

Wallscourt Farm Academy Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 30th September 2021, 5.30pm

Venue – Virtual online video/audio.

Success & Bright Spots (To grow)	Trails & Underperformance (Areas of focus)
•	•

Academy Council:

AC Members		Attended	Apologies
Michael Small	Sponsor 1 (Chair)	✓	
Nathan Leigh	Sponsor 2	Not present	
Linda Tanner	Sponsor 3	✓	
Phil Walker	Sponsor 4		Apologies
Vacancy	Sponsor 5		
Sue Kelham	Principal	✓	
Susie Weaver	Executive Principal	✓	
Trevor Jones	Local Authority Rep	✓	
Dee Mason	Parent Councillor		Apologies
Jenny Bodnarchuk	Parent Councillor	✓	
Helen Rea	Staff Councillor		
Lucy Salmon	Student Advocate		Apologies
Emma Montmasson	Support Staff Councillor	✓	
Jasmine Helm	Acting Clerk	✓	
Invited attendees			
Charlotte Black	Vice Principal		
Kathryn Raftery	Observer	✓	

Item	Description	Action
1.	Introduction, Administration, and Apologies	
1.1	MS welcomed the group to the meeting and KR as an observer, her proposal will be going through at the next COAC on 7 th October 2021.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	No changes.	
3.	Academy Council Membership	
3.1	DM has put herself forward for Vice Chair a vote will take place following the meeting via email.	
4.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
3.1	The minutes were deemed an accurate record of the previous meeting.	
5.	Matters Arising	
5.1	SK explained that the Academy Council report will be the process moving forward. SK has still done a presentation for this meeting.	
6.	Quality of Education including curriculum developments	
6.1	Academy Improvement Plan	
6.1.1	SK updated the AC on Trust wide updates that will affect WFA. The Key strategic measure for this year is disadvantaged pupils above all else and this measure has steered the AIP.	
6.1.2	WFA's 3 key areas are disadvantaged learners, leadership and curriculum. The first priority is disadvantage, and about the whole experience for these children. The academy is aware there is a gap here. The second priority is leadership and middle and subject. This work on CPD around their roles is going very well at the moment. The third priority is curriculum and ensure the key concepts that run through are consistent for the learners.	
6.1.3	PD Plans for teachers will have the same focus areas as well as individualised areas for their future professional development.	
6.2	MS updated the group about the recent WFA ARV that took place this week. SW and Sarah Franklin from KOA were the lead inspectors. A main highlight was the routines and cultures of learning were a great strength for WFA and it is well embedded, they also found that the learning is purposeful and meaningful. The culture of planning and developing shared understanding is also strong across the academy. SLT had strong knowledge of the disadvantaged agenda as well as being experts in their roles. Overall, the results from this ARV were positive.	
	SW joined the meeting at 17:50.	
7	Academy Council Report	
7.1	<i>In terms of Behaviors and Attitudes, the report states we are Good. What do we need to do to become Outstanding?</i> SK – we have a very small number of children that are struggling since their return to school. This stopped the Outstanding rating from being used in this instance.	
7.2	<i>In relation to Student Attendance, there was a drop in Week 2. What caused this?</i> SK – there has been a sickness bug going around the Academy. As pupils come back into the academy, more go off as they need to be off for 48 hours. Therefore, the numbers have dipped. We are seeking advice from the H&S Teams as needed to keep track of numbers.	
7.3	<i>What do the persistent absences currently look like?</i> SK – these haven't been included as there has only been a short amount of time back in this academic year. There are no concerns currently, but it wasn't a good amount of data to present at this stage. MS suggested that at the next meeting, there will be a Terms worth of persistent absence data, it would be useful to review it there.	
7.4	<i>In terms of Professional Development, what will it take to make it Outstanding?</i>	

	SK - It is better now than it was previously, in our Ofsted it was deemed Outstanding. Hesitant to make it Outstanding as we are implementing some new aspects to the curriculum.	
7.5	<i>How will Future Leader representation work?</i> SK – an election day is taking place on the 8 th October. Children have been busy writing speeches to present to their classes. Once they are picked, it would be good to meet with them twice a term.	
8	Safeguarding and inclusion	
8.1	<i>Safeguarding is currently rated as Good, what can be done to make it Outstanding, as stated in our SEF?</i> SK – we need to have an additional Safeguarding Lead and two deputies. One is currently on maternity leave. Once they have returned, I will step back into the Deputy role.	
8.2	The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding audit last year, arose from a complaint. During the investigation, it was offered to all schools in SG. The auditor was very positive about the practices at WFA following a long meeting. ACTION: SK to put this report into the Shared folder for Councillors to review.	
9	Teaching	
9.1	There is Outstanding teaching but overall, not yet. It will remain Good whilst we are working with some of our new starters.	
9.2	<i>Has work been done to buddy these members of staff up with other longer serving colleagues?</i> SK – yes, we have been, although there is one year group where we have not been able to do that.	
9.3	<i>As we have some ECT at WFA, how are they finding learning the WFA way?</i> SK - both ECTs know WFA well already. One was our previous Family Support Worker, and the other trained with us at WFA. There are no concerns with embedding the WFA culture, it is just the experience.	
10	Bright spots from Strategic Headlines event	
10.1	The Gender gap is closing across the academy, except for Year 1. The pandemic has affected the younger Boys than the Girls. We have performed strongly within the CLF, for both all children and PP learners. Reading is strong and this also applies to greater depth, this has significantly improved from last year.	
10.2	Writing is improving in all data but is a trail for PP learners. Attainment of greater depth is significantly improving; it is above national for all year groups. No PP Boys were at ARE at the end of Year 1 in July.	
10.3	In Year 6, we have a lot of learners that are PP and SEND. They get a lot of support but are out of step with their peers we are looking at how best to measure their progress the best. We are looking at careful record keeping and targeted intervention, we need to work out how is best to present and monitor their progress. MS suggested that the SEND Link Councillor could take this up as a priority. SK added that this could be a focus for the learning walk and looking at their workbooks could be viewed. JB also suggested that Lucy Salmon could gather this information from the pupils themselves so they can share how they feel about what they do and do not enjoy with their learning.	
10.4	We have done a lot of work across the academy for our disadvantaged learners generally. We had a staff meeting, where teachers had to look at photos of the pupils and write down everything, they knew about them. This will happen year on year, moving forwards. We are also making student passports to capture important information.	
11	PP Updates	
11.1	The Pupil Premium statement and action plan for this year, is there anything we can learn from last year’s statement for the next draft?	

	SK – we need a new PP Link councillor; this is a priority area for WFA. MS to email the group for their thoughts on this role. SK to draft this for the next meeting.	
12	Risk Register	
12.1	MS and SK to review the Risk Register outside of the meeting, and feedback at another time. SW to link back with BG on where the work is with Risk Register in relation to Academy Councils and input.	
13	Health and Safety	
13.1	The H&S committee are not yet up and running. Our H&S Compliance Officer has undertaken a walk round recently of the academy. Fi Mallin will be setting up a meeting soon, TJ to be invited to attend.	
14	Finance	
14.1	SK reported that WFA finished the year with a surplus above our business rules, this will be going back into the Central Reserves. All our PP funding was spent and there is catch up funding left.	
15	Staffing	
15.1	SK is now a Senior Principal for the CLF. MS offered congratulations from the whole Council. Staffing absences and changes were discussed.	
16	Lettings and Estates	
16.1	There was a requirement for a management committee to be put together when the building was built. SK is seeking a community member to be involved. KR agreed to take part, SK will contact KS the relevant information.	
17	Policies for review	
17.1	Discussions took place surrounding the Home learning policy.	
17.2	Moving forwards, we need to look at which phonics scheme we will be using. We have a requirement to use an accredited scheme and use all resources from one provider.	
17.2.1	<i>Will the CLF be selecting the scheme for all academies, or will this decision be made locally?</i> SK – if we are all using the same scheme, across the Trust, it would enable shared practice conversations. Equally, all schools are individual and may require a different scheme to suit their needs. There are lots of pros and cons to this.	
17.2.2	MS suggested that it would be useful to pick this conversation up in our Term 5 meeting. ACTION: SK to provide an update, later in the year.	
	LT rejoined the meeting 18:53	
18	Governance	
18.1	Discussions took place about the plans for the next Academy Council meeting. It was suggested that there would be a Councillor learning walk, and the meeting would happen earlier in the day to accommodate this change. JH to speak to WH about WFA meeting time changes. POST MEETING NOTE: Following guidance from the H&S Teams, it was decided that the online meeting would still go ahead.	
19	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	
19.1	SK offered an update in the report, there is a new EDI lead for WFA. This will be brought to the next meeting.	
20	Board/COAC attention	
20.1	None.	
21	Any Other Business	
21.1	Please complete your Nimble Training as soon as possible.	
22	Meeting Close	
22.1	Meeting Closed at 20:07	

ACTIONS

MEETING DATE	ITEM	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS
	5.1	SW to liaise with Steve Taylor & COAC regarding the presentation style of the Academy Council report that is preferred by WFA	SW	Closed

Approved: _____ Date _____