



Swift Academies

Success will inspire future triumphs

Standards Committee

Held at the Hurworth Academy

4.30pm, Wednesday 21st June 2023

MINUTES

Present (Directors)	Dean Judson (Chief Executive Officer), Derek Bell and Kelly-Ann Lyle.
in attendance	John Armitage: Head Teacher, The Rydal Academy Angela Sweeten: Head Teacher, Longfield Academy Rachel Somerville: Head of School, Hurworth School Laura Hawksby: Governance & Policy Officer

Item	Description of discussion	Action by
1.	<p><i>In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee, with the agreement of the Committee, Director Derek Bell Chaired the meeting.</i></p> <p>Welcome, introductions and confirmation quorum present.</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. Three (3) Directors were present.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence and their acceptance</p> <p>It was reported that apologies for absence had been received from Directors Tim Fisher (Chair) and Julie Cornelius (Vice Chair).</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED to accept the apologies received.</p>	
3.	<p>Notification of Items of Other Business</p> <p>There were no item of other business.</p>	

Swift Academies
Registered office address:
Croft Road, Hurworth on Tees, Darlington, County Durham DL2 2JG

Company Registration Number 07533271

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denotes support and challenge provided by Directors

4.	<p>a) Register of Interest</p> <p>Directors and those present were reminded that they should complete the Register of Interest annually to declare any relevant business or pecuniary interest and close family relationship between members and / or other Trustees and / or employees. Registers should be updated during the academic year should circumstances change.</p> <p>All Directors present had submitted a Register of Interest.</p> <p>b) To declare any personal or pecuniary interest in any matters arising from the agenda of the current meeting</p> <p>Directors and those present were reminded that they should declare any personal or pecuniary interest in any matters arising from the agenda of the current meeting.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were received.</p>	
5.	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Draft minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 16th March 2023 had been shared with Directors prior to this meeting, with a copy held on file.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 16th March 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and should be signed by the Chair of this meeting.</p>	Governance & Policy Officer
6.	<p>Membership Document</p> <p>It was noted that Governor Sarah Glover (Teaching Staff Governor) Longfield Academy Local Governing had resigned as of 18th June 2023. It was also noted that a new Governor Tracy Vaughan had been appointed as a General Governor of The Rydal Local Governing Body by the Board of Directors as of 19th June 2023.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that it be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Governor Sarah Glover (Teaching Staff Governor) Longfield Academy Local Governing had resigned as of 18th June 2023 and that the vacancies would be filled as appropriate and brought back to Directors for approval. b) Governor Tracy Vaughan had been appointed as a General Governor of The Rydal Local Governing Body by the Board of Directors as of 19th June 2023. 	Governance & Policy Officer

7.	<p>IT Update</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided a verbal IT update. He advised that a full Wi-Fi refresh had now been undertaken. A full audit of the infrastructure at all three Academies/school had now been completed and IT were ordering replacement managed switches.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>	
8.	<p>Longfield Academy</p> <p>a.) Head Teacher's Report</p> <p>The Head Teacher provided a comprehensive report to the Standards Committee, a copy of which is retained on file.</p> <p>The Head Teacher advised that attendance was still above national average, slightly down from the previous academic year. Persistent absenteeism is monitored, with support measures and interventions put in place to support pupils and their families.</p> <p>Suspension and exclusion data was noted by the Committee, with the number of exclusions and suspensions having decreased. Alternative provision was also reported upon, as detailed in the Head Teacher's report.</p> <p>The Head Teacher reported upon attainment and progress and it was noted Year 10 figures were particularly strong. The Head Teacher also updated the Standards Committee on progress/monitoring impact on the identified Ofsted priorities. Additional support provided to SEN (Special Educational Needs) students was set out in the report and noted. The Head Teacher advised that more teaching support was required in the classroom for SEN pupils and this was noted by the Standards Committee. The School Improvement Partner was due to visit the school on the 26th June 2023 to monitor progress with regard to the Ofsted priorities.</p> <p>Meetings of the School Council were noted to have taken place over the course of the term to meet and discuss key issues affecting students and hear the student voice. More student voice would be collected going forward.</p> <p>Safeguarding concerns were noted to have risen. The Safeguarding team continue to work with the Front Door and Social Workers to ensure there is a multi-agency approach which is child centered.</p>	

<p>9.</p>	<p>The Head Teacher advised the latest staff well-being questionnaire had been conducted in April 2023. It was noted that all resulting actions had been addressed.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>b.) Improvement Plan</p> <p>It was noted that the Improvement Plan was attached to the Agenda for this meeting of the Standards Committee for information and held on file. An update of the Improvement Plan had been provided in the Head Teacher's report.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that it be noted an update of the Improvement Plan had been provided in the Head Teacher's report.</p> <p>c.) Longfield Academy Risk Register</p> <p>Directors noted the Longfield Academy Risk Register.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>Hurworth School</p> <p>a) Head Teacher's Report</p> <p>The Head of School of Hurworth provided a comprehensive report to the Standards Committee, which is held on file.</p> <p>The Head of School advised that attendance was good, above the national average with low persistent absence. It was noted by the Standards Committee that the future Government led initiative to provide a specific time for cut off of registers, would be challenging for Hurworth School as the pupils could potentially arrive later due to the buses not always being able to arrive on time. This initiative was expected to come into place in 2024/25. Directors enquired whether the proposed reduction in in the commercial bus services provided to Hurworth village could also potentially create issues with pupil attendance? It was noted that following on from the Hurworth Local Governing body meeting on the 20th June 2023, an enquiry was to be made to the bus company as to whether they could reconsider the reinstatement of bus services provided to Hurworth village.</p> <p>It was noted that this academic year the school had been challenging low level behaviour and moving their framework to ensure the school's expectations are met. This had led to an increase in external suspensions compared to the previous academic year. However, this had also seen a reduction in low level disruption and therefore had seen a significant decrease in internal suspensions compared with the previous academic year. It was noted the school was promoting positive behaviour systems and ensuring staff are consistent in following the Behaviour Policy.</p>	
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10.	<p>The Head of School reported on safeguarding and advised that there had been a reduction in 'child in need', however there had been an increase in Early Help. It was noted that LAC (Looked After Children) numbers had increased in the school.</p> <p>The Head of School reported on attainment and progress. It was noted that improvement from the mock grades demonstrated that departments are identifying gaps in knowledge and working on examination technique with students. The timing of Year 10 and Year 11 mocks in the future would be essential in order to continue with this work and the mocks would be held later in the year. The Head of School reported that the current Year 10 data was positive.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>b) Hurworth School Risk Register</p> <p>Directors noted the Hurworth School Risk Register.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>The Rydal Academy</p> <p>The Head Teacher of Rydal provided a comprehensive report to the Standards Committee, which is held on file.</p> <p>The Head Teacher advised that projected numbers for pupils coming into reception in the 2023/24 intake was currently 62 and that there was therefore the possibility of the requirement of a third class intake which would incur extra cost in relation to the provision of teaching. It was noted that pupil numbers had increased during the 2022/23 Academic Year due to in year admissions. Indicative figures for September 2023 and future years projected a reduction in pupil numbers overall. Nursery place numbers were in line with 2020/21, with the provision currently full and a waiting list.</p> <p>Pupil absence levels were noted to be close to the national average, and it was the severe absence of a few children which brought this figure down. These children and families continued to be worked with to improve their attendance.</p> <p>With regard to attainment and progress there was a Good Level of Development (GLD), with the projection above that for 2021. Growth was noted by the Directors to be significantly more than the national average and the attainment gap had reduced by 34% from the Reception baseline. Growth for Disadvantaged pupils was significantly closing the attainment gap and was almost treble the national average. Key Stage 1 SAT's (Standard Assessment Tests) had recently been moderated by the Local Authority, with 100% accuracy. Key Stage 2 SAT results would be available later in the summer term.</p>	
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<p>11.</p>	<p>The Head Teacher advised that since February 2023 SIP (School Improvement Plan) support had been provided by Rydal to Richmond Trinity and that this provision would soon be ending.</p> <p>b) Rydal School Risk Register</p> <p>Directors noted the Rydal School Risk Register.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer's Report</p> <p>a) Scheme of Delegation</p> <p>Consideration was given by the Directors to the Scheme of Delegation. It was noted that any new updates would be taken to the Board meeting on the 7th July 2023.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>b) Trust Development Plan</p> <p>Consideration was given by the Directors to the Trust Development Plan. It was noted that any new updates would be taken to the Board meeting on the 7th July 2023.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>c) Trust Development</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided a verbal update report to the Standards Committee with regards to Trust Development. He advised that he and Tim Fisher had visited 8 to 9 prospective schools with regard to joining the new entity of Swift Academies /Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. He further advised that 3 sets of solicitors had been considered with regard to assisting in due diligence.</p> <p>Subject to approval by the Head Teacher's Advisory Body and Regional Commissioner, it was hoped following consultation for the merger to be complete by approximately December 2023 or early in the 2024 new year. Consideration was currently being given to the make up of the new Board, with the application and Board composition to be submitted in the middle of August.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Policies for information</p> <p>The following policies were noted for information: Online Safety Policy; Bereavement Policy; IT Acceptable User Policy.</p>	

	<p>Policies for Review</p> <p>It was noted there were no policies for review.</p> <p>Policies for Approval</p> <p>It was noted there were no policies for approval.</p> <p>13. Approval of Documents for Inspection</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED 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> <p>14. Date and time of future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT Development Session - Thursday 6th July 2023 (5.00pm - online) • Board of Directors - Friday 7 July 2023 (2.00pm @ Hurworth) <p>The meeting concluded at 5.55 pm</p> <p>These minutes were approved by the Standards Committee, as follows:</p> <p>Signed by: (Chair) <u> <i>TF</i> </u></p> <p>On: (date) <u> 5/10/23 </u></p> <p>Printed name: <u> TIM FISHER </u></p>	<p>Governance & Policy Officer</p>
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