

Minutes – Frome Vale Academy Council

Date	5 April 2022	
Location:	Online Teams meeting	
Time:	5.15 pm	
Present:	Laura Walder (LW) Jan Saunders (JS) Kate Richardson (KR) Hope Allen (HA) Meriam Gordon (MG) Paul Stephens (PS) Lori Streich (LS)	Sponsor Academy Councillor (Chair) Principal Executive Principal Support Staff Academy Councillor (Vice Chair) Parent Academy Councillor Parent Academy Councillor Sponsor Academy Councillor
Apologies:	Lucy Fulton (LF) Dilan Kaygisiz (DK)	Sponsor Academy Councillor Sponsor Academy Councillor
Absent	Joyce Adeyeye (JA)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
Attendees:	Linda Corbidge (LC)	Academy Council Clerk

Minutes

Item	Description	Action
1	Introductions	
1.1	Welcome and introductions were made by LW.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no verbal declarations of interest made for this meeting. There are four outstanding written declarations. <u>ACTION: Clerk to chase those that have not completed the update form.</u>	LC
3	Governance	
3.1	LW reported that there were no updates regarding filling the vacancy. CLF central governance team are looking into further recruitment strategies with the CLF marketing team.	
3.2	Training – LW reminded councillors of conference dates; 10 May - CLF Governance Conference, 8 July CLF Summer Conference.	
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the meeting held 8 February 2022 were approved as a true record.	
5	Matters Arising	
5.1	Update on book audit. JS provided the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2% of the library books have now been checked against criteria with 20 books removed due to content. • Parents have donated 20 replacement books and presented to SLT within school. • Dedicated time will be given to talk about the messages in some books which 	

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	<p>need to be kept.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have also been awarded some funding following a bid to Bristol Pride (thanks to Lori). The audit is an ongoing process which will also include feedback from Learning Champions and teachers. 	
	Questions from AC	
5.1.1	Are there any further fundraising ideas for the school, for example Crowd Funding?	
5.1.2	We will be writing a strategic plan next year for fundraising. Fundraising by KS1 is good and has subsidised the Explorer Dome and trips. We have applied for funding for outdoor training/resources connected to environmental change/impact using a link sent by LW. JS welcomed ideas from councillors.	
6	Staffing and Wellbeing	
	Questions from AC	
6.1	How are colleagues coping this term?	
6.1.1	Although there have been some Covid cases with children, this term staffing has been relatively stable compared to other schools. Staff are looking forward to the break as it has been a busy term with multiple trips and various activities as we are now able to do more things again.	
6.2	JS reported that she had achieved a Mental Health First Aid Award this term and is now completing DfE funded Mental Health Training for strategic leading of mental health and wellbeing in schools. The intention is to form a mental health working party in school to formulate a plan to support wellbeing.	
	Academy Council Report	
7	Achievements and Standards	
7.1	Attendance	
7.1.1	<p>JS highlighted areas from the Academy Council report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid cases now being recorded as an illness is having an impact on attendance. Data is down to 94% which is relatively strong in comparison to other schools but is lower than we were. Year 6 are doing well on attendance. SEN (Special Educational Needs) E data is only one child, with 3 in SEN K category (with EHCPs). Further support and guidance is being sought for two families from Fiona Lightwood the CLF Attendance Manager with consideration being given to penalty notices. 	
	Questions from AC	
7.1.2	What is the attendance gap between PP (Pupil Premium) and Non-PP children?	
7.1.3	The gap between non-PP/PP remains small.	
7.1.4	How much of the concerns regarding absence of PP children is not about Covid?	
7.1.5	There is only one family where PP absence does not relate to Covid.	

Item	Description	Action
7.2	Behaviour and Attitudes	
7.2.1	JS reported that this remains very strong within the school. Some children who have presented some worrying behaviours linking to issues at home and the Ukraine war have been added to the play therapy list.	
7.3	Personal Development	
7.3.1	<p>JS reported that personal development is good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following responses to the parent survey, parents are using their skills to help with projects which include the garden project, coding, planning and animation work. • The children like the responsibility of the 'job' opportunities with expectations continuing around that. • The children voted overwhelmingly to be in person/altogether for assemblies. It is good to be back in person for assemblies, especially singing; we have a very talented teacher musician. • From Vale voice wishing well has been introduced where children can put thoughts and ideas on the running of the school. One idea was for the children to be paid for their 'jobs' so they will be rewarded in some way. 	
7.4	SEND ND advised that the next report will be presented in July which will report on outcomes for children and actions for next year moving forward.	
	Questions from AC	
7.4.1	How is the recovery work going with SEND children? How do we know the gaps in their learning after Covid and do we have evidence of this?	
7.4.2	There are gaps in all children's learning because of the pandemic. Good teaching, identifying gaps and intervention work is taking place. SEND children particularly have had targeted intervention and we monitor through regular assessments and those children are making progress. Children still require additional support around SEMH (Social Emotional and Mental Health); we have one child who is on a reduced timetable and is not able to access academic learning at present. We are sourcing and supporting that family in driving the council to find a specialist learning provision.	
8	Quality of Education	
8.1	Curriculum Development	
8.1.2	<p>JS provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wider offer is continuing to be developed which includes Art, DT and Music and are modelling using the same approach with sequencing of lessons. The response has been fantastic. Everyone works together in the hall to showcase therefore we can see progression as all cover the same area of study at the same time. • Miss Hall has done well with the music curriculum and with developing the teachers musically. • Book looks are continuing. 	
	Questions from AC	
8.1.3	Are you seeing this as a singular event? Will you be keeping the momentum going?	

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	You will see more events like this; there will be a diversity event in the summer to reflect diversity of the school. Moving forward we will introduce other things.	
8.1.4	Are this event and others factored into curriculum planning? Yes, we build planned events into school strategy.	
8.2	Assessment	
8.2.1	JS provided the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data will be available at the next meeting following the submission of assessments last Friday. The set of data for Y2 shows a good reflection of the different strategies in place in those classes using Catch Up funding for Reading – Y6 also received support. Data shows there are challenges for the six PP children in Y2 (now 7 as one child has just started and a few more will start after Easter). We are pleased with the progress being made although it is unlikely Reading will be higher than 42% as some children in the PP category are SEND. Despite the lack of formal assessment data there has been a lot of improvement in test scores and benchmarking, particularly in Y5 and Y4. Improvements in Year 3 are expected next term. 	
	Questions from AC	
8.2.2	How is Y6 preparation for SATs?	
8.2.3	Good, we were really pleased with Year 6 and their attitude to learning. They have enjoyed the small groups.	
8.3	Y6 and Transition	
8.3.1	ND reported that a transition meeting had taken place the previous day where there were questions regarding the possibility of increasing the intake in the secondary schools. JS added that the school had been the most proactive this year in helping families complete application forms, particularly for EAL families. The school had learnt from the process as some families this year had only put one school. KR explained that Bristol Metropolitan, Bristol Brunel and City Academies have all increased their intake each year in response to a request from the LA; there is now no further physical building space. There are not enough secondary places due to a short-term bulge for Years 5 and 6. It is planned that all our learners will be supported as they leave us and after.	
	Questions from AC	
8.3.2	Are the majority of children going to Bristol Metropolitan Academy?	
8.3.3	This year because of distance BMA is oversubscribed which is a big shock as some children have not got in and are appealing.	
8.3.4	Is there uncertainty around the appeals process – how can school help with that? Is it possible to form peer groups for children going to other schools?	
8.3.5	As well as a set of activities for children who know where they are going we also provide some generic activities on how to prepare for secondary school. We will check in on all children after they move to secondary and will be looking into alumni. It is difficult to form peer groups as there is uncertainty around the schools at present. Creative Youth Network who are doing pieces of work with Y6 for transition are utilising the NEST for children who might be more vulnerable. Bespoke transition has started.	

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8.4	Professional Development (PD)	
8.4.1	JS reported that there have been a lot of professional development opportunities however it has been a challenge to find supply to cover classes for PD to happen to maintain momentum.	
	Questions from AC	
8.4.2	Is that training related to the quality of teaching?	
8.4.3	Not necessarily, despite the challenge to release staff, Mr Fossard has continued to work with the Boolean Maths Hub which has had a massive impact on Maths within the school. Miss Butcher who leads IT has found it a challenge to be released - in terms of long-term plans, it is slowing the pace.	
8.5	Other Information	
8.5.1	<p>JS updated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of children have been out visiting the library; • A project with Better Reading Partners/UWE has had an impact– all children who took part improved in benchmarking levels; this work will be utilised with the project with the Fluency Hub. • An application has been made for our Learning outside the classroom bronze award and will update on this at the next meeting. • This Thursday 7th April is the 70th anniversary event. JS welcomed councillors to come along. • Amanda Spielman visited on 17th March to congratulate the school on Ofsted and have a look around the school and the NEST. Pupil ambassadors showed her around the school. <p>LW commented that it was good to see standards and progression within the school on the day.</p>	
	Questions from AC	
8.5.2	Why has the 70th anniversary day been shortened by one hour? Is there a risk some children who have to stay behind negative experience?	
8.5.3	Our experience is that there is a natural time when things start to finish. We will ensure there are sports activities going on so children continue to have a positive experience.	
9	Safeguarding	
9.1	<p><i>Term 3 Report had been shared.</i></p> <p>JS highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been two first response referrals since the last meeting and one this term. <p>LS (Safeguarding Link) reported that she had visited and discussed the report commenting that the change for reporting Covid absence will impact on numbers. There have been some cases of Chicken Pox and Scarlett Fever. LS will be meeting to discuss Term 4 report after the Easter break.</p>	
	Questions from AC	
9.1.1	<p>Are there any other challenges around attendance?</p> <p>It is primarily sickness. There has been a slight increase in requests for holiday as families are feeling more confident to travel further which has had some impact on data. We are seeking advice from Fiona about issuing penalty post pandemic due to different family circumstance re parents' mental health/ balance re children in</p>	

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	school. It is likely we will return to zero tolerance from September. These are hard conversations to have with parents however parents know the expectations.	
9.1.2	LS reported that Council should note the response from a question in the parent questionnaire that children feel safe and supported in school.	
10	Equality Diversity and Inclusion	
10.1	ND reported that the EDI children's' group vote on how the school should acknowledge all religious festivals. This started on Monday with an assembly on Ramadan which the children are leading. All dates are on the website. The summer event is 7 th July.	
	Questions from AC	
10.1.1	What is the International Day event?	
10.1.2	The summer event will reflect diversity of the school. There will be a Frome Vale family meeting after the break to plan for the event.	
10.1.3	Have the children of Muslim families been discriminated against with regard to the 70th celebrations i.e. the picnic and children not being able to join in as it is Ramadan?	
10.1.4	We have had conversations for pupil voice on that - we have only six children fasting and wanted to explore feelings about it. The response was that we cannot change the date on which the school was built. Because of the lack of diversity in the Frome Vale family group this is an element that could have been more carefully thought about – we need more diverse voices within the group to improve on this. We will ensure that we provide opportunities for the children during that period of time.	
10.1.5	Regarding religious beliefs/festivities, are there any plans on including Ramadan as we have had Easter/Christmas/Diwali?	
10.1.6	In terms of representation, we still have work to do to make other festivals feel as big as others in the school – we need our parents to use their voices/ expertise to do that.	
10.1.7	Can dates of various festivals be available in the calendar/newsletter prior to dates and to welcome ideas for including in upcoming festivals?	
10.1.8	We have built dates into the calendar for next year and value the input from our community.	
10.1.9	Are there any challenges around getting some parent communities involved?	
10.1.10	When we were able to be in person we did have more representation. We need to also find better ways of being proactive and reaching out. It is all part of the outcome of our inspection; our focus on the wider community is part of our plan moving forward.	
11	Finance	
11.1	Budget	
11.1.1	JS reported that the budget is with the Board for approval and is a very tight picture for next year. A strategic plan for fundraising will help – research is needed to find out about available grants.	
	Questions from AC	
11.1.2	Is Reception full for September?	

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	We will know soon. The numbers will impact on budget next year. We have seen a steady increase in numbers since the Ofsted outcome; five more children are joining after Easter.	
11.1.3	Are there ideas for sharing opportunities across CLF?	
11.1.4	It would be worth having a forum on fundraising; the challenge would be that it doesn't become competitive.	
11.1.5	What do our sponsor organisations put in? Has anyone spoken to Rolls Royce about sponsoring an event?	
11.1.6	KR commented that the sponsors main contribution is governance – the trust do fund raise and will be talking about this at an away day tomorrow. Fundraising for all schools is a good idea. Rolls Royce do sponsor some events.	
12	Link Councillor Updates	
12.1	There were no further updates.	
13	Policies	
13.1	FVA Approved: Uniform; Attendance CLF Adopted/Noted: CLF Fire Guidance, First Aid JS reported that the academy had reviewed which policies should come to academy council for approval and which ones are for noting. All policies/procedures will be saved in one place for academy council to access. Councillors welcomed this action.	
14	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
14.1	None. LW welcomed input by email from councillors for the next COAC meeting.	
15	AOB	
15.1	None.	

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

Next meetings: Tuesday 5 July 2022