

Committee(s)	Dated: 28 th September 2020
Community & Children’s Services Committee	
Subject: Change of name for Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services	Decision
Report author: Theresa Shortland, Head of Service – Education and Early Years	

Summary

This purpose of this report is to update members on the change of name of Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School (“the School”), a voluntary aided school located in the City of London, and to ask Members to approve draft Instrument of Government (“IoG”) as varied (Refer **Appendix 1**)

- In June 2020, the Governing Body unanimously resolved to change the name of the school considering Sir John Cass’s involvement in slavery. Following a consultation period, the Governing Body’s decision was to change the name of the school so that Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School will be known as “The Aldgate School” from the start of the new academic year 2020. The Cass Child and Family Centre, which is based in the School and houses its reception class alongside a nursery and children’s centre, will change its name to The City of London Child and Family Centre.
- At a meeting of the Governing Body held on 9 September 2020, a draft IoG was considered and approved by both the School Governors and the Foundation Governors. The revised IoG incorporates the following changes:
- Change of name of the School to “The Aldgate School”, and
- The inclusion of a new Clause 10 which refers to the School’s Diversity Statement.
- The Draft IoG incorporating the above changes has been submitted to the City of London Corporation for approval, and once approved, shall supersede the current IoG approved by the City of London Corporation on 9 August 2019.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

1. Approve the draft loG as varied.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation exercises the relevant functions of a local authority in respect of Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, the one local authority-maintained school which is in the City of London.
2. The Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities in England - August 2017, outlines the requirements of the arrangements for the constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools constituted under The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012.
3. Section 20 of the Education Act 2002 requires all maintained schools to have an instrument of government which determines the constitution of the governing body and other matters relating to the school. Part 5 of the 2012 Constitution Regulations makes provision regarding the contents and form of the instrument and the procedure for making and reviewing it. Regulation 30 requires the governing body to notify the local authority of the proposed variation, in this case the change of name and reference to the Diversity Statement, together with their reasons for proposing such a variation.
4. The City of London Corporation approved the current loG submitted by the school on 9 August 2019. The change of name has been amended in the loG along with the variation at Clause 10. (Appendix 1)

Current Position

5. In June 2020, the Governing Body resolved to change the name of the school in light of Sir John Cass's involvement in slavery. The decision was taken by the Governing Body following consultation with parents, pupils, staff and other stakeholders.
6. There was a four-week consultation period with stakeholders. The Governing Body would like to thank pupils, former pupils, staff, parents, the Sir John Cass's Foundation, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Botolph's Aldgate, the City Deanery Synod, and the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) for their involvement in that process. Over 100 people attended virtual consultation meetings and a similar number of written representations were received. The Governing Body reviewed every comment, and these informed

their final choice of name. A statement by the School to this effect is available at **Appendix 2**.

7. Following the consultation, the Governing Body's decision was to change the name of the school. Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School will be known as The Aldgate School from the start of the new academic year 2020. The Cass Child and Family Centre, which is based in the school and houses its reception class alongside a nursery and children's centre, will change its name to The City of London Child and Family Centre.
8. The City of London Corporation is required, in exercising their statutory functions as a local authority, to approve the revised loG in accordance with the 2012 Constitution Regulations.
9. Members should also note that the Sir John Cass's Foundation ("the Foundation") is also in the process of reviewing its legal name. When the name has been formally changed in accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements, the Governing Body will need to submit a revised draft loG with the change to the Foundation's name, for approval by this Committee.

Conclusion

10. The Governing Body of Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School propose to change the name of the School to 'The Aldgate School' and have submitted a revised draft of the loG to the City of London Corporation for approval.

Background Papers

- The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 (the "2012 Constitution Regulations")

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Appendices

Appendix 1.

This Instrument of government was submitted by the Governing Body of Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School on 3rd September 2020 to the City of London Corporation and approved on 28th September 2020 by the Community & Children's Services Committee.

Instrument of Government The Aldgate School

1. The name of the school is The Aldgate School.
2. The school is a voluntary aided school with a foundation. The foundation is the Sir John Cass's Foundation. *
3. The name of the governing body is "The governing body of The Aldgate School".
4. The governing body shall consist of:
 - 2 parent governors;
 - 1 LA governor;
 - 1 co-opted local community governor;
 - The headteacher (ex-officio);
 - 1 staff governor; and
 - 8 foundation governors.
5. The total number of governors shall be 14.
6. The foundation governors shall be appointed as follows:
 - i. 1 shall be appointed by the London Diocesan Board for Schools;
 - ii. 1 shall be appointed by the Parochial Church Council of St Botolph-without- Aldgate;
 - iii. 1 shall be appointed by the City Deanery Synod; and
 - iv. 4 shall be appointed by the Sir John Cass's Foundation.
7. a) The holder of the following office shall be a foundation governor ex officio: The Rector of St Botolph-without-Aldgate.
b) The Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry in which the school is situate shall be entitled to appoint a foundation governor to act in the place of the ex officio governor whose governorship derives from the office named in a) above, in the event that the ex officio governor is unable or unwilling to act as a foundation governor, or has been removed from office under regulation 23(2) of the Regulations.

8. The Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry shall be entitled to request the governing body to remove the ex-officio foundation referred to in 7 above and appoint any substitute governor.

9. Ethos statement: Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all of its pupils.

10. Diversity and inclusion are important to the school. A copy of the school's Diversity Statement will be given to all new Governors and reviewed by the Governing Body on a regular basis.

11. The term of office of all categories of governor shall be 4 years with the exception of the Headteacher and the Rector of St Botolph-without-Aldgate, whose terms of office shall be for the periods they were appointed to their respective offices.

12. A copy of this Instrument of Government must be provided (free of charge) to every member of the governing body (and to the Headteacher if not a governor), to the trustees of Sir John Cass's Foundation and to the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

13. This Instrument of Government comes into effect on .

14. This Instrument was made by order of the City of London Corporation on 28September 2020.

7. Appendix 2. A statement by the School.

Aldgate takes its name from one of the seven gates in the former London Wall, the site of which lies directly outside the school grounds and which dates back to Roman times. The gate gave its name to the twelfth century priory, Christchurch Aldgate, the remains of which lie below the school playground. Aldgate is also one of the 25 ancient wards of the City of London. Due to its location at the entrance to the City, Aldgate has long been a place of great welcome and diversity, both ethnically and culturally. It has also been an area of great change, an aspect that continues to this day. Aldgate is currently undergoing significant redevelopment and a large public space, Aldgate Square, has recently opened alongside the school building. Governors believe that the choice of name conveys a sense of this diverse history while placing the school at the heart of the thriving and fast-changing Aldgate community.

Working together

A key message arising from the consultation was the importance of the school's links to three historic institutions: the Sir John Cass's Foundation, the Church of England, and the City of London. The school derives huge benefit from each of these institutions, financially, culturally, and in terms of the education it delivers. These relationships make the school the special and unique place everyone recognises it to be. Many views were expressed during the consultation period and governors decided that the most appropriate way to address all three institutions was in the strapline to the school's name. This will be used on signs, on letterheads, and on the school website. The wording of the strapline will be decided once the Sir John Cass's Foundation has completed its own renaming process.

Committed to diversity

The Governing Board would also like to thank the members of the Working Group it established in June to consider the school's response to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement. In addition to the renaming of the school and the removal of all statues relating to Sir John Cass, the Working Group made further recommendations that have been approved by the Board. The way in which the curriculum is delivered in school will be reviewed, helping children gain a greater understanding of all histories. This will build on existing work in this area to ensure that children are aware of the potential bias of Eurocentric interpretations. In addition, the school will ensure that the transition to a new name is recorded in an appropriate manner and that its long history will continue to be celebrated, allowing all members of the community to retain their rightfully held sense of pride in the institution. This includes replacing Founder's Day with a new, more appropriate ceremony held at St Botolph's Aldgate.

Finally, in addition to the above measures, the Governing Board will further its attempts to increase the diversity of its members. As part of the renaming process, governors have requested an amendment to the Instrument of Government of the school, strengthening its commitment to the principles of diversity and inclusivity. When ratified by the City of London Corporation, the new Instrument of Government will make explicit reference to the school's Diversity Statement. This will be reviewed by the Governing Board in the Autumn Term and regularly thereafter. These measures have the approval of the Foundation and the LDBS and will be used to

guide governor appointments by all relevant bodies. The lack of diversity of governing boards is a national problem. We are committed to removing barriers that may have discouraged members of certain parts of our society from considering applying to become a school governor, and to ensuring a diverse board that better reflects our school community.

The new school year

The Governing Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Allan and her staff for all their hard work in preparing for the school to reopen on 4th September. The Board welcomes all its families, old and new, to the new academic year at this time of great change and uncertainty. We look forward to building on the long-standing success of the school and celebrating the many and varied achievements of all its pupils in the years to come.