



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 30th September 2024

Time: 4.45pm

Venue: Priestnall School

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: M Farrar, K McNight, R Arthern, T Clary, E Warrington, R Howarth, H Eckhardt and J Crawford.

Action	Initials
Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their Register of Business Interests	All
To update Governors on recruitment to the Academy Committee	RH/MF
To circulate a list of school events to which Governors are invited	NB
To complete mandatory training modules and send certificates to the Clerk	All
To meet outside of the AC to discuss the school links and advisory group	RA/EW

Agenda – Part 1-

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	<p>E Warrington presented to Governors the key messages from the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 updates to remind that everyone plays a role in safeguarding.</p> <p>Governors were informed that the training received was the same as that delivered to all staff on the Inset day in September.</p> <p>Operation Encompass was explained for Governor's information. Operation Encompass is a notification made by Police to the school when there has been an incident of domestic violence reported, the school can then set up the necessary support for the student and record on CPOMS. Operation Encompass applies nationally and in all schools.</p> <p>The training also included referrals, CPOMS reporting of concerns and Prevent Duty.</p> <p>This year the 3 big foci for staff are harmful sexual behaviours, Online safety and Self harm. The training</p>	

		<p>plan is constantly adapted in response to emerging issues within the student population.</p> <p>Governors thanked EW for the comprehensive presentation, which they had found very useful and informative.</p> <p>Governors were reminded that the slides from the training had been uploaded to the Teams folder to allow Governors to refer back to.</p> <p>Q – Has there been any training and support for students to be able to spot signs in their peers?</p> <p>A – We offer enhanced workshops for some of our more vulnerable students. We also deliver bespoke workshops as delivery in PSHE lessons is not enough.</p> <p>We recently did a safeguarding survey and of 100 students, 97% were able to identify the DSL or DDSL. We also have an area on our website for confidential reporting.</p>	
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from L Burrige and A Morrison.	
	AOB items	Open Evening is Thursday 17 th October from 5.00 – 7.30 and Governors are welcome to attend and come and have a look around the school.	
	Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations of interest made in any of the agenda items.	
	Register on Business Interests	Governors were asked to report any changes in their record to the Clerk.	All
	Code of Conduct	Governors confirmed they <u>agreed</u> to adhere to the code of conduct.	
	Minutes of previous meeting	<p>Minutes of the meeting held 24th June 2024 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters arising:</u></p> <p>Anti-Racism Charter will be reviewed later this academic year</p> <p>A meeting will be arranged to discuss university links</p> <p>Behaviour policy was approved following this meeting</p> <p>SEND and Safeguarding proformas were received by the Clerk and uploaded to the shared area</p>	

		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	<p>M Farrar informed Governors that P Clarke had decided to step down from the Academy Committee due to personal reasons. A Parent Governor election will take place in due course. Thanks were recorded to P Clarke.</p> <p>An application has been received for the position of Co-opted Governor who is not associated with the school. RH and MF have a meeting to meet the applicant and will update Governors further at the next meeting.</p> <p>KMc commented that the AC should represent the community which it serves and should look to increase diversity where possible. It was noted that this was also on the Trust agenda.</p>	RH/MF
		Link Governor roles	<p>MF would like to be able to establish curriculum links to the subject areas, linked to Cornerstones. This will be revisited at a future meeting as the AC grows. The current Link Governor roles:</p> <p>Safeguarding – M Farrar SEND – L Burridge Pupil Premium – K McKnight Leadership and Service – R Arthern Academic Aspiration – Full Academy Committee responsibility Culture Creativity and Rhetoric – to be appointed Competition and Physical Endeavour – to be appointed</p> <p>A full list of events where Governors are invited to come into school will be circulated by the Clerk.</p>	NB
		Scheme of Delegation	<p>The Scheme of Delegation has been reviewed and updated for the academic year. The SoD defines the accountability of the AC.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions.</p>	
		Trust Board updates	<p>Governors received the reports for the Trust Board meetings in May 2024 and July 2024.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions.</p>	

2	School Performance & Accountability	<p>Review Head of School report including:</p> <p>Pupil outcomes</p> <p>Educational Achievement of looked after/previously looked after children</p> <p>Monitor Pupil Premium spending to ensure it improves the attainment of eligible students</p>	<p>R Howarth confirmed that the school were delighted with the GCSE results, which were the best the school have ever had, but that better is always possible and there is a need to keep raising the bar for the students.</p> <p>64% of students had achieved 9-5 in Maths and English and 82% 9-4. The results are above average and are second highest in Stockport and sixth in Greater Manchester.</p> <p>SEND progress is above 0 and national average Progress 8 for this group of students is -1.1.</p> <p>We are narrowing the gap for our PP students but there is still work to be done in this area. We had set our target for this cohort of 40% and they achieved 39.4%.</p> <p>Governors then reviewed the breakdown by subject area. The numbers for MFL will increase next year and the EBacc figure will also increase. There is work to be done in some subject areas and this is a clear focus for Leaders.</p> <p>Q – Of the subjects which are not as you would wish, will the change of Options choices help? A – We have Trust Directors working closely with Subject Leaders and their experience is phenomenal. There is also a change of course and examination board for some subjects. Option choices have now focussed our students more.</p> <p>We can also see the power of our Professional Learning offer coming through, both in departments and individually. Research based activities to drive outcomes will only get stronger and stronger.</p> <p>The work completed on behaviour is proving to be successful and is showing through in lessons. Also, the use of data and assessment is more focussed and granular.</p> <p>Q – How are the current year 11 working? A – They are all working really hard.</p> <p>Next year the outcomes will be based on attainment not progress due to not having KS2 data for this cohort. There will be no Progress 8 measures for the next 2 years.</p> <p>A Careers event was held in school in the week prior to this meeting. There were 35 providers and 205 students</p>	
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		<p>attended. There are also study skills sessions coming up in preparation for the mock exams.</p> <p>We held a KS4 Information Evening for year 10, which involved around 70 students and their parent/carers. It is vital to support the student and establish the partnership between the student, home and school.</p> <p>F Schofield is currently undertaking the role of Head of Year 11, alongside her substantive post, whilst the school awaits a new appointment.</p> <p>In Beliefs and Values lessons we are also covering applications and subject choices for post 16.</p>	
	Confirm school curricula and assessment is in line with the statutory requirements and Trust approach	R Howarth, as Head of School, confirmed the school curricula and assessment are in line with statutory requirements and the Trust approach.	
	Share School Development Plan priorities	<p>The School Development Plan is now a 3-year plan for the first time. The document details the plan and where the school would like to be in 3-years' time, and the actions required to achieve this.</p> <p>Departments will formulate their own plan, linked to the SDP, on a yearly basis. QA will be done on the Department Development Plans in the coming weeks to ensure they correctly align to the SDP. The four Cornerstones are the drivers for the plans.</p> <p>Q – In terms of Leadership and Service – does this have to be school based? A – No, some of this can be done outside of school.</p> <p>Q – How will you capture the information? A – From conversations with our students.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions.</p>	

3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	<p>Management accounts to 31st May 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Q – Is there anything in particular we need to be aware of?</p> <p>A – We are monitoring closely and making savings where possible. We are looking closely at each vacancy as they arise.</p> <p>We have received lots of external investment to help with improvements, for example the recent Library refurbishments. Our Estates teams are excellent, they decorated 15 classrooms over the summer holidays.</p>	
		Policies – undertake school level reviews	The Behaviour policy was approved by the Chair prior to this meeting and is brought to Governors for confirmation.	
		Ensure curriculum policies, Behaviour and Welfare policies are in line with statutory guidance	R Howarth, as Head of School, confirmed that school curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance.	
		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	<p>M Farrar confirmed he had visited school last term and completed a Safeguarding Audit. The completed Record of Visit has been uploaded to the shared area for Governors to be able to review. MF will attend school termly this academic year to review safeguarding.</p> <p>L Burrige had previously submitted a completed Record of Visit and this has also been uploaded to the shared area.</p>	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors attention was drawn to the revised training area for Governors.</p> <p>Compulsory training includes GDPR, Prevent, Safeguarding and Cybersecurity. Governors are asked to complete the training by the end of the year and to send copies of their certificates to the Clerk.</p>	All
		Resources	The CST glossary of terms was included for Governors information.	

		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	There was no training completed to record.	
		Academy Trust Handbook	The Academy Trust Handbook was included in the documents circulated for Governors information.	
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	R Howarth confirmed that residents of a nearby care home had recently come into school to watch the technical rehearsals for the forthcoming production of Frozen. R Arthern noted that he was looking to set up an independent advisory group and if possible, would be looking to link with the school and engage students. R Arthern and E Warrington agreed to meet outside of this meeting to look at setting up links. It would be a good opportunity for student voice to be heard.	RA/EW
6	AOB		There were no other items of business to raise at this meeting.	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	Monday 13 th January 2025 at 4.45pm Monday 16 th June 2025 at 4.45pm Please inform the Clerk as far in advance as possible if you are unable to attend a meeting.	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

Governors received a presentation on Safeguarding, including updates to KCSiE 2024
Chair of AC updated Governors on membership and recruitment to the Academy Committee
Governors reviewed the Head of School report – including pupil outcomes
Governors reviewed the School Development Plan
An overview of the revised training offer for Governors was received

Meeting closed at 18.05



Mark Farrar
Chair of Academy Committee
03.03.2025

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