policy, the child-friendly peer-on-peer abuse policy.

7. A governor asked if there had been 37 incidents of mental health issues or if it related to 37 children. It was a mix of both – it could be one child numerous times, many teachers reporting the same incident. He stated that mental health was not a major issue at St Mary’s although incidents had increased following lockdown.

8. A governor mentioned the change in the number of looked after children. She said there were 2 very persistent absentees in that group. She acknowledged that it could be difficult for a child who was placed in a different area. The absentees were reflected in the attendance figures but at least we able to supply n explanation.

9. A governor asked about online safety and the use of other Apps and media. Those use in school must be within official resources, eg Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings such as this one.

10. A governor advised governors that some of the Covid-19 catch-up funding was being used to ameliorate mental health issues. Heads of year were also getting some additional funding. There was a discussion about looked-after and previously looked-after children – there was a new section 11 in the child protection and safeguarding policy that covered this topic. At present there was no form tutor time for children to voice their concerns or to raise issues for discussion. Senior leaders were considering how this issue might be addressed.

**ITEM 6 – APPROVAL OF POLICIES: CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND STUDENT-FRIENDLY PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE POLICY**

11. Once approved, the peer-on-peer abuse policy would be put on the school, website and parents made aware of its existence. A governor said that as a concept it was a good idea. He noted a minor typo (Missing hyphen from child-on-child on page 4). It was agreed that student-friendly was better than child-friendly and that the document filename should reflect this as well as the existing title. There was some discussion about the section on ‘good’ and ‘bad’ relationships, specifically with the issue of ‘grooming’ in mind, but it was very difficult to quantify. **Action: Adam Hawkesford-Johnson was to look at revising this section for the next version of the policy,**

12. A governor felt that the amended child protection and safeguarding policy was fine with the new sections. A governor had several amendments to make.

13. Both policies would be considered approved once amended.

**ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14. There was no any other business.

**ITEM 8 – DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

15. The date and time of the next meeting would be agreed at the meeting of the full governing body to take place on 9 July 2020.

**ITEM 9 – CLOSING PRAYER**

16. A governor closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.

Brendan Finlow

Bursar and Clerk to the Governing body

November 2020

Certificate:

The above minutes are an accurate record of the meeting of the Safeguarding Committee held on 11 November 2020.

Signed: ……………… Pete Fawcett Chair of Safeguarding Committee …. February 2021

Distribution:

Fr Andrew Berry

Pete Fawcett

Adam Hawkesford-Johnson

Angela Leslie

Brenda Poynton

Marian Smith