



**Abbey School Local Governing Body
Quality of Education Meeting
Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 12:00
Abbey School**

Those Present:		
Louise Abbott	Support Staff Governor	LA
Janine Brullo	Parent Governor	JB
Tayla Hamilton	Staff Governor	TH
Dawn Jeffery	Parent Governor	DJ
Jim McIntosh	Governor – Finance Link Governor	JMcI
Sonia Seymour-Thackery	Parent Governor – Vice Chair & T&L Link Governor	SS-T
Also Present:		
Wayne Askham	Head of School	WA
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO – Strategy & Partnerships	JH
Barry-John Simmons	Governance Clerk	Clerk
Apologies:		
Luci Windle	Exec. Headteacher	LW
Ivy Dorchester-Brown	Governor – Wellbeing Link Governor	ID-B
Sue Hodgkinson	Parent Governor – Family Champion, WAVEE and Careers	SH
Alison Warner	Chair – Safeguarding Link Governor	AW
Ian Tankard	Parent Governor – Careers Link Governor	IT
No Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from LW, AW, ID-B, IT & SH.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted from LW, AW, ID-B, IT & SH.	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
2.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business None.	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
3.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda There were no declarations received.	
4. ABBEY SCHOOL LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MINUTES	
4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 15 th March 2022 were approved as a correct record with no amendments.	
4.2. Review of Action Tracker The action tracker was reviewed and updated.	
4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes None.	
5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
5.1. SIP Priorities – Deep Dive Review of Specific Curriculum Area(s) WA explained why Deep Dives are important and how many actual subjects are looked at via OFSTED, along with the 6 different parts involved in Deep Dives. WA first explained that during Deep Dives, SLT discuss curriculum plans with OFSTED and he gave examples of what questions they may be asked. WA then discussed how OFSTED will then meet curriculum and subject leaders to check sequencing of curriculum and the rationale behind it before observing learning and checking learning resources. JMcI asked if this happens at School or in the initial 90-minute conversation? WA confirmed it was during the actual OFSTED visit in school. WA summarised how the next step for OFSTED is to talk to teachers and discuss lessons and also do work scrutiny which could include speaking to children about their learning or actually hearing them read. WA detailed OFSTED will then bring detail together to see if the curriculum is systemic and both a journey and a destination.	

JB asked why OFSTED do the Deep Dive in this order? WA explained OFSTED can choose at which point they speak to who.

WA moved on to discuss how at Abbey and across Nexus they approach the Deep Dive Process and how initially they undertake an appreciative enquiry for curriculum subjects and what they involve. WA gave an example of how they choose 3 teachers and 3 students to look at dependent on the specific focus. WA explained the collaborative enquiry process giving an example taken from Pennine View and the type of key questions they ask both teachers and children to check consistency.

WA then detailed how they approach the recall of learning. WA shared the positive feedback from the peer review sessions that focussed on a Deep Dive process in Science and highlighted the evidence showing children know more and remember more. WA complimented staff on the successes and also discussed future plans of improving the website and giving governors the chance to be part of the Deep Dives and LARS.

WA then gave an example of the curriculum information they are currently looking at providing via the website and how it would appear and link to the national curriculum and work in practice for parents and staff.

JB asked when is the website going to go live and who has led on it? WA replied he was hoping for it to go live during the next half term and confirmed that he has led on it, but that subject leads and other staff members also have inputted to provide the required collaborative information.

SS-T asked if the detail on the website was for parents? WA explained it was for parents, staff, OFSTED, governors and anyone involved in school so they could access detail on what areas each class are covering.

SS-T questioned if there were any loopholes he can see in the website content? WA stated there was always room for improvement and that assessment for new subjects such as performing arts and the links with other subjects was one example to be looked at further.

JB asked how did teachers know how to use the website? TH said the inset day that focussed on it was really useful and speaking to other staff has also helped.

SS-T asked has it made extra work for staff? TH confirmed that the collaborative process and detail on the website has saved time more than anything on planning. WA then shared an example of a student's assessment and planning document for governors to see it first hand as a collaborative, personalised process.

DJ asked who designed the document? WA explained the staff came together to design it.

SS-T asked if marked work was recorded on the document? WA explained that See Saw is used for examples of homework being recorded.

6. GOVERNANCE MATTERS	
<p>6.1. Governors to complete Activity Log</p> <p>Governors will send detail to clerking services of any visits via the office log.</p>	
<p>6.2. Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues</p> <p>JH detailed the scheme of delegation change and explained how the Academy Council is a recommendation and gave an overview of what it involves to be an Academy Council. JH detailed how an Academy Council would meet once per term and the scrutiny would be taken to Trust level with the paid professionals covering areas such as quality assurance and safeguarding, so the governors within an Academy Council could focus on vision and values and continue to provide a strong community voice.</p> <p>JB questioned where parent governors sit in a new Academy Council and how does it work with OFSTED? JH confirmed they still needed parent governors for the community voice and explained how OFSTED in the current model can decide whether to speak to just the Trust or Governors; with an Academy Council it would be less likely that individual governors would be required to talk to inspectors, for example about their link areas, as the scheme of delegation is clear where the accountability lies.</p> <p>JMcI agreed taking performance management away from an LGB along with health and safety was a good step and recommended they should trust the directors as long as finance could still be strong. JH reassured the governors that as a part of the community voice they would still have oversight of important information and would work alongside the professionals who undertake the scrutiny to ensure the community voice is strong and they are still a point of assurance.</p> <p>WA read out AW's thoughts she had sent through via email regards the Academy Council. JH explained the legal accountability already sits with the accounting officer and the Board of Directors and that the quality assurance needs to be with professionals along with the audit trail. However, an Academy Council would still discuss the breadth of issues across the school, focus on the quality of education, spend more engaging time in school, and continue to receive highlights around areas such as safeguarding through the Headteacher reports.</p> <p>JMcI asked whether the school or Trust determined the budget and wanted assurance that the school would still have a healthy budget? JH explained how the budget works at Abbey and that this would not change regardless of having an LGB or an Academy Council.</p> <p>JH gave the option that they could start as an Academy Council as a pilot and that could always be subject to review if things were not working as intended.</p> <p>JB expressed she thought an Academy Council was a good idea.</p> <p>SS-T also mentioned how she could see the merits of an Academy Council and thinks a pilot is a good idea.</p>	

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS		
7.1. To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair WA mentioned he would send out some mental health awareness and wellbeing information to all governors linked to a gold standard application. ACTION: WA		WA 05/07/22
8. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK		
8.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting None.		
8.2. To consider any areas of risk discussed during the meeting None.		
9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING		

Tuesday 5 th July 2022	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School	Safeguarding, Leadership & Management
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE