



Wallscourt Farm Academy Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 13th February 2020, 6.00pm

Venue – Academy.

Success & Bright Spots (To grow)	Trails & Underperformance (Areas of focus)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS • Phonics • Writing in R-2 (Now 3) • Year 2 outcomes in Reading, Writing and Maths • Curriculum – Enquiry Approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with SEND • New joiners attainment & Progress • Writing in Yrs 4, 5,6 • Children at Greater Depth

Academy Council:

AC Members		Attended	Apologies
Nathan Leigh	Sponsor 1 (Chair)	✓	
Linda Tanner	Sponsor 2	✓	
Michael Small	Sponsor 3	✓	
Phil Walker	Sponsor 4	✓	
Craig Phillips	Sponsor 5	✓	
Sue Kelham	Principal	✓	
Susie Weaver	Executive Principal	✓	
Trevor Jones	Local Authority Rep	✓	
Yana Palaguta	Parent Councillor		None sent
Jenny Bodnarchuk	Parent Councillor	✓	
Helen Rea	Staff Councillor	✓	
Lucy Salmon	Student Advocate	✓	
Invited attendees			
Charlotte Black	Vice Principal		

The Academy Council spent fifteen minutes before the meeting started, reviewing, and discussing the Academy Council report to identify trends and lines of enquiry.

Item	Description	Action
1.	Introduction, Administration, and Apologies	
1.1	The meeting was opened by the Chair, and all were welcomed. The meeting was deemed quorate.	
1.1.2	NL advised that Jenny Bye is running late. No apologies were received from Yana Palaguta.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	None	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
3.1	Minutes were confirmed. Actions are listed at the end of the document.	
4.	Matters Arising	
4.1	Curriculum Presentation from Charlotte Black	
4.1.1	An outcome from our last OFSTED review was for us to develop Middle Leadership. We have made changes around planning and we are incorporating the new CLF curriculum.	
4.1.2	Subject leaders are implementing joy filled learning and want to create learners who can think for themselves.	
4.1.3	Our curriculum intent is a 6 week planning cycle. We've been focusing on writing and have linked with a South Glos English Specialist. The first 3 weeks (of the 6 week cycle) is focused on being an author, discreetly teaching writing, whilst the second weeks (of the 6 week cycle) is 'writing to learn', ie to 'write like a Scientist'.	
4.2	What other parts of the curriculum gets pushed to the second 3 weeks of the 6 week cycle?	
4.2.1	(CB) Science, Geography etc. Writing throughout WFA was not performing well, but now we don't need to teach literacy in the second 3 weeks (of the 6 week cycle) because this has been covered in the first 3 weeks.	
4.2.2	(SW) It gives us a great opportunity to focus.	
4.3	Are the other Academies doing the same teaching?	
4.3.1	(SW) Each Academy is different. Some are teaching each subject, some are teaching one week intensive. Our Academies all follow the same curriculum, but the specialists in the schools are best placed to implement the teaching.	
4.3.2	(CB) We still have purposeful, joy filled learning and often combine 2 subjects ie, Science and Music or Science and Geography. Our Yr4 students produced a Silent Film with a soundtrack.	
4.4	Are the Enquiries (Projects/Topics) planned over 39 weeks?	
4.4.1	(CB) Yes. The second 3 weeks (of the 6 week cycle) Our Literacy Lead has met with a teacher from each year group and mapped out the enquiries over 39 weeks. I've met with our Middle Leaders.	
4.4.2	(CB) Subject Leaders should be an expert of the curriculum. In Primary school you may be leading a subject that you don't have a degree in, investing in your subject leaders is key to continuing to develop a deep understanding of the curriculum.	
4.4.3	Our 39 week plans are complete for all year groups, and contain all CLF content.	
	JB arrived at 18:30	
4.5	Do we give time to the Middle Leaders to develop and research the subjects they lead if they are not qualified in that areas?	
4.5.1	(CB) Yes, via our Primary cluster meetings.	
4.5.2	(SW) We match our teachers with Secondary teachers. Workshops are available at PAC which are run by subject leads. Our History subject lead (at WFA) has a History degree, is a former curator and was heavily involved I the writing the CLF curriculum.	

4.5.3	(CB) We have a further document for 39 weeks that outlines the focus for each year group. We have invited our subject leaders to the SLT meeting to help build expertise and this enables the SLT to lend support and training.	
4.5.4	(SK) This is also good practice for the subject leaders to present in front of the SLT. There are exciting challenges for teachers and students working from a high quality model.	
4.6	Do the teachers have a chance to tweak the plans?	
4.6.1	(CB) Yes of course, keeping it relevant day to day. It can be tweaked via the cohort and community. We've made changes along the way.	
4.6.2	(SK) Our writing is improving rapidly.	
4.6.3	(SW) We've been responsive to the ARV (Academy Review Visits)	
4.6.4	(CB) We look at how the plans are being implemented. We have done book looks and looked at learning journeys and ensured that the plans have been followed. We've carried out Pupil Voice and found that there was some confusion on the learning focus, but this has been rectified and we are learning from this.	
4.6.5	(SK) Teachers sometimes find it a little difficult to let go of the writing focus during the second 2 weeks (of the 6 week cycle)	
4.6.6	(SW) The depth of curriculum thinking at WFA is very strong and has been acknowledged as a real strength here. During Scrutiny we were asked how the Academy Council are informed of the curriculum, we think it would be great for the Link Councillors to ask about this during visits.	
	CB left at 18:58	
5.	Achievement and Standards	
5.1	Student Outcomes	
5.1.1	(SK) We had significant increases in writing, our mocks outcomes were very good. Our homegrown Yr6 children are doing very well. Children that have joined us from other schools are doing less well.	
5.1.2	(SW) We have delved into the results right to the individual pupil at Primary level; the attainment journey at WFA is strong.	
5.1.3	(SK) It is heartening that the children have had a really great curriculum, and they have a positive attitude to learning.	
5.2	What is the National Average for Reading?	
5.2.1	(SK) 75% - WFA are well above the NA. All children are above the NA. We are slightly below on Writing and Maths, although the full curriculum for Maths has not yet been taught.	
5.2.2	(HR) Children are doing harder tests right now	
5.2.3	(SK) Its really exciting having Yr6. Its great seeing their joy at learning and coming to school. We've recently held auditions for our Musical Theatre production, Joseph.	
5.2.4	(HR) We have had over 50 children from Yrs5 & 6 take part in the auditions.	
5.3	Boys writing is at 45% - How borderline are they?	
5.3.1	(SK) There will still be a boy/girl gap, and some are quite a way behind and some are working really well on redrafting and dictionary use. We believe we will get 79% combined.	
5.4	Do you think we will get writing at a GLD (Good Level of Development)?	
5.4.1	(SK) We may be a bit below	
5.5	Are we getting a South Glos Moderator in?	
5.5.1	Yes, we have her scheduled already.	
5.5.2	(SW) Writing is down across all academies due to focus elsewhere. There may be a marginal gap.	
5.5.3	ACTION: SK to send the next set of data out prior to the next meeting	SK

	Attendance	
5.6	Yr6 Persistent Absence seems high, what impact do you think the newsletter has had?	
5.6.1	(SK) I think the newsletter has had a good impact. We have managed to recode the visits the Yr6 students were making to Secondary schools (these are no longer coded as absent), therefore the Persistent Absence in Yr6 has reduced.	
5.7	What has happened with the Principal from Patchway Community College coming to visit?	
5.7.1	(SK) The visit has not happened yet, this will be scheduled as soon as the Secondary school places have been allocated.	
6.	Behaviour, Attitudes, Personal Development	
7.	Safeguarding and Inclusion	
7.1	Children have had input to the Safeguarding noticeboard.	
7.2	We have had a couple of racist incidents aimed at some Chinese students due to Coronavirus; we have met with the families.	
7.3	How did the online safety forum go?	
7.3.1	(SK) Unfortunately not many parents attended, although those that did, found it very good. We have held whole school Gatherings on online and Internet safety.	
7.3.2	(PW) It's really hard to get Parental Engagement; we need to educate the children. I'm producing some slides to show how to switch some of the features of Fortnite on/off to ensure that the children are not playing on an open forum.	
7.3.3	(LT) Could we ask the wider CLF ie, teenagers to write a guide on how to turn on some of the safety features?	
8.	Finance, Health & Safety and Estates	
9.	Staffing & Wellbeing	
10.	Policies	
10.1	The Admissions policy was noted as it has already been approved by the CLF Board. Both TJ and MS emailed Wendy Hellin with some minor amendments.	
11.	Student Voice/Student Advocate	
12.	Governance	
12.1	Scrutiny update	
12.1.1	(NL) Myself, SK and Hannah McDonnell attended Scrutiny, it was an intense 30mins, but very positive for WFA.	
12.1.2	(SW) The panel were very well prepared; Areas of recommendation from scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor the impact of improvements- including the small stepped improvements through AIP teams and beyond - and loop these back to AC to describe the challenge and support from AC Focus on the greater depth - ensuring the provision meets need and continues to stretch - including reference to the writing - IF/CLF key essentials Ongoing focus on PP to close the gaps and ensure provision is bespoke - top 13 and beyond Raise attendance and reduce PA - in line with all and ensure this is above 96% with PA below National Use the strategic planning systems - including AIT, AIP, SEF, ARMs and ARVs to continue to support school improvement across the Academy 	
12.2	Do all schools measure homegrown vs transfers?	
12.2.1	(SK) Maybe not but we have had a lot of joiners in our Year 5s and 6s	
12.3	(NL) I'd like to formerly welcome Linda Tanner back to the Council. LT was approved at the last COAC in January.	
12.4	Could you all please complete the training on NIMBLE, especially Safeguarding.	

13.	Equality & Diversity	
	N/A	
14.	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
	N/A	
15.	AOB	
	<i>Meeting Closed at 19:52</i>	

ACTIONS

MEETING DATE	ITEM	ACTION	OWNER	STATUS
10.10.19	4.1.1	SW to speak with Jason to ask if data can be added to front of the Academy Council report.	SW	Open
10.10.19	5.6.2	SK to set a date for the meeting regarding the Relationships, health and Sex Education policy and confirm to the AC. As many Councillors as possible should attend UPDATE; 12.02.20 – Focus groups for the PHSE policy is almost ready for consultation	SK	Open
10.10.19	12.3	Michael Small to present an overview and understanding of the Blackbox data – Date TBC	MS	Open
10.10.19	12.4	NL/SK to confirm Link Councillor details with CP	NL/SK	Closed
10.10.19	12.4.1	LP to check availability of slides from the Saturday meeting	SW	Closed
19.12.19	5.4.2	Please ensure that Steve Taylor is aware when the meeting with Dave Baker and the head teacher of Patchway community college is taking place. UPDATE: 13.02.20 – This will take place after Secondary places are allocated in early March	SK/SW	Open
19.12.19	5.13.2	PW and SK to meet re: PP	SK/PW	Open
19.12.19	11.2.2	LS to email LP the Student voice for upload to Teams.	LS/LP	Open
13.02.20	5.5.3	SK to send the next set of data out prior to the next meeting	SK	Open

Approved: _____ Date _____