

**Minutes of the Full Governing Body Planning Meeting
held in The Walter Knibbs Dining Room
on Tuesday 30 April 2019 at 6.30pm**

Present:

Dr J Powell (Chair)	Mr J Bilson
Mr I Colling (Headteacher)	Mr C Harte
Mr H Cooper	Mrs A Gomes dos Santos
Mr D Garratt	Mrs S King
Dr B Naylor	Dr N Dixon
Mr G Ellis	

Apologies:

Mrs L Bowe
 Dr M Pobjoy
 Mr C Clapham
 Mr N Arnold
 Mr R Sawbridge MBE (Member)

In Attendance:

Mr T Hollis (Deputy Head)
 Mr A Anderson (Member)
 Mrs J Dingvean (Member)
 Mrs W Willie (Clerk)

ACTIONS:

1.	Ofsted consultation document to be sent to Mrs Willie for GovernorHub	Mr Colling/ Mrs Willie
2.	Skills gaps to be reviewed by Chairs' Committee	Mrs Willie
3.	Skills audit forms to be sent to new governors	Mrs Willie

1. Welcome & Apologies

Dr Powell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mrs Janet Dingvean, newly appointed Member of the Academy Trust. Apologies as noted above which were accepted. Mr Thorne and Mr Redman were noted as absent. The meeting was quorate.

2. Year 12 Student Leaders' Presentation

The newly appointed Year 12 Student Leaders were welcomed to the meeting. The students introduced themselves and briefed on their studies and plans for the future. Mr Colling expressed he was proud and very pleased to have the students attend the meeting this evening. It was clarified that the students will replace the current Head Boy, Head Girl and Heads of House when the current Year 13 students leave.

The students were thanked for attending, wished every success for the year ahead and left the meeting.

3. Declaration of Governors' Interests

None.

4. **New Ofsted Framework**

Mr Colling gave a presentation on the whiteboard on the new draft Ofsted framework, with a document distributed detailing the slides from the presentation. Mr Colling clarified that the school is currently graded as a 2 (Good) under the existing framework. The consultation for the new framework is now closed, with the framework to be introduced from September 2019. Mr Colling briefed on each of the slides, advising that he does not think a significant change of strategic direction of the school is needed due to the new framework. Schools will be inspected every four years, therefore an inspection is due in February 2020, if outcomes continue to be strong. Mr Colling to send the Ofsted consultation document to Mrs Willie for GovernorHub.

Action: Mr Colling/Mrs Willie

Mr Anderson asked if there had been a change in the way governance is inspected. Mr Colling said this is unlikely, however, governors maybe expected to know more about the curriculum and curriculum vision. Mr Colling had produced a discussion document for governors regarding the curriculum and decisions previously made by governors. It was proposed that governors revisit the decisions in light of the changed education landscape and the stated aspiration of the government. Mr Colling added that governors maybe asked by inspectors why these decisions were made and if governors have scrutinised these areas. Governor minutes will be reviewed and inspectors will speak to governors. The level of governor scrutiny of senior leadership will be looked at.

Mr Garratt asked how at the end of an inspection the inspectors will come up with their judgement without looking at data. Mr Colling advised that the inspectors discuss their findings. Inspectors will evaluate the evidence and match this against the criteria. The inspection team will contribute to the judgement based on all the evidence gathered during the inspection.

Mr Ellis asked if the school is advised of the judgement at the end of the inspection. Mr Colling confirmed that a final meeting is held at the end of the inspection in which feedback is given. This meeting will include some governors and possibly a representative from the Local Authority or Diocese, depending on the type of school being inspected. The grades given are confidential due to the quality assurance process which takes place subsequently. A draft report is produced and sent to the school for factual accuracy to be checked prior to the report being published. **Mr Ellis asked if there is anything that helps to quality-assure the framework within Ofsted.** Mr Colling stated there is a detailed quality assurance process. Inspections are also monitored to ensure they are rigorous.

Mrs Dingvean asked if Ofsted would be more prescriptive with the information asked for. Mr Colling said not particularly, adding that normally a lot of the information required is already published on the school's website.

Dr Naylor asked if Ofsted review the Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR). Mr Colling confirmed this is a key document in the inspection.

Mr Anderson asked if inspectors would look at trends in relation to pupil applications, as this would relate to the school's reputation. Mr Colling said that this is not usually a key statistic, but inspectors do look at press releases and are made aware of any issues that the school or local community may have been through.

Mr Harte asked in terms of quality of teaching, how inspectors select which subjects or classes to visit. Mr Colling explained how this is undertaken by inspectors.

Mr Ellis asked if a short Section 8 inspection would be sufficient for the school to gain an outstanding judgement. Mr Colling explained how Section 8 inspections can lead to Section 5 inspections if a school has deteriorated. He explained that if a school is already good but could be outstanding during a Section 8 inspection, the school would be sent a letter advising they will receive another inspection within 2 years to test to see if the school is outstanding. **Mr Ellis asked if a school can request an inspection if they believe they are outstanding.** Mr Colling said yes, but believes the school may have to pay for an inspection in these circumstances. Mr Hollis added that there is a move to change the law so that outstanding schools are no longer exempt from inspection.

Mrs Dingvean asked if safeguarding overrides everything in an inspection. Mr Colling confirmed this is correct.

Curriculum: Discussion document for governors

Mr Colling referred governors to the discussion document produced in response to the new Ofsted inspection framework. Mr Colling briefed on the two areas to review, asking if the governing body is happy with the decisions previously taken and if governors are confident if challenged by inspectors about these decisions. Governors reviewed the document with the following highlighted and questions raised.

a) The decision to start option subjects from Year 9 (previously Year 10)

Mr Colling explained that due to the breadth of the new GCSEs, it was felt having three years to cover the content of subjects is beneficial. Also students were losing motivation in Year 9 in the subjects they knew that they weren't going to choose to study at GCSE. Whether this loss of motivation is now transferred to Year 8 is being evaluated. **Dr Powell asked about the Year 9 students who were first to go through this process.** Mr Hollis clarified that these students are now only in Year 10.

Dr Naylor asked if any other schools had made this decision and then reverted back. Mr Colling said that a lot of schools will be having this discussion and either change back or not.

Mrs Dingvean asked if student voice had been included prior to the decision being made. Mr Hollis confirmed that students were asked about this during the process. Senior leaders have also recently discussed with Year 10 students how they are finding it now.

Dr Naylor asked with regard to the 'wasted years' is there anything in the consultation. Mr Colling clarified that it is about having a curriculum intent which is rigorous. **Dr Naylor asked if referring to 'not having wasted years' would be seen as gaming,** a practice highlighted in the Ofsted presentation. Mr Colling responded he would be confident in telling the inspectors why it was felt students needed another year to cover the curriculum for GCSEs. Evidence is not yet available because the students who first chose their options in Year 8 haven't taken their GCSEs yet. When the evidence is available it will be evaluated.

Mr Ellis asked if students change their options after they have started studying the subject. Mr Colling explained that some students do change subjects in the first couple of weeks if there is space for them to move. However, a lot of guidance is provided in helping students pick the right subjects for them. Work is undertaken to ensure a student has a breadth of subjects.

It was noted that Mr Cooper and Dr Powell undertook a governor visit last week and were shown good examples of teachers addressing cultural capital. Dr Dixon added that this has been led by Mr Horner and senior leaders have been generous in allowing time for staff to focus on this. Dr Dixon added that by this time next year Heads of Faculty will be able to evidence what they are doing and why.

b) The decision not to require all pupils to study a language to GCSE

Mr Colling explained that the philosophy behind pupils taking a language was based on the fact that they are enjoying it and being successful, not because the school is telling them they have to and this was discussed.

Mr Cooper asked about languages being taught in primary schools. Mr Hollis advised this is mixed, with students having very different levels of knowledge from languages taught at primary school.

Governors discussed the decisions previously made and acknowledged that in a few years' time there would be more measurable data to inform a valuation. It was agreed that the decisions previously made continue.

5. Governor Vacancies/Skills Gaps

There are currently two Foundation Governor vacancies which Dr Pobjoy is dealing with.

One nomination was received for the Staff Governor vacancy. Mr Colling and Dr Powell are due to meet with the member of staff to discuss the role.

There is currently one Community Governor vacancy. It was agreed that the Chairs' Committee would look at governors' skills. Skills audit to be issued to the new governors if not completed. **Action: Mrs Willie**

6. Governor Visits

The governor visits spreadsheet had been circulated for information. No additional visits were identified.

7. Any Other Business

None.

8. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 9 July 2019 6.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated.....