

NOTICE
OF
MEETING
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM

will meet on

MONDAY, 7TH JUNE, 2021

At 5.00 pm

by

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM

COUNCILLORS STUART CARROLL (CHAIR), DAVID COPPINGER (VICE-CHAIRMAN)
AND CATHERINE DEL CAMPO

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS DAVID HILTON, SAYONARA LUXTON AND AMY TISI

Karen Shepherd – Head of Governance - Issued: 27th May 2021

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Panel Administrator **Mark Beeley** 01628 796345 / mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk

Recording of Meetings – In line with the council's commitment to transparency the Part I (public) section of the virtual meeting will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video, you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to Democratic Services or Legal representative at the meeting.

AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive any apologies for absence.	-
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest.	3 - 4
3.	<u>MINUTES</u> To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 th February 2021.	5 - 8
4.	<u>SCHOOL RESPONSE TO PUPILS RETURNING</u> To receive a presentation on schools response, particularly on pupil level and concerns.	Verbal Report
5.	<u>OPT IN ASSESSMENT FROM BOROUGH SCHOOLS</u> To receive an update on the assessment.	Verbal Report
6.	<u>SCHOOL LEADERS UPDATE</u> To receive an update from school leaders on current levels on return and next steps.	Verbal Report
7.	<u>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS COORDINATOR UPDATE</u> To hear from school SENCos about current levels on return and next steps.	Verbal Report
8.	<u>NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT PUPIL PREMIUM CHILDREN</u> To discuss the above titled item.	Verbal Report
9.	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u> Both 5pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 14th October 2021• Monday 7th February 2021	-

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a DPI or Prejudicial Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

A member with a DPI or Prejudicial Interest **may make representations at the start of the item but must not take part in the discussion or vote at a meeting.** The speaking time allocated for Members to make representations is at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the discussion or vote, after speaking, Members should move away from the panel table to a public area or, if they wish, leave the room. If the interest declared has not been entered on to a Members' Register of Interests, they must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any licence to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where the landlord is the relevant authority, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
 - a) that body has a piece of business or land in the area of the relevant authority, and
 - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

A Member with a DPI should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations on the item: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Prejudicial Interests

Any interest which a reasonable, fair minded and informed member of the public would reasonably believe is so significant that it harms or impairs the Member's ability to judge the public interest in the item, i.e. a Member's decision making is influenced by their interest so that they are not able to impartially consider relevant issues.

A Member with a Prejudicial interest should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations in the item: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Personal interests

Any other connection or association which a member of the public may reasonably think may influence a Member when making a decision on council matters.

Members with a Personal Interest should state at the meeting: ***'I wish to declare a Personal Interest in item x because xxx'. As this is a Personal Interest only, I will take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.***

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 3

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM

TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Stuart Carroll (Chair), David Coppinger (Vice-Chairman) and Catherine Del Campo

Also in attendance: Councillor John Baldwin, Councillor Karen Davies, Councillor Shamsul Shelim, Councillor Amy Tisi, Sarah Cottle, Helen Daniels and Andrew Morrison

Officers: Clive Haines, Kevin McDaniel, Fatima Rehman and Mark Beeley

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2020 were approved as an accurate record.

IMPACT OF HOME LEARNING ACROSS THE BOROUGH

The Chairman said that he had spoken to various Head teachers from across the borough and was very impressed at the quality of remote learning that was currently being offered to pupils.

Helen Daniels gave a presentation on the background to remote learning and what was being offered by schools. There were a number of different definitions of remote learning and it did not always mean digital. A common myth was that it was a different way of teaching children but the skills remained the same and the curriculum was still taught.

Councillor Shelim joined the meeting.

During the first lockdown there was a variation on the curriculum being taught with the main difference now being the way remote learning was being delivered. Learning platforms like Microsoft Teams were now being utilised to deliver live and recorded lessons and training had also evolved. One of the key concerns from the first lockdown was attendance and ensuring that children of all abilities were still engaged with their learning but this had now moved on to ensuring that children were still being stretched academically and provided support for any work that they needed extra help with. The subject curriculum had in some cases been adapted to focus on important knowledge concepts. The quality of the teaching was the most important thing rather than the medium used and this included making sure that children were receiving feedback and assessment on their work.

It was clear from the progress of remote teaching so far that concentration was generally shorter online than it was in the classroom, which led to greater challenges with motivating and engaging pupils. Communicating and working with parents was also important to ensure that they were supported in helping their children gain the most from remote learning.

The Chairman asked how teacher training for remote learning could be improved by the Department of Education and also how parental support could be improved.

Helen Daniels said that teachers had done well but it always useful to have extra training provided. Some smaller schools which did not have extensive IT knowledge were helped by the boroughs bigger secondary schools to get them get set up to deliver remote teaching, which had been hugely appreciated.

Councillor Del Campo asked how learning was being delivered to pupils who did not have access to a device.

Helen Daniels said that she would answer this question when she updated the Forum on her own schools experience of remote learning.

Sarah Cottle gave an update on her perspective of remote learning at nursery level. The nursery had opened to all families who wanted their child to attend and was currently operating at 50% capacity. Lessons were filmed and then uploaded to the website where they could then be accessed by parents, with group time and activities all part of the content provided. Doing the recordings helped parents to manage with their daily lives and many parents had emailed in things that had been done so communication with parents was still very strong. Staff had been working hard to ensure that activities and lessons were of a high quality and accessible to all pupils.

The Chairman asked if the technology was working well.

Sarah Cottle said that staff had learned quickly by filming, recording, editing and uploading lessons. Parents had benefited from visually seeing how to access resources to help their children.

Councillor Del Campo asked about the 50% capacity that the nursery was currently operating at, whether this was the limit set or if that was all the children of parents that wanted to attend.

Sarah Cottle said it was the all children whose parents had chosen for them to go back.

Helen Daniels gave the Forum an update on remote learning from a primary school perspective. 'Seesaw' was an online platform that was used to take photos of work and share with parents. Work could be set and pupils could also submit work where teachers could provide verbal or written feedback. Zoom was being used for reception and Key Stage 1, with a mix of key leaning and other activities across the day. Key Stage 2 were taught using Microsoft Teams, with part of each hour long lesson being taught. However, it had been difficult to teach 30 children through a screen. A new approach was for a teacher to teach five 20 minute segments in smaller groups which had improved engagement. Packs had been sent home to children with equipment and resources, for example whiteboards, which could be used in conjunction with online remote teaching. At Cookham Rise Primary School, approximately 20% of pupils were currently attending school. There was support for parents and they had found it useful to have work set in advance so that they could plan better. A range of workshops had also been run to help parents support their child's learning.

Regarding the question from Councillor Del Campo earlier in the meeting about access to devices, Helen Daniels said that it was really important that children had access. All children at Cookham Rise now had access to a device, with some devices loaned out from the school and the Spoore, Merry and Rixman Foundation had also kindly purchased some devices for use.

Councillor Coppinger commented that he was a trustee of the Spoore, Merry and Rixman Foundation and was pleased that they had been able to help.

Andrew Morrison gave an update to the Forum from a secondary school perspective. His school were currently providing five 50 minute lessons a day which had allowed pupils to have some routine. When schools reopened in September after the first lockdown, it was evident that many pupils lacked a good routine and this was something that they wanted to ensure continued in the current lockdown. During each lesson, the teacher would usually only teach for part of the allocated time which would allow time for pupils to do some independent work with the teacher being in the call to provide help or support if needed. Staff were continuing to teach the curriculum but it was a broad approach and was much easier to monitor things like progress in the classroom. Phone calls were being made to parents to keep them updated and ensure that progress was being made. There had been a lack of parity for exam year groups, especially as Year 11 had missed the majority of a year's education.

In terms of numbers attending school, Andrew Morrison said that he had around 10 at the start of the first lockdown which rose to 50 by the summer. This time there was around 30/40 pupils regularly attending school out of a total of 1,400. A large amount of IT hardware had been loaned out to pupils while training had also been provided for parents. It was also important to consider the impact on staff who had been doing a significant amount of extra work to make sure that remote learning was a success.

The Chairman asked if there were any strategies that could be implemented to 'close the gap' and ensure that pupils were still being taught as much of the curriculum as possible.

Andrew Morrison said that teaching in smaller groups had been beneficial but this required extra resources so was challenging to deliver regularly.

Councillor Del Campo said that the performance gap was across all schools and therefore everyone was in the same boat. She asked what the Forum could do to help bridge the gap.

Councillor Tisi asked how teachers felt about the guidelines that the government had produced. She also asked what their views were on the proposed plans to catch up lost time with things like summer schools and longer school days which had been suggested.

Helen Daniels said that a longer school day was not the answer. There should be a focus on the core skills and also on physical activities. It was important that children were happy both socially and educationally.

Kevin McDaniel, Director of Children's Services, agreed that the school day should not be extended. There would need to be a long term recovery plan that included education, wellbeing and socialising, all of which should involve enjoyable activities.

Andrew Morrison said that it was easy to focus on the academic side of things but things like enrichment clubs were hugely important to development and wellbeing.

Kevin McDaniel mentioned that the collaboration between schools throughout the pandemic had been tremendous and he thanked all staff who had made an amazing difference to remote learning. These comments were echoed by the Chairman.

Councillor Del Campo said that it had been a good meeting but asked what would happen going forwards and what actions would be taken from the discussion.

The Chairman said that he currently liaising with the Department of Education and had spoken with a number of schools from across RBWM. The Chairman had also spoken with parents and pupils to really understand what they would like to see going forwards. Feedback would be collaborated with the government and the Chairman said that he would be writing a letter to Gavin Williamson, the Minister for Education, to voice his issues on support for children and concerns around mental health. There was a positive legacy as remote learning could be utilised when required going forward. The Chairman suggested that he would like to see a tier

system for schools that could reopen safely with clear criteria and guidance set out by the government.

Councillor Del Campo suggested that it would be good to see a copy of the letter being sent to Gavin Williamson.

The Chairman explained that it was in draft form currently but would be shared with members of the Forum once it was ready.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all teachers and school staff for their ongoing work and also to everyone who attended the meeting for sharing their experiences of remote teaching.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Forum noted that the next meeting would take place in June 2021, with the exact date to be confirmed in due course.

The Chairman said that there would potentially be another meeting of the Forum before June if it was required.

The meeting, which began at 5.00 pm, finished at 6.05 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....