



Context

This policy has been created in response to the unprecedented public health emergency set in train by the COVID-19 virus pandemic in 2020. This policy will only be applied for the period of the pandemic, and will be updated in response to unfolding events.

In its response to this situation, the school will:

- Heed government advice in order to minimise the public health threat
- Prioritise the health and wellbeing of children and their families over educational outcomes
- Seek opportunities to realise the school's purpose to be and to foster a learning community, by finding creative ways to nurture growth and learning in adverse circumstances
- Maximise its ability to respond flexibly and adaptively at a policy level to changing circumstances, as it is empowered to do through School Governance (England) (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) Regulations 2013, paragraph 14.8.

Policy

The Governing Body ("GB") will act to enable more rapid decision-making in policy, in order to allow the school to respond in a timely way to unfolding circumstances:

- Meetings of the GB will not be held face-to-face for as long as public policy is to minimise social contact.
- The same quoracy rules from the current GB Standing orders will apply, but GB members will not be required to be physically present in order to vote.
- Meetings will occur through virtual technologies such as video- and tele- conferencing whenever this is possible; under exceptional circumstances, where this is not possible or expedient, votes will be permitted via e-mail or other messaging technologies.

The school will:

- Seek to minimise the number of people in the school at any one time.
- Make decisions that maximise the school's ability to support those who need its services (as indicated by government guidance) over the long term.
- Where there is uncertainty about whether particular families are eligible to receive on-site provision, or whether the school can or should offer this provision, discuss these situations on a case-by-case basis with the families concerned. Where any discrepancy of interpretation or implication remains, the final decision will rest with the Head Teacher.
- Follow all relevant public health advice in the way it plans for and delivers the reduced on-site provision .
- Maximise the learning opportunities for children who are not on-site, through the provision of ongoing educational materials and guidance, seeking feedback in the design and delivery of these materials, and continuously improving the new form of provision, such that St Ebbe's continues to embody a learning community in these new circumstances.