



Abbey Academy Council Meeting Tuesday 9 July 2024 at 12:00 Abbey School

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Luci Windle	Executive Headteacher – via Teams	LW
Wayne Askham	Head of School	WA
Ian Tankard	Chair	IT
Rachael Kent	Parent Governor	RK
Dawn Jeffery	Parent Governor	DJ
Louise Abbott	Support Staff Governor	LA
Jim McIntosh	Governor – Finance Link Governor	JMcI
Janine Brullo	Parent Governor	JB
Niall Horstead	Staff Governor	NH
Also Present:		
Lyndsay Foster	Governance Clerk	CLERK
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO joined via Teams	JH
Apologies:		
Nicola Morris	Governor	NM
No Apologies:		
Ivy Dorchester-Brown	Governor – Wellbeing Link Governor	ID-B

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
<p>1.1. To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from NM.</p>	
<p>1.2. To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from NM.</p>	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>None.</p>	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
<p>3.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>None.</p>	
4. ABBEY SCHOOL ACADEMY COUNCIL MINUTES	
<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2024 were approved as a true record with no amendments.</p>	
<p>4.2. Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The outstanding actions on the action tracker were reviewed and updated.</p>	
<p>4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>None.</p>	
5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
<p>LW gave a brief overview of the Headteacher report with WA and stated that in September the number of pupils on roll will be 233 which is an increase of 36 children. The school will be oversubscribed by 39.1% over their planned places, WA explained that the Local Authority is still instructing the school to take on pupils.</p> <p>DJ asked where are the extra students expected to go? LW advised that some year 11 have now left to go to college which has meant some of the post 16 students have transitioned early. There's a group of year 11 that require a life skills environment and this is why they've moved up to the post 16 building early.</p> <p>JB asked if many students have left? LW confirmed 8 students have left but 8 have come in.</p> <p>JB also enquired whether the class sizes are any bigger than before?</p>	

LW confirmed the classes are no bigger than before and discussed how the four new classrooms in the new build would be utilised, as there are not four classes of students in Post 16 this coming year.

JMcI asked is there enough staff in school to cover the extra students?

LW explained that due to the school performing well and the model is overstaffed to support additions.

JMcI asked if the budget is taking the higher figures into consideration?

LW explained that the figures are based on the 211 pupils and figures only cover up to 215 pupils that were planned.

IT asked with students coming in on roll, what is the cut off for the top capacity?

LW expressed she feels the LA don't have one but due to the school being creative with the timetables and having space within school they've so far managed to accommodate.

IT asked if he feels the Trust would offer help with building more classroom spaces if needed?

LW described how they were conscious of growing too far to the point where it could take away from the Special school and all that Abbey offers.

WA expressed there's the specialist rooms to take into consideration as this would then narrow the curriculum if there were a change in specialist rooms.

LW stated its hard to win tribunals these days, but they are very good at Abbey at working through and having a plan.

IT asked if it was the younger age range that was coming through?

LW stated that it was mixed ages and for those younger children it can be difficult to really know whether the Abbey offer is pitched at the right level in the long term.

IT asked if the Trust is able to find places in other Nexus Schools if needed?

LW informed that it is usually a discussion between schools but if it's a case of funding then it has to go back to panel.

JB asked if there were many students from out of borough?

WA advised it is roughly around 10% of school population that is out of borough.

LW discussed the planned capital works where the school corridor is undergoing a refresh and DT room is still required to be done.

IT asked around capital works discussion, if the trust push the capital through or is it covered by the school?

LW confirmed it was run going through the school, but any major projects then it would go through the trust, like when school had a new boiler and other schools may have needed a new roof. They also get funding from the government. Post 16 wasn't a necessity so the school covered that bill.

LW touched briefly on staff Sickness, long term absence is really low at Abbey.

Staff voice was discussed in relation to what has been implemented. Some projects of note include a PPA quiet area for staff, black shorts white t-shirts dress code and more staff social events.

The school's Safeguarding Lead, Maxine, is retiring this year. To celebrate her 36 years of dedicated service, she was surprised with a visit from some former staff as well as current and an afternoon tea in the Prom marquee. The Academy Council extends its many thanks to Maxine for all her years of service.

IT asked about internal reviews and judgements are they still outstanding?

LW confirmed Jonathan and Emma from central trust came in and all was fine, they picked up some issues on the visit, such as some of the older boys with language and lowering the noise level at lunchtime.

IT asked if anything came back around Teaching and Learning?

LW confirmed they had a deep dive across the trust, looked at books and the curriculum and spoke to staff who taught science.

IT asked if there was any actions from this deep dive?

LW confirmed no there wasn't, and they would continue doing internal checks as a school.

IT discussed that if there are no next steps on how to improve, what does the school gain from this?

LW expressed that working in an outstanding school can be very challenging, as it heavily relies on systems and processes. She questioned how the definition of "outstanding" can be confirmed, emphasising the continuous need for quality assurance of the curriculum and staff confidence. WA added that staff confidence has been crucial and there are many areas that still need development and ongoing quality assurance efforts.

IT queried whether having an external QA coming into school is helpful?

WA stated having the Trust there to confirm how things are running and having links and different forums to utilise is really useful.

LW explained that having CG at the Trust is really useful and someone to soundboard ideas off, so the good relationship is vital for the school.

JB expressed her appreciation to IT for challenging LW & WA.

NH informed the governors that the support and challenge provided to staff are extremely useful throughout the school. WA advised that having members of staff within the trust who know the school well is beneficial as it helps to unpick issues and provide professional challenges effectively.

LW expressed concern about safeguarding, particularly regarding pupils' activities on devices at home. She suggested providing parents with one-page information sheets on how to monitor and manage their children's online behaviour like they have in the

past. LA added that pupils are aware of what is right and wrong and how to use devices safely.

RK queried if it would be a good idea on the next coffee morning when parents are in to run another information session on Internet safety at home?

LW agreed, yes, this a good idea and something to look at.

WA discussed about working with Hull university working on particular areas and looking at research and evidence based practice. One area they looked at was mathematics and students that are pre verbal, this is still ongoing, originally looked at IT and English across all settings to develop.

LW explained that page 7 was a data snap shot for information and described the links to the Maths hub.

NH described the functional skills in maths is really good and grade 4 equivalent has been achieved with some pupils.

LW discussed the pupil premium and use of therapies and cost. Art therapy is the most costly with the current students showing the least impact so this is going to be looked at.

Currently, work is ongoing with three students who are refusing to attend: one in post-16 and two on the main site who will be transferring to schools in Sheffield and mainstream education. Additionally, another student has already left the school.

IT asked what education do they have offered when they refuse to come into school?

LW described the actions the school takes, including that they are invited to come in, the school start looking into the root of the problem and understanding the child's needs with the hope of being able to find a solution that gets them into school successfully, before then looking at conducting an annual review. If they have to look into alternate provision that means our provision isn't suitable so an annual review will be required.

LW informed they have enhanced the wellbeing team further with two new teach trainers. There are Sports sanctuaries around school where pupils can self-regulate. NH informed teachers use the sport sanctuaries as a brain break with the students.

LW informed school has no exclusions or suspensions and they are above special schools and slightly below all schools with their attendance percentage.

IT queried if is it the Year 6 where the issue still lies and do the school fine?

WA explained that its across year 6 and around holidays. The school currently don't fine but with the new attendance guidelines, in place from September 2024, they are so strict and will need to be incorporated.

JMcI asked what the new guidance entails?

LW gave a brief overview of the new guidelines coming in from September.

<p>LW discussed page 15 where the Abbey promises have been revitalised and added a personal development diagram for information on page 16.</p> <p>Brief overview of the community voice report and the successful Heritage Day the school held which they shared with Discovery Academy.</p> <p>JB asked about the impact on Looked After Children? LW informed they were all included and incorporated really sensitively and members of staff shared their stories. WA also confirmed the improvement of family attendance to school events which has been great to see and has definitely picked up since covid including parents evening and visits in school.</p> <p>LW mentioned the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and an updated one will be looked at in the next training day, also informed of the extra meeting every other half term to discuss and a more informal meeting to go through new development plan first one on the 22nd October 2024, further information in document handed out in the meeting with idea of events the governors are welcome to come in when available.</p> <p>The school SEF has been updated, document for information.</p> <p>WA also informed governors of a "cheat sheet" for Ofsted to go through, but can discuss further on the meeting on 22nd October 2024.</p> <p>IT enquired if the cheat sheet in pre-inspection Ofsted pack which was discussed previously with the trust for governors, to help prepare ready for if they got the call, will this be shared? LW stated she would like to see the document before its shared to check they align with everything but a really good idea.</p> <p>ACTION: JH to share information with LW & WA regarding Ofsted cheat sheet for governors to compare information.</p>	<p>ACTION: JH 19/11/24</p>
<p>5.2. School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>A document was provided for information and a brief overview was given during the meeting.</p>	
<p>5.3. Budget Report</p> <p>The budget report was discussed and provided for information.</p>	
<p>5.5. Cabinet Member and MP's Feedback from Pupil Parliament – verbal</p> <p>A document was circulated at the meeting for information from Pupil Parliament.</p>	
<p>5.6. Skills Audit Feedback</p> <p>Skills audit feedback document for information.</p>	

6. TRUST MATTERS	
6.1 Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues	
<p>JH informed they had just hosted the Trust Olympics and thanks for support from Abbey, it was a great success.</p> <p>Holgate Meadows is to join the Trust on 1st September 24 under the new name chosen by students; Lotus Academy. Derrymount is also coming on board on 1st September 24 this is an SEMH school in Nottingham renamed Endeavor Academy, while Bents Green has received approval to hopefully formally join the trust in January 2025.</p> <p>The CEO has been invited to meet Bridget Phillipson on Thursday evening at a reception in Westminster.</p>	
7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
7.1. To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair	
<p>LW informed the group that the school have received an award 'Leading the Way' for meeting all Gatsby benchmarks.</p>	
8. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK	
8.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting	
None.	
10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	

Tuesday 19 November 2024	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School
Tuesday 18 March 2025	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School
Tuesday 15 July 2025	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE