

Swift Academies

Success will inspire future triumphs

Standards Committee

Held at Longfield Academy

4.30pm, Thursday 5th October 2023

MINUTES

Present (Directors)	Dean Judson (Chief Executive Officer), Tim Fisher and Geoff Liddle.
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 Nikki Wade – Director of Governance Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

Item	Description of discussion	Action by
1.	<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> <p><i>(Note: Director Geoff Liddle accessed the meeting remotely via Teams)</i></p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence and their acceptance and Welcome</p> <p>It was reported by the Governance & Policy Officer that apologies for absence had been received from Directors Derek Bell, Julie Cornelius and Kelly-Ann Lyle.</p> <p>Nikki Wade (Director of Governance Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College) was in attendance at the meeting and was welcomed by the Committee to the meeting.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED to accept the apologies received and welcomed Nikki Wade to the meeting.</p>	

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<p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p>	<p>Election of Chair</p> <p>The Governance & Policy Officer sought nominations for the position of Chair of the Standards Committee for the ensuing Academic Year.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that Tim Fisher be appointed as Chair for the ensuing Academic Year.</p> <p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>In the absence of Directors Derek Bell, Julie Cornelius and Kelly-Ann Lyle it was agreed to defer the appointment of the Vice Chair of the Standards committee until the next meeting in the Spring Term (13th March 2024).</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED to defer the appointment of the Vice Chair of the Standards Committee until the next meeting of the committee in the Spring Term (13th March 2024) in the absence of Directors Derek Bell, Julie Cornelius and Kelly-Ann Lyle.</p> <p>Notification of Items of Other Business</p> <p>There were no items of other business.</p> <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> <p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Draft minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 21st June 2023 had been shared with Directors prior to this meeting, with a copy held on file. It was noted that all actions had been completed.</p>	<p>Governance & Policy Officer</p> <p>Governance & Policy Officer</p>
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<p>8.</p> <p>9.</p>	<p>Directors RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 21st June 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and should be signed by the Chair of this meeting.</p> <p>Membership Document</p> <p>The Governance & Policy Officer updated the Committee regarding the Membership Document. It was noted that in relation to The Rydal Academy Local Governing Body Directors had agreed to the appointment of Kelly Nicholson as a General Governor and Gaurav Bhatia as a Parent Governor of The Rydal Academy at the 27th September 2023. Gaurav Bhatia was appointed by Directors in accordance with Articles 54 and Article 54A.</p> <p>The Governance & Policy Officer advised that two new potential Governors' pen portraits had been circulated to Directors for their approval of their appointment on Longfield Local Governing Body. Potential Governors had been contacted in relation to the General Governor vacancy on Hurworth Local Governor Body and a Parent Governor vacancy was due to be advertised shortly.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <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 reported on Ofsted Priorities setting out the progress/impact achieved, which was noted by the Committee. It was noted student numbers intake had dropped for Year 7 entry in 2022/23.</p> <p>The Head Teacher reported on attendance figures which were noted to be higher than the national average. Work continued to monitor and address support measures and interventions to improve attendance further.</p> <p>Year 11 results were noted to be good. <i>Directors noted the hard work which had been put into place by members of staff. Directors questioned when the progress 8 scores were due?</i> The Head Teacher advised they were due in November 2023.</p> <p>The Ofsted monitoring visit on 21st September 2023 was noted to have been positive. Potentially there would be a full Ofsted Inspection in the Summer Term.</p> <p>It was noted recruitment and retention of staff is of high priority at Longfield, to enable high quality of teaching and learning.</p>	<p>Governance & Policy Officer</p> <p>Governance & Policy Officer</p>
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Directors **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

b.) School Improvement Plan

Directors considered Longfield's School Improvement Plan.

Directors **RESOLVED** that the Longfield School Improvement Plan be noted.

c.) Longfield Academy Risk Register

Directors considered the Longfield Academy Risk Register.

Directors **RESOLVED** that the Longfield Academy Risk Register be noted.

d.) School Improvement Partner Report – 26th June 2023

Directors considered the School Improvement Partner report from the 26th June 2023. The key focus of the visit was Quality of Education.

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

10. Hurworth School

a) Head Teacher's Report

The Head of School of Hurworth provided a comprehensive report to the Standards Committee, which is held on file.

The Head of School advised pupil numbers were strong in Sept 2023 and SEN (Special Educational Needs) numbers have increased.

Attendance was above the national average and the school continued to focus on attendance figures via interventions and strategies that will be implemented to improve attendance further. There had been an Increase in the number of racial incidents and several elements have been implemented to combat and educate further, for example hate crime assemblies and hate crime workshops.

The Head of School reported upon the previous year 11(2022-23 academic year) attainment results and current Year 11 predictions were noted.

Quality Assurance remains a key priority with pace, stretch and challenge for all students. There is continued planning for mixed attainment teaching. Reading provision and opportunities are being developed further.

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

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<p>11.</p>	<p>b.) SEF/Whole School Improvement Plan</p> <p>Directors considered the Hurworth School SEF (Self Evaluation Form) and Whole School Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the Hurworth School SEF and Whole School Improvement Plan be noted.</p> <p>c.) Hurworth School Risk Register</p> <p>Directors considered the Hurworth School Risk Register.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the Hurworth School Risk Register be noted.</p> <p>d.) School Improvement Partner Report (4th July 2023)</p> <p>Directors considered the School Improvement partner report from the 4th July 2023. The key focus of the visit was development of the Curriculum and Quality of Education.</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 there had been a smaller intake into Reception 2023/24. Attendance had increased, with persistent absenteeism down.</p> <p>Attainment against national averages continues to be a key focus for all year groups. It was noted growth is double the national rate in most year groups. Reading remains the key intervention focus for the school. There was a high volume of safeguarding concerns and need. Summer term parents' questionnaires indicated no major issues.</p> <p>a) Self Evaluation Form and Strategic Action Plan 2022-23 and 2023-24</p> <p>Directors considered the Rydal SEF (Self Evaluation Form) and Strategic Action Plan 2022-23 and 2023-24.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the Rydal SEF (Self Evaluation Form) and Strategic Action Plan 2022-23 and 2023-24 be noted.</p> <p>b) Rydal School Risk Register</p> <p>Directors considered the Rydal School Risk Register.</p>	
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<p>12.</p> <p>13.</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.</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.</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 on Swift Multi Academy Trust growth and advised the application for the coming together of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and Swift Academies had been submitted to the Head Teacher's Advisory Board.</p> <p>Directors RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p> <p>Policies for Approval/Review/Information</p> <p>Policies for information</p> <p>The following policies were noted and approved for information: Grievance Policy and Procedure Teachers & Support Staff, Safer Recruitment & Selection Policy and Procedure for Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff, Substance Misuse Policy and Complaints Procedure.</p> <p>Policies for Review</p> <p>The following policies were reviewed and approved: Biometrics Policy and CCTV Policy.</p> <p>The Data Retention & Destruction Policy was deferred for consideration and would be brought back to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Policies for Approval</p> <p>The following policies were approved: Equality Policy</p>	
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