



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 24th June 2024

Time: 4.45pm

Venue: Priestnall School

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: R Howarth, M Farrar, K McKnight, A Morrison, R Arthern, J Crawford, L Burrridge, H Eckhardt, E Warrington, T Clarey and M Vevers and D Brown (for part of the meeting)

Action	Initials
To revisit the Anti-Racism Charter in one years' time	RH
Report any changes in their Register of Business Interests to the Clerk	All
To meet to discuss university links	MF/HE
To review Behaviour Policy and refer back to the AC for approval	EW
Send completed SEND Link visit proforma to the Clerk for retention	LB
Send completed Safeguarding Link visit proforma to the Clerk for retention	MF
Inform the Clerk of any training completed	All

Agenda – Part 1 -

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1 Governance Arrangements	PDC training – D Brown	<p>Governors received a presentation from D Brown on their role in a PDC. D Brown is Head of School at CHHS and is Trust Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance Lead.</p> <p>The role of a Governor in a PDC is to test and challenge that the Headteacher's decision to permanently exclude was lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate. To examine all evidence and to question as appropriate.</p> <p>Governors thanked DB for the comprehensive presentation which they felt would assist them should they be required to be a part of a Pupil Discipline Committee in the future.</p>	
	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from P Clarke.	
	AOB items	R Arthern was welcomed to his first meeting as Co-opted Governor, and J Crawford as Link Trustee.	
	Anti-Racism Charter	MV attended to present the Anti-Racism Charter to Governors.	

			<p>It is important that Trustees and Governors are aware of the work the Trust is undertaking in this area, which commenced in 2020. The Charter also underpins staffing and recruitment.</p> <p>The Charter has been broken down into 5 key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Professional Learning • Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment • Policies and Empowerment • Wellbeing and Belonging • Community and Voice <p>MV commented that not being racist isn't good enough, and that we all need to be anti-racist. There is a senior Leader in each school responsible for implementation. The Leads meet 3 times per year to review where each school is with the Charter and to share good practice.</p> <p>It is a sensitive area and should not be rushed. A lot of work is done with staff and a student friendly version of the Charter is being produced.</p> <p>The document is presented to Governors today to give a feel of the direction the Trust is heading, whilst acknowledging it does take time. It is not a policy but should be kept at the forefront of everybody's mind.</p> <p>The Charter is included in the recruitment done across the Trust and we are working toward and understanding under representation which does exist.</p> <p>Q – In terms of wider equality and diversity how do you remove barriers?</p> <p>A – We think carefully where we advertise, we use traditional places to advertise, as well as other areas within the community and we then monitor closely and measure.</p> <p>Q – Staff bodies in schools across the country do not reflect the communities they serve. Anti-racism and increasing diversity are two separate issues. How much do we engage with outside agencies?</p> <p>A – One of our critical success factors is that each school has at least one group they engage with. We have a network of teachers or middle leaders who will become leaders of the future.</p> <p>A long discussion took place and it was agreed that the Charter would be reviewed again in a years' time, with possibly some metrics included to show progress.</p>	RH
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	Register on Business Interests	Governors were asked to report any changes in their record to the Clerk.	All
	Code of conduct	R Arthern, as new Governor, agreed to the Code of Conduct for Trustees and Governors.	
	Minutes of previous meeting	Minutes of the meeting held 18 th March 2024 were approved as a correct record of the meeting. In terms of matters arising, HE and MF agreed to defer university links until the start of the next academic year.	HE/MF
	Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	R Arthern had been appointed as a Co-opted Governor since the last meeting. Governors were also informed that C Brown had recently stepped down as a member of the Academy Committee and thanks were recorded for her work and commitment. MF informed Governors that another Co-opted appointment would increase the capacity of the AC and recruitment is ongoing.	
	Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to note to the Scheme of Delegation.	
	Trust Board update	Governors received a summary report of the March 2024 Trust Board meeting and had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School report	<p>The Head of School report was circulated prior to the meeting. There was no additional data to discuss at this point.</p> <p>RH commented that students had taken an excellent approach to their exams.</p> <p><u>Electives</u> Electives offer and uptake was discussed. There are 40 Electives on offer to students. Registers will now be taken and this is allow closer monitoring of attendance and uptake to be undertaken. It is to note that there are no significant differences between PP/SEND, with the exception of year 10, who are slightly less engaged and this will be a focus for staff.</p> <p>PE offer a large number of Electives for students and give up a generous amount of their time. There has been slight restrictions on the offer due to the works taking place at the Sports Centre. We are running a Student Voice to see what Electives the students would like us to offer in the future.</p> <p><u>Behaviour</u> Behaviour and suspensions were reviewed by Governors. It was noted that suspensions overall were less than half compared to the previous year, and were lower than national average. Leaders will continue to ensure that key groups are monitored. FSM figure is slightly higher than we would like but this is a small cohort of our students who we are monitoring closely.</p> <p>Suspensions were noted by week and were higher in September and November but had declined over the course of the year. Leaders are working to address behaviour issues in the community in years 8 and 10. Persistent disruption is the highest reason for suspensions.</p> <p>Q – In terms of the breakdown of SEND and persistent disruptive behaviour how is this recorded? A – This is closely monitored by EW and her team. We do not wait for students to have support in place, we act quickly. Our culture and ethos is of inclusion. Our SEND register was previously 120 and is now 190 students with needs identified and a robust plan in place.</p> <p>Leaders acknowledge that students do make mistakes in their behaviour and we are there to support them as they learn from them. There are only 3% of students suspended more than once and this is a real success.</p>	
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			<p><u>Attendance</u> Attendance remains an area of focus for Leaders, although school attendance is slightly above national average.</p> <p>Year 7 attendance is very strong. Year 11 was impacted by some students not coming into school once the exams had started and choosing to study at home.</p> <p>Q – Can I ask about students with severe absence? A – At the start of the year this was a big focus for us. Where are they, is there support in place, do they need specialist intervention to be able to reintegrate back into school? In terms of safeguarding, if we haven't seen a student we don't know if they are safe. As a result some students have now been able to come back into school.</p> <p>In school truancy has declined and this is a big success for us. We have also made good progress with lates.</p> <p>Q – Are term time holidays an issue? A – We are not experiencing particular problems with this at present.</p>	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	<p>Management accounts to 30th April 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>There were no major changes and the deficit was as expected. There are still a number of unknowns in terms of funding but the position is well controlled by the Finance team.</p>	
		Policies – undertake school level reviews	<p>Governors approved the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance policy • Mobile phone policy • School uniform policy <p>E Warrington informed Governors that the Behaviour policy was currently being reviewed and this would be presented in the new academic year.</p>	EW
		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	<p>L Burrige has made SEND visits to school and will send the completed pro-forma to the Clerk for retention.</p> <p>M Farrar has completed a Safeguarding visit to school this term and there were no concerns. The completed proforma will be sent to the Clerk for retention.</p>	LB MF

4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors were informed that the training offer was currently being updated and will be launched in September 2024.</p> <p>Opportunities to complete training would be available following the reduction of AC meetings from 4 to 3 in the new academic year.</p>	
		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors were reminded to inform the Clerk of any training they had completed.	All
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	<p>Work is taking place with some outside agencies, including MOSAIC, YOT and Stockport County to address issues of anti-social behaviour outside school.</p> <p>Stockport County Football Club are working with a group of year 8 students on a programme to raise aspirations.</p> <p>YOT are undertaking specific 6 week interventions.</p> <p>MOSAIC are working with students around alcohol and drug use.</p> <p>Leaders are increasing their presence in the area, including duties and patrols on the common, at local shops and the park. We are also working to establish primary transition links.</p>	
6	AOB			
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	<p>Monday 30th September 2024 at 4.45pm</p> <p>Monday 13th January 2025 at 4.45pm</p> <p>Monday 16th June 2025 at 4.45pm</p> <p>Please inform the Clerk as far in advance as possible if you are unable to attend a meeting.</p>	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
Governors received a presentation on PDC meetings
Executive Headteacher presented the Trust Anti-Racism Charter to Governors
Governors reviewed the Head of School report
Governors reviewed the management accounts
Governors approved the Attendance, School Uniform and Mobile Phone policies
SEND and Safeguarding Link visit updates were received
Leaders updated on the work being done with external agencies and in the local community to address behaviour concerns

Meeting closed at 6.05pm



M Farrar
Chair of Academy Committee
30.09.2024