

Standards Committee

Held at Hurworth School

4.30pm, Wednesday 22 June 2022

APPROVED MINUTES

Present (Directors)	Dean Judson (Chief Executive Officer), Julia Cornelius, Derek Bell, Sam Hirst
in attendance	John Armitage: Head Teacher, The Rydal Academy Angela Sweeten: Head of School, Longfield Academy Sam Reilly: Assistant Head Teacher; Hurworth School Caroline Jennings: Clerk

Item	Description of discussion	Action by
1.	Welcome, introductions and confirmation quorum present 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. Four (4) Directors were present.	
2.	Apologies for absence and their acceptance Directors were informed that apologies were received from Tim Fisher who would not be attending this meeting. Directors RESOLVED that the information was noted and apologies accepted.	
3.	Notification of items of urgent other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> items that the Standards Committee of the Board of Directors of Swift Academies regard are of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration at the end of the agenda <p>No items of urgent business were raised.</p>	
4.	Declaration of personal and pecuniary interests <p>a) complete / review the Register of Interest for the 2021-2022 academic year 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. The Register should be updated during the academic year should circumstances change.</p> <p>b) to declare any personal or pecuniary interest in any matters arising from the agenda of the current meeting</p>	Clerk

	<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> <p>5 Approval of minutes / review of actions / matters arising Draft minutes of Standards Committee held on Thursday 17 March 2022 had been shared with Directors prior to this meeting. A copy would be retained on file.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and should be signed by the Chair.</p> <p>The Clerk would liaise with the Chair to arrange a signed copy of the approved minutes are retained on file.</p> <p>6. Hurworth School The Head Teacher and Educational Development Partner (EDP) reports were circulated to Directors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Attendance The Head Teacher advised Directors that attendance was 92% and above the national average. Like all schools, attendance in 2021/2022 was significantly impacted due to Covid.</p> <p>Suspensions Directors informed the number of suspensions has significantly reduced this year, and the data is positive compared to national. Also, there has only been one permanent exclusion compared to three last year, so the strategies implemented seem to be working. The Head Teacher said that the school continued to embed the 4R Value system (respect, relationships, resilience, responsibility) by raising the profile; displaying logos and displays throughout the school. A day for each of the 4R's has been allocated in the next academic year.</p> <p>Safeguarding Directors informed the current Designated Safeguarding Lead was retiring, but the Deputy DSL was stepping up to take over this role.</p> <p>The Head Teacher reported a spike in incidents/concerns reported following the Covid lockdowns. Furthermore, there was an increase in disclosures made about abuse happening at home and Mental Health concerns have been on the increase throughout this academic year.</p> <p>Governor Question: Looking at the data, 32% of pupils have reported having mental health issues – is this normal?</p> <p>Response: <i>The Head Teacher agreed this was a significant rise over the last two years, likely linked to Covid lockdown. Year 7 and 8 in particular did not have the normal transition to a new educational setting which presented staff with a number of issues. However, this is a county and country wide issue.</i></p>	Clerk
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Governor Question: How have Year 11 coped with the examination process?

Response: *Although there has been some anxiety, the year group have come together and supported each other. Having more information about the content of the exams this year has also helped. The school is working on building up resilience, particularly in Year 10.*

Attainment and Progress

The Head Teacher advised that the predicted Year 11 Progress 8 figure was pleasing. Directors were informed about the Year 11 strategies in place to support revision for their examinations.

At KS3, departments continue to extend links across the curriculum. There has also been a key focus on soft skills.

Funding has been cascaded down from KS4 to KS3 to address any knowledge gaps.

Darlington College and Cambridge University have been working with Year 9 and 10 to offer enrichment and support their careers education.

Staffing

A Science teacher/Assistant SENCO have been appointed to increase capacity. Also, two new apprentices and a Transition Lead are also now in post.

Financial management and governance

The Chief Financial Officer reported a £62k surplus for 2021/22 which was better than projected, with additional monies expected in this may rise to £100k.

The medium-term financial plan covering the period 2022/23 - 2024/25 is currently being prepared.

EDP Report

Full details of the main findings and recommendations were sent to Directors prior to the meeting.

Directors RESOLVED that the content of the Head of Hurworth School's Report, EDP report, SEF/Action Plan and information reported were noted.

7. Longfield Academy

The Head Teacher and Educational Development Partner (EDP) visit reports, together with the School Improvement Plan were circulated to Directors prior to the meeting.

The Head Teacher highlighted changes which had been put in place since she started. The split lunch system has proved to be very successful; queues significantly reduced and a one-way system introduced. Positive play introduced in the form of football, hopscotch and hula hoops. This has resulted in a much calmer and purposeful environment, which the EDP partner commented on.

Going forward, the Head Teacher informed Directors she would be looking at remodeling the SEN base, and shifting and redefining TLRs.

The Head Teacher explained the new Choices policy, which has been working well due to pupils' compliance.

Governor's Question: Are staff on board with the new changes introduced?

Response: *A new staff forum has been set up which is solution focused; giving staff the opportunity to forward any concerns – the first meeting is scheduled for this week. Feedback from staff is positive regarding the Choices procedure as teachers do not have to tolerate poor behavior.*

The Head Teacher advised Directors on strategies planned to increase pupil numbers. This includes; positive social media and increased engagement with primary schools.

Directors RESOLVED that the content of the Head of Longfield Academy's Report, EDP report, SEF/Action Plan and information reported were noted.

8. **The Rydal Academy**

The Head Teacher and Educational Development Partner (EDP) reports were circulated to Directors prior to the meeting.

Directors informed there had been a slight reduction in the number of pupils on roll, which currently stood at 556. The data relating to leavers was explained further. 13 pupils have been admitted to the school and left in the same academic year, 11/13 moved out of area for reasons including: briefly accessing the local women's refuge, temporary housing prior to witness relocation, GRT returned to their base school. CME are 2 children from the same family who are believed to have left the country.

Directors Question: Have any Ukrainian pupils joined the school? How many pupils have English as their second language?

Response: *One already on roll in Year 4, and two Ukrainian pupils expected in Reception in the next few weeks. The number of EAL pupils is 20. We have employed a Ukrainian speaking TA and a Polish speaking TA.*

Directors advised there was a permanent exclusion pending. A hearing has been arranged for consideration later this month. This is the first one since 2020.

Details of exclusions and suspensions and support provided was shared with Directors. Directors advised that there was an increase in disruptive behavior from a small number of pupils during Spring term which had been addressed through the school's behavior policy and a graduated response

Attainment and progress

The Head Teacher reported that the Early Years Foundation GLD (good level of development) growth from Reception Baseline assessments is more than double the national average and has reduced the attainment gap by x 2 (25%) from the Reception Baseline, with more pronounced improvements in the Disadvantaged group.

The Head Teacher provided more detail regarding the Year 1 phonics results which were below the national average. Four pupils who passed left the

school, whilst four new pupils who were admitted did not pass. The impact of Covid is reflected in the national average.

Governor Question: What is the school doing to improve the attainment gap in Phonics?

Response: *We have introduced the Little Wandle Phonics Programme and are confident about achieving the base line of 11%.*

The Head Teacher informed Directors that the school had received a Year 6 writing moderated visit from the Local Authority and teacher assessment was deemed to be accurate.

Governor Question: Who do you use to for one-to-one tutoring?

Response: *This year we have used supply teachers to release in-house teachers to address any knowledge gaps. Next year we will be funding a teacher on a one-year contract to work one day a week as an additional resource.*

SEND

Directors advised that the total number of pupils accessing support which is 'additional to or different from' had increased. The number of pupils with an EHCP decreased due to pupils moving on to specialist provision. The number of pupils with an EHCP continues to be higher than the national average.

EDP

The Head Teacher confirmed the school's Education Development Partner (EDP) visit in the Spring term focused on a History subject review and Leadership and Management. Recommendations and actions were outlined in the report circulated to Directors.

Directors advised that the Local Authority Early Years Advisors conducted an advisory visit to the review 2-year-old provision. They looked at all aspects of provision and returned a positive report Recommendations and actions outlined in the attached report will be factored into the EYFS section of the SEF/SIP.

Directors RESOLVED that the content of the Head of The Rydal Academy's Report, EDP report, SEF/Action Plan and information reported were noted.

9. Chief Executive Officer's Report

- a) Scheme of Delegation
- b) Trust Development Plan

These documents had been shared with Directors prior to the meeting and would be retained on file.

10. Policies for approval

Remote Education Policy

Directors informed that DFE changes had been incorporated into the Remote Education Policy.

<p>11. Policies for information</p> <p>a) Anti-Harassment and Bullying b) Bring your own Device Policy c) Capability Policy d) Family Friendly Policy e) IT Acceptable User Policy f) Leave of Absence Policy g) Sickness Management Policy</p> <p>12. Any urgent other business raised under item 3 No urgent items of other business were identified under item 3.</p> <p>13. Approval of documents for inspection 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 A full schedule of 2022/2023 meetings shared with Directors in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>Directors RESOLVED and adopted the Remote Education Policy with immediate effect. The approved policy to be uploaded to the Trust website.</p>	<p>Clerk/ICT</p>
<p>Action Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload the Remote Education Policy to Trust website (CJ/LW) 		

These minutes were approved by the Standards Committee, as follows:

On...5...10...22... (date)

signed by: (Chair) J. Cornelius

printed name: J. CORNELIUS

Explanatory notes:

* Minutes of the previous meeting are draft and cannot be issued until the Board of Directors approves them at the current meeting. This gives the Board the opportunity to correct any inaccuracies and review 'approval of documents for inspection' (see below). Detailed minutes of discussions are inappropriate and likely to inhibit the full and frank exchange of views and debate.

***'Approval of documents for inspection' is a section within the minutes which gives the Board of Directors an opportunity to withhold from public consumption information which has been deemed to be inappropriate for general release, e.g. personal information concerning identifiable pupils and/or teachers. Supporting documentation could, for example, include the names of pupils or teachers

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Directors need to be aware that despite withholding documents under 'approval of documents for inspection', they could still be requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If this is the case, the school needs to consider the request and the application of possible exemptions. You are advised to seek further advice