

**LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE**

**ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL**  
**GOVERNING BODY**

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Body held at the  
School  
on Thursday, 15 September 2016

**PRESENT:**            Mr M Butcher (Chair)        Mrs T Leiser  
                              Mrs E Agbedo                    Mr G Milos  
                              Mr A Antoniewicz            Mr G Nott (Head teacher)  
                              Mrs A Eguakhide              Rev M O'Connor  
                              Mrs F Frost

**In Attendance:**     Mrs T Lawlor                    Clerk

**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A Special Meeting of the Governing Body was arranged to further consider and discuss the Brentwood Diocese Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) proposal and St Bede's response to it.

The meeting commenced at 7.06pm.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs Harrison and Mr Imoh.

**BACKGROUND**

At the last Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Body held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and dedicated to Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) it had not been possible to come to any conclusion about the way forward; further guidance regarding the Diocesan proposals in this respect was awaited from the new Diocesan Director of Education who was due to commence in post on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

When governors met in June the Headteacher confirmed that he would be having discussions with other Headteachers at various Catholic Primary schools within the Diocese and more specifically within the Redbridge Deanery regarding the structure of a S2S group (Shadow MAT); this was in direct response to a recommendation made at the Bishop's Conference which both the Chair and Headteacher attended.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September a letter from the Diocesan Director of Education, Robert Simpson was received by the Headteacher and the Chair which proposed Deanery Shadow MATs for review and consideration.

Prior to this meeting the Chair had circulated to governors a copy of the aforementioned letter which proposed two different options for consideration.

Chair's  
Initials

Due to the deadline date imposed the Headteacher had completed the reply slip on behalf of the Governing Body indicating that his preference for St Bede's was to progress being placed in a different group (option 2) had been circulated to governors by the Chair.

### **OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS**

At the meeting a further document detailing a proposal for how a Shadow Multi Academy Trust might operate between a number (currently three) of the Redbridge Deanery schools was circulated for information; the Headteacher said that this was intended to support his proposal that option 2 was the right way forward for St Bede's and if governors were in agreement could form the basis of any future discussions with the Diocese.

The Chair wanted to ensure that all governors had the opportunity to be involved in the discussion about this latest development in the proposals - which appeared to be a slight departure from what had previously been proposed by the Diocese - regarding the anticipated impact of all options on St Bede's.

The other option proposed for St Bede's was to become part of a much larger S2S/Shadow MAT with a large number of schools, both secondary and primary across several Borough. The Headteacher outlined why he felt that the alternative option proposed was in his view preferable. The composition of this option was to align with trusted colleagues and where St Bede's could have significant beneficial influence within the MAT.

Father Martin advised the Governing Body that he had made enquiries himself with the Diocese about the proposals; as a result he felt it was anticipated that shadow MATs throughout the Diocese would be in the region of 12 to 15 schools; anything less than this was in his view unlikely to be approved.

There was some concern expressed that the proposals as put forward more recently by the Diocese and subsequent to the consultation meeting with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors and furthermore as now relayed by Fr Martin following his recent discussion with the Diocese seemed to be significantly different.

After further extensive discussion, and because this was not about making any final decision on the matter at this time, Governors agreed by a majority decision to ask the Headteacher to pursue with the Diocese the alternative shadow MAT model with other Redbridge Deanery schools (option 2).

In this regard the Headteacher was asked to speak to the Director as soon as possible to clarify the situation and report back to governors at their next meeting.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Governors were reminded of their responsibilities regarding the confidentiality of matters discussed at the meeting.

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*M Martin*

The meeting finished at 7.33pm.

Chair.....  
Date..... 17/11/18

Chair's  
Initials

