



MINUTES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2017
AT CATMOSE COLLEGE FROM 5.00PM

Present: Judith Gilboy (Chair), Stuart Williams (Executive Principal), Mark Nicoll, Rob Mulvey, Martyn Rhowbotham, Simon Mellors, Linda Arnold, Alex Mould, Paul Denton, Andy Wright.

In attendance: Nicola Tyers (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Emma Gautrey, Chris Howard, Andrew Holt and Nick Wainwright.

2. Declarations of Personal & Pecuniary Interest

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2016 were agreed to be a true and accurate

Mr Williams confirmed that he had a positive meeting with Dr O'Neill regarding the SEN funding but did not know any further information although it was envisaged the changes would not be as significant as expected.

4. Scorecards

The Teaching Scorecard was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the attendance throughout the College was currently 97.4% with FSM students at 95%.

Mrs Macdonald noted that in her role as Vice Principal for Attendance she had regular meetings with the Local Authority. She noted that the person who deals with attendance at the Local Authority was off sick and therefore the FSM children and one DSP child had not been fined. It was noted that Mrs Macdonald has written to the Local Authority outlining the College's concerns. *Governors requested an update on this situation and confirmation at a future meeting to ensure the College is seeing an improvement.*

MR questioned the overall situation on those students that the College monitors. He was keen to ensure that those students who improve their attendance are recognised.



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5. Principal's Report – Residential Trips

A list of the trips and visits that the College plans to run for the next two academic years was circulated. This has been produced to help parents plan those trips that students can participate in.

RM questioned whether any parents voice concern about the high cost. Mr Williams hoped that this list of trips would alleviate this and enabled parents to sit down with their children to see which trips they wanted to attend rather than signing up for one with another coming up in the future that they may have preferred or which may be more beneficial.

JG questioned whether students are expected to fundraise for the more expensive trips? Mr Williams confirmed that for the trips such as Nepal, they are expected to fundraise with some students raising all the funds needed.

LA questioned whether staff were happy to attend trips over weekends and holidays. Mr Williams confirmed that staff were very good at signing up for these trips and some of the trips gave opportunities to younger members of staff to travel that they may otherwise not be able to afford.

Governors were encouraged to see the wide range on offer.

JG questioned whether places are reserved for FSM students. Mr Williams confirmed that the FSM and Pupil Premium children are approached and encouraged to attend. *Following a comment from AM regarding the middle income families that cannot afford the trips,* Mr Williams agreed to ask Mrs Ray to evaluate what costs are charged for each trip and to ensure that all children are able to access these trips. This would be reported back to a further LGB meeting. **ACTION SPW/NR**

LA questioned how the school vets those families involved in the exchange visit. Mr Williams outlined the current process and the changes that the College plans to make to the process whereby it plans to DBS all parents to protect the College.

6. Admissions Policy 2018_19

Governors formally ratified the Admissions Policy for 2018_19. It was noted that the 2019_20 Admissions Policy would require the LGB to go to consultation and this would be done in September 2017 at the Term 1 meeting.

7. 'Improving Governance' training session

Ofsted's Improving Governance document was circulated prior to the meeting. Governor broke off into several working groups and were given a selection of



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questions (below):

Governance – a few questions

Governor answers and questions shown in Green.

1. What five words would you use to describe the College ethos?

Equal value, progress, resilience, aspiration, participation, respect, potential, care, inclusion.

PD questioned whether the ethos was the same across the years or whether it changes. Mr Williams was pleased to see the shared understanding amongst the governing body of the College's ethos and the core values have remained in place.

2. Overall, what was the progress of students in y11 like last year using the progress 8 measure? How did groups such as pupil premium, SEN and the most able do

- Overall Year 11 improved and were significantly above the national average.*
- There wasn't a Progress 8 figure for 2015_16.*
- RM commented how as governors, you can at times become complacent at how well the College is doing and he only worries when Mr Williams reports there are issues and knows of the importance that governors are aware of how the College addresses these issues.*
- Governors noted that they must also be competent at understanding the data and results and builds a trust in what the principal reports at the meeting.*
- Mr Williams noted that governors should also be using the Inspection Dashboard.*

3. How does the College use pupil premium funding to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds? How effective were these strategies?

- The Scrutiny panel is focusing on pupil premium spending and how effective the strategies are that are put in place.*

4. What were the areas of celebration for the College in the last 12 months?

SEN results good, attendance and behaviour, sport, attainment, West Side Story.



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Mr Williams asked how well other year groups are doing. Governors confirmed that at each LGB meeting they see the scorecards and ask the scrutiny panel to look at any issues.

5. What were the areas for further improvement for the College this year?

Science, increase EBACC students by encouraging more to take a foreign language. Pupil premium, parental engagement

MN outlined that he would like to improve his understanding of the data. Mrs Tyers agreed to circulate the acronym list.

6. How would you know if there was a problem with behaviour, teaching or leadership at the College?

Scorecards, governor visits, pupil surveys, local community, whistleblowing policy.

7. How do you know the College's safeguarding practice is effective?

- Safeguarding link governor who reports back at meetings at least once per year*
- Extraordinary meeting held to inform governors if a serious issue arises*
- Governor presence in College.*

- Suggested that scrutiny panel meetings are attended by governors who have an interest in that area or feel they want to be part of this to gain experience and to learn a topic in more depth.*

Governors confirmed that they were really grateful to receive this training session. They confirmed that they had read the 'Improving Governance' document. As a group they confirmed that they felt confident.