

Minutes – Frome Vale Academy Council

Date	11 October 2022	
Location:	Frome Vale Academy	
Time:	5.15 pm	
Present:	Laura Walder (LW) Jan Saunders (JS) Kate Richardson (KR) Paul Stephens (PS) Lori Streich (LS) Sophie Pring (SP) Meriam Gordon (MG)	Sponsor Academy Councillor (Chair) Principal Executive Principal Parent Academy Councillor Sponsor Academy Councillor Teacher Academy Councillor Parent Academy Councillor
Apologies:	Joyce Adeyeye (JA)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
Absent:	Dilan Kaygisiz (DK)	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. It was noted there was one outstanding September declaration which will be followed up.	
3	Governance	
3.1	LW will contact DK to ask whether she still wants to continue as an academy councillor due to her current commitments. LW will contact a member of the community who has expressed an interest in joining the council. LW said that she has also contacted the West of England Centre for Inclusive Living to seek interest for the Academy Council. JS/ND will recruit for a Student Advocate. <u>ACTION: LW to progress EOI in councillor vacancy</u> <u>ACTION: JS/ND to recruit for a Student Advocate</u>	LW ND/JS
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the meeting held 5 July 2022 were approved as a true record.	
5	Matters Arising	
5.1	It was agreed that all actions from the last meeting had been completed.	
6	Staffing and Wellbeing	
	Questions from AC	
6.1	How is the new staffing model going?	

Item	Description	Action
6.2	<p>It is working very well as exemplified in the ARV (Academy Review Visit) today. We have asked for it to be reviewed in the lense of the model/areas on the AIP and how the school is working under the new model.</p> <p>Areas highlighted to develop on the AIP were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oracy. JS explained the oracy strategy which will be included in PD after half term. • Writing - to provide more independent opportunities for children. These opportunities were seen in class during the ARV; pupil voice by KR was really positive in this area. This area is well supported by the team. <p>A questionnaire will be issued for staff at both schools to give staff voice re new structure.</p>	
6.3	How is staffing and wellbeing this term?	
6.4	Staff will be tired as they are coming to the end of Term 1. A Staff Wellbeing Group was formed last term to involve more staff to protect staff wellbeing of those attending meetings. There is also a Mental Health Practitioner now who works with children, parents and staff.	
6.5	Is that preventative? Who provides that service?	
6.6	It is used when we first notice behaviours e.g., to provide CBT. 50% of the time can be used for whole school support (assemblies). The service is provided by the NHS.	
Academy Council Report		
7	Achievements and Standards	
Quality of Education		
7.1	SEND	
Questions from Academy Council		
7.1.1	MG (SEND Link Councillor) - Could I attend the SEND Inset Day in future?	
7.1.2	ND will invite MG to future SEND Inset days.	
7.1.3	Is there a standard of training for all staff or new staff/new to role or do they only receive training if have a SEND child in class?	
7.1.4	All staff receive an induction which cover all areas, including SEND and we provide ongoing support. If there is a particular child, we would identify an area of training.	
7.1.5	Is there anything included specifically in the AIP to ensure quality for SEND or LAC children?	
7.1.6	<p>We don't currently have any Looked after Children in care.</p> <p>ND explained how SEND children are supported. ND referred councillors to the BCC Ordinarily Available Provision document on the BCC SEND website. JS explained the whole school provision document created to determine who is added to the SEND Register.</p>	
7.1.7	How are new Reception children settling in?	

Item	Description	Action
7.1.8	They are settling well and making progress, although we are noticing increasing need around Speech & Language and further need regarding physical development due to the pandemic. We are pleased we are able to provide opportunities for our children to experience Forest School to remove disadvantage through experiences. The children receive 2 sessions a week as SP is Forest School trained. LS said that she would like to join some of the planned walks.	
7.2	Quality of Teaching	
	Questions from Academy Council	
7.2.1	How do we know the teaching is good?	
7.2.2	External assessors have evidenced that the teaching is good/outstanding. We need to ensure the school continues to provide outstanding provision; the SLT and wider subject leaders take part in the learning/drop into sessions. Professional development opportunities are talked about with staff to ensure our practice is continuing to meet the needs of our school. We are keen to develop a pedagogical approach which focuses on active learning, subject knowledge and building a bank of resources for future teachers (ASES).	
7.3	Pupil Outcomes	
7.3.1	Targets from the Trust have not yet been issued. Frome Vale internal target for Year 6 is 90% Combined (87% last year).	
	Questions from Academy Council	
7.3.2	Is that an ambitious target?	
7.3.3	It is based on our assessment from Year 5.	
7.4	Attendance	
	Questions from Academy Council	
7.4.1	What are the reasons for lower Year 6 attendance earlier this term and how is attendance now?	
7.4.2	More families than ever stayed abroad as a result of delay visiting families due to the pandemic. Flight delays and some bereavements also stopped some families returning on time. Today we had the final family back. Since the report was written the picture has improved– with average 94.5% this week to date. We expect it to improve slowly. As FVA is a small school the numbers of children absent has a higher impact on attendance data. There has also been a cultural shift towards families keeping children at home.	
7.4.3	How does attendance compare to other schools in the Trust? Do we have the same challenges?	
7.4.4	There are similar challenges. There is an element of statistical impact to the data due to FVA being a small school, therefore it is more difficult to compare across the Trust.	
7.4.5	Is it possible to have weighted adjustment?	
7.4.6	I have discussed this and will continue to push the point. We need to ensure that data comparison doesn't detract from the focus on improving attendance. We have discussions with families who request time off from school for family visits which include conversations around impact on individual children.	

Item	Description	Action
	JS showed an example of the detailed data collection at the school on children's attendance which included some repeated persistent absence. JS advised that the incidence of persistent absence has now been raised as a safeguarding issue. Councillors noted the detail of tracking individual children and number of days.	
7.4.7	Have you taken into consideration any religious reasons for longer term absence requests?	
7.4.8	We look at each case individually. Increased requests for holidays which extend into the school term are also a result of the cost-of-living crisis. We encourage families to shorten the trip.	
7.4.9	Persistent absence looks really high?	
7.4.10	The data is skewed this term due to one child being absent for weeks.	
7.4.11	What actions do the school take other than fining?	
7.4.12	Home visits with gentle encouragement to come in, support around families who call in. If persistently ill, we would expect families to be pursuing medical support. Beyond penalty notices, there is an attendance plan where the LA intervene although this is not usually deployed by LAs. We also praise/celebrate good attenders.	
7.4.13	Discussion followed on whether praising/celebrating good attenders was a good idea and the need to ensure this does not discriminate against children with SEND. The academy commented it is not the younger child's fault, it is about supporting families. National attendance is 95.5%.	
7.4.14	How about introducing personal targets?	
7.4.15	It is about removing barriers to learning.	
7.4.16	Is there any external support provided to families e.g., locally from the Vassell Centre and local charities?	
7.4.17	Local support from the community attended a meeting at the school last night to focus on the next layer of FVA provision to be at heart of the community. There is also FLORA who offer guidance about any issue to support our families. And Bristol City Council are developing an offer on how to support families who are classed as disabled through SEND. Resources are still scarce, and ultimately it is down to the school.	
7.4.18	LS added that she intended to link there to support the school to build our links with the community.	
7.5	Behaviour and Attitudes	
7.5.1	Behaviour remains Good. There have been a lot of visits from different schools/Trusts who are always impressed by the conduct of pupils at Frome Vale.	
7.6	Pupil Premium/LAC	
7.6.1	MG confirmed that she will take on the link role for PP in the interim period whilst LF is on maternity leave.	
7.6.2	It was noted an LAC annual report 21/22 was not required as there were no LAC children last year.	
8	Safeguarding	
8.1	The Annual Safeguarding Report had been shared.	
8.2	LS (Link Councillor) will be meeting with the DSL next week. <u>ACTION: LS will share visit report after meeting.</u>	LS

Item	Description	Action
9	Equality Diversity and Inclusion	
9.1	<p>JS provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four previous EDI groups had now been blended into one Frome Vale Family Group. • A new action plan is on the website. • JSe (EDI Link Councillor) has been active with the Frome Vale Family Group • Some events will be for the purpose of the community coming together again. 	
9.2	Councillors discussed the purpose of the group noting that some parents wish to help with events only. It was recognised that the new way of communicating to the whole group of parents with clear communication around the purpose of each meeting would help with communication and engagement of the group.	
9.3	Are there any events which clash with Ramadan? Are you ensuring that craft/decoration activities are aligned with Ramadan?	
9.4	We will check with MD before finalising any Spring events and activities (around 22 or 23 rd March and into April).	
9.5	For any festival Is there a way for the children to give what they have made to a friend at school if they don't want to take it home if the festival is not celebrated at their homes?	
9.6	<p>Yes, that is a good idea, we will take that forward.</p> <p><u>ACTION: When planning activities around religious celebrations, children to be able to give what they have made to a friend if they don't celebrate the festival at home.</u></p>	ND
10	Link Councillor updates	
10.1	<p>Curriculum Link (LW) reported that she had made a link visit and would share the visit note shortly.</p> <p><u>ACTION: LW to share visit note.</u></p>	LW
10.2	<p>JS provided an update on curriculum planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and Geography - sequencing of lessons has now been looked at to ensure refined area of focus. • Science Lead has met today with the Science Lead at Evergreen to do the same. • Similar action has been taken for Art which is helping teachers. 	
11	Policies	
11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND Policy: <u>ACTION: Clerk to request approval of the policy by email.</u> • Councillors noted the CLF Board approved policies for Health & Safety, Data Protection, Information Security, Records Retention, Gifts and Hospitality. • JS reminded councillors non-statutory procedures are on the school website (the majority have been updated for this year). 	LC
12	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
12.1	<u>ACTION: KR/LW will raise question re councillors going on maternity leave and replacement /covering of important link roles in the meantime to central team/COAC</u>	KR/LW
13	AOB	
13.1	JS asked if councillors might be able to support Evergreen Academy Council as well as Frome Vale as Evergreen Academy Council were short of councillors. JS asked if the Chair of Evergreen could observe an FVA meeting.	

Item	Description	Action
	<p><u>ACTION: JS will share Evergreen Academy Council dates for councillors to look at their availability.</u></p> <p><u>ACTION: JS will invite the Chair of EPA to observe an FVA meeting.</u></p>	<p>JS/All JS</p>

The meeting closed at 7 pm.

Next meetings:

FVA	Tues 5 - 7pm	
AC3	6-Dec-22	
AC4	28-Feb-23	
AC5	25-Apr-23	Tues
AC6	4-Jul-23	