



**Swift**  
**Academies**  
*Success will inspire future triumphs*

**Standards Committee**

**Held at the Rydal Academy**

**4.30pm, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**MINUTES**

Present (Directors)	Tim Fisher (Chair), Dean Judson (Chief Executive Officer) and Julie Cornelius (Vice Chair).
in attendance	John Armitage: Head Teacher, The Rydal Academy Angela Sweeten: Head Teacher, Longfield Academy Rachel Somerville: Head of School, Hurworth School – Via Teams Glen Hart: Chief Finance Officer Sarah Jones: Trust Business Manager Laura Hawksby: Governance & Policy Officer

Item	Description of discussion	Action by
1.	<p><b>Welcome, introductions and confirmation quorum present</b></p> <p>Directors were reminded that three Directors were required in order that decisions could be taken during this meeting of the Standards Committee of Swift Academies. Two (2) Directors were initially present at the opening of the meeting and it was therefore not quorate. With the permission of the Chair items 2, 3, 4, and 5 below were commenced as these were not items for decision and the third Director would be joining the meeting.</p> <p>Director Julie Cornelius arrived at the meeting at 4.55 pm, during discussion of the Rydal Head Teacher's report (Minute 5 below). The meeting was then quorate with the requisite three (3) Directors present.</p> <p>Directors and those present were reminded that they should declare any personal or pecuniary interests in any matters arising from the agenda of the current meeting. No declarations of interest were received.</p>	

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<p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>	<p><b>Apologies for absence and their acceptance</b></p> <p>It was reported that apologies for absence had been received from Directors Derek Bell and Kelly-Ann Lyle.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the apologies received.</p> <p><b>Terms of Office due to expire</b></p> <p>It was noted that Governor Nick Rees (Vice Chair) of Longfield Academy Local Governing Body's term of office was due to end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and that he would stepping down as a Governor at that time. It was also noted that Yvonne Hancock Hurworth School Local Governing Body had advised that she would be stepping down as a Governor at the end of April 2023.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that it be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Governor Nick Rees of the Longfield Academy Local Governing Body term of office was due to end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.</li> <li>b) Governor Yvonne Hancock Hurworth School Local Governing Body had advised that she would be stepping down as a Governor at the end of April 2023.</li> <li>c) The vacancies would be filled as appropriate and brought back to Directors' at a future meeting for approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notification of Items of Other Business</b></p> <p>It was noted there was one item of other business Exam Boards, which would be considered by Directors later in the meeting. (Minute 11 below refers)</p> <p><b><i>(With the permission of the Chair the following item: The Rydal Academy – Head Teacher's Report/SEF/Action Plan/ School Improvement Partner Report was brought forward on the Agenda)</i></b></p> <p><b>The Rydal Academy</b></p> <p><b>a) Head Teacher's Report</b></p> <p>The Head Teacher of Rydal Academy provided a comprehensive verbal report to the Standards Committee.</p> <p>Head Teacher advised that pupil and nursery numbers had increased in The Rydal Academy. Following on from recent parents/carers questionnaires there was a growing number of parents interested in weekend and holiday childcare and Early Years wraparound care.</p>	<p>Hurworth/ Longfield LGBs and Governance &amp; Policy Officer</p>
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The Head Teacher provided an update on the number of pupils suspended and excluded and accessing alternative provision. It was noted that the pastoral team had been extended in Autumn Term 2. A full staffing update was provided of appointments, and it was noted there were no leavers since last reported to the Local Governing Body.

He also reported on tracking and monitoring and advised that the Academy's focus continued to be on writing. Directors questioned where The Rydal Academy was currently in term of national benchmarking? The Head Teacher advised that the Academy was currently below the national average attainment in Reading, Writing & Maths, however growth in progress compared to the national average was much higher. Directors noted this had been recognised in the recent Ofsted report and that the Academy continued to be successful at 'closing the gap.'

It was also noted that a GTRSB (The Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boaters) pledge certification had been received by the Academy. It was also reported that the Rydal Academy had been selected for the School Led Tutoring Audit.

A safeguarding update was provided by the Head Teacher. It was noted that there had been an increase in numbers with those in higher need, and that safeguarding continued to be a high priority in The Rydal Academy

The Head Teacher advised of the continued importance of the link Governors with governor specific responsibilities coming into the Academy to undertake their monitoring roles. It was agreed by the Local Governing Body that the link for Safeguarding (including E-Safety) & Welfare and Looked After Children (LAC) & Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) should be joined together.

Directors **RESOLVED** that the Head Teacher's update report be noted.

*(Mrs A Sweeten arrived at the meeting at 4.38 pm and Director Julie Cornelius at 4.55 pm during consideration of the above item.)*

**b.)SEF/Action Plan**

The Head Teacher provided a report on the SEF (Self Evaluation Form) and Strategic Action Plan, which is retained on file. All updates were highlighted in yellow throughout the report. It was noted that The Rydal Academy was now providing support to access a food bank and free uniform shop.

Directors **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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	<p><b>c.) School Improvement Partner Report</b></p> <p>The Head Teacher reported on the School Improvement Partner Report, a copy of which is retained on file.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>d.) Education Development Partner Report</b></p> <p>The Head Teacher reported on the Education Development Partner Report (EDP), a copy of which is retained on file. The focus of the visit was to review the strength of curriculum sequencing for relationships, protected characteristics and fundamental British values in the PSHE curriculum (Personal, Social Health &amp; Economic). The resulting areas for development were noted from the report.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>e.) Ofsted Report</b></p> <p>The Head Teacher reported on the Ofsted report for The Rydal Academy for their inspection visit which had been undertaken on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>f.) IDSR Report</b></p> <p>The Head Teacher reported on the School Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR), a copy of which is retained on file.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p>Draft minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 had been shared with Directors prior to this meeting.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and should be signed by the Chair.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Longfield Academy</b></p> <p><b>a.) Head Teacher's Report</b></p> <p>The Head Teacher provided a comprehensive report to the Standards Committee a copy of which is retained on file.</p>	

The Head Teacher advised that one of the current priorities for Longfield Academy was Year 11 and providing them with the best possible support. Directors were advised that the Year 11 students had undertaken their mock exams, with the History results having shown the most significant variance from those expected; a comprehensive History support plan had therefore been developed.

The Head Teacher advised that the school had continued to develop further provision for pupils with SEND and that the Assistant Head Teacher, Miss H Moohan, would be focusing on the priority area of 'Quality First Teaching' once Year 11 had left, as due to staff absence, her priority has been to teach English.

The school were also focusing on applications for those students who required EHCP's (Education Health and Care Plan). A report in Appendix A was provided to demonstrate the work within SEND to date. At the last Ofsted report HMI had recommended that more Teaching Assistants were required to assist with the provision of SEND in the School. It was noted that two Teaching Assistants had been employed, since last reported to Directors.

It was reported that there was a predicted drop in pupil numbers for the next Academic Year. **Directors advised that it was important that the Trust direct its resources towards helping Longfield to help ensure there was sufficient capacity to help deliver the Academy's core aims.** The Head Teacher of Rydal Academy advised that core teaching & learning and SEND resources could be shared with Longfield.

Behaviour and bullying continued to be areas of focus and evaluation, and it was noted suspensions were reducing.

Directors **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **b.) Appendix A SEND Report**

The Head Teacher reported on the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) report contained at Appendix A of the Head Teacher's report, which included SEND updates and impact.

Directors **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **c.) Longfield EDP Spring Term Report**

The Head Teacher reported on the Spring Term EDP (Education Partner Report). The focus of the visit had included review of the School Improvement Plan (SIP), discussions with the senior team, pupils and staff. A learning walk through lessons and social times was also undertaken. The resulting areas for development were noted from the report.

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	<p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>d.) Ofsted Monitoring Visit Report 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b></p> <p>The Head Teacher advised that Longfield Academy's Ofsted monitoring visit report had not yet been received, however was due shortly. Once received, the report would be published and dispatched to Directors, Longfield Academy Local Governing Body Governors and staff. There were no further actions arising from the monitoring visit. <b>Directors noted the monitoring visit had been positive and the importance of the publicity of the report.</b></p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>Hurworth School</b></p> <p><b>a) Head Teacher's Report</b></p> <p>The Head of School of Hurworth provided a comprehensive report to the Standards Committee which is held on file. She advised that pupil numbers continued to be consistent and attendance was above the national average.</p> <p>She advised that safeguarding in the school continued to be monitored, and there had been a rise in domestic abuse cases. Additional training had been provided to staff in this area.</p> <p>The Head of School reported upon attainment and progress for Year 11 and mock exams. Overall progress had improved significantly since 2019 for all students, with Disadvantaged students progress showing improvement. Revision support had been offered to Year 11's before school, lunchtime and after school sessions. It was noted that boys progress continued to be a priority to narrow the gap between boys and girls.</p> <p>With regards to staffing, the Head of School reported that two new Heads of Department had been employed with the positive impact evident.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>b) Educational Development Partnership Report</b></p> <p>The Head of School reported on the Educational Development Partnership report, a copy of which was retained on file. It was noted that the focus for the visit was on reading priorities. The resulting areas for development were noted from the report.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p>	

<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Chief Executive Officer's Report</b></p> <p>A thorough verbal update was given by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with respect to the IT disruption/cybersecurity incident. It is noted that this was an interim update given the ongoing incident response.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>a) Scheme of Delegation</b></p> <p>Consideration was given by the Directors to the Scheme of Delegation. It was noted there were no new updates.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p> <p><b>b) Trust Development Plan</b></p> <p>Consideration was given by the Directors to the Trust Development Plan. It was noted there were no new updates.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Policies for information</b></p> <p>The following policies were noted for information: Probationary Policy, GDPR and Data Protection, IT Acceptable User Policy, Bring Your Own Device Policy and Online Safety Policy</p> <p><b>Policies for Review</b></p> <p>It was noted there were no policies for review.</p> <p><b>Policies for Approval</b></p> <p>It was noted there were no policies for approval.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Any urgent other business raised under item 3</b></p> <p>Further to Minute 4 above, the Chief Executive Officer provided a verbal update with regards to the Exam Boards.</p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) be contacted, on behalf of the Directors, to progress the matter.</p>	<p>CEO/ Directors</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Approval of documents for inspection</b></p> <p>Directors <b>RESOLVED</b> that the agenda, approved minutes and supporting documents be made available for public inspection with the exception of information concerning identifiable pupils and/or teachers.</p>	

13.	<p><b>Date and time of future meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MAT Development Session - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023</li><li>• Board of Directors – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (2.00 pm)</li><li>• Standards – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 (4.30 pm)</li></ul> <p>The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm</p>	
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These minutes were approved by the Standards Committee, as follows:

Signed by: (Chair) 

On: (date) 21.06.23

Printed name: D. Bell