

# Minutes – Frome Vale Academy Council

## Version

**Date** 13 July 2021

**Location:** Online Teams meeting

**Time:** 5.15 pm

**Present:**

Laura Walder (LW)	Sponsor Academy Councillor (Chair)
Hope Allen (HA)	Support Staff Academy Councillor (Vice Chair)
Dilan Kaygisiz (DK)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
Maria Cerepanova (MC)	Teacher Academy Councillor
Jan Saunders (JS)	Principal
Kate Richardson (KR)	Executive Principal
Meriam Gordon (MG)	Parent Academy Councillor
Paul Stephens (PS)	Parent Academy Councillor
Lori Streich (LS)	Sponsor Academy Councillor

**Apologies:**

Joyce Adeyeye (JA)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
Lucy Fulton (LF)	Sponsor Academy Councillor

**Attendees:** Linda Corbidge (LC) Academy Council Clerk

## Minutes

Item	Description	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Introductions</b>	
1.1	Welcome and introductions were made by LW.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1	There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Academy Council Membership</b>	
3.1	<b>Membership</b> – LW explained that the new prospective councillor would join in September.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
4.1	Minutes of the meeting held 2 April 2021 were agreed as accurate.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Online meeting to be arranged for councillors and a group of children – <b><u>ACTION: JS will arrange time with councillors either next week or early in September face-to-face.</u></b></li> <li>5.1 Photos to be taken of councillors for website – <b><u>ACTION: taken forward to September due to current high Covid rates.</u></b></li> <li>15.1 Councillor communication with staff to be discussed at next councillor get together – <b><u>ACTION: taken forward to September</u></b></li> <li>15.1 LF to meet with Lou re Pupil Premium Plan/Strategy then send note around to update councillors – <b><u>ACTION: taken forward to September for LF to report.</u></b></li> </ul>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LF</p>

Item	Description	Action
	<b>Academy Council Report</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Quality of Education</b>	
6.1	<p>JS highlighted areas from the Academy Council Report which had been shared: Academy Review Visit (ARV)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengths - expectations; Early Years writing; Pupil Premium provision and subject knowledge. Pupil voice had been focussed on what it means to be a Frome Vale citizen.</li> <li>• Moving forward - focus on articulating pedagogy framework; active learners; subject knowledge and good modelling regarding delivery of lesson. Pedagogy approach is being developed ready for Inset day and how it connects with work with PD plans on personal or self-directed projects re improvement of teaching and learning. Also looked at effectiveness of marking/feedback – expectation currently written as well as oral – will feed back on this next meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Achievements and Standards</b>	
7.1	<p><b>Outcomes - CLF Assessments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Really pleased with Early Years data so far – a result of good work – what does our provision look like? and clear progression/expectations. Will continue with that model. 82% Writing – awaiting moderation; Phonics 75% – similar to other schools in the federation;</li> <li>• Year 2 – now achieved 93% Phonics;</li> <li>• Year 6 – really pleased with data; 85% across each subject Reading, Writing, Maths, Combined 75%. Particularly pleased with Exceeding: Reading 45%, 25% in Maths and Writing.</li> <li>• MC updated on the new multiplication check completed online. Year 4 children were really excited to take part; 40% of cohort either scored 24 or 25/25 out of times tables questions - all had enjoyed the process although some were slower to type in. The school came out quite well in comparison to other schools across the Trust. KR explained that it was purely internal data this first year. Average score test online was 18/25; scores were varied across the Trust. It was important to learn from this test run.</li> </ul>	
7.2	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance taken from 8 March is 95.2% which is reasonably positive. The data doesn't reflect 'x' codes (Covid related absence - 25 children were absent last week).</li> <li>• Ongoing attendance issue in Year 3 - same child reflected in SENE data. Another child in Year 3 has low attendance - follow ups being taken.</li> <li>• Early years attendance is the strongest the school has ever had which is a good start to school.</li> </ul>	
7.3	<p><b>Quality of Teaching and Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLF strategic plan is to continue and understand the connection between professional development and quality of teaching and learning.</li> <li>• See Item 6.1.</li> </ul>	
7.4	<p><b>Behaviour and Exclusions</b></p> <p>Remains good. No significant changes in behaviour.</p>	
7.5	<p><b>Personal development</b></p>	

Item	Description	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the last report the RSHE Policy has been fully implemented. <b>MG supported with a meeting earlier this year to enable families to recognise how and why it was being implemented. Since the meeting the relationship with parents has strengthened even more.</b> Children take part in RSHE lessons in an appropriate way. We can already see the reason for its implementation and can see it taking effect within the school.</li> <li>• The newly formed EDI parents' group is particularly effective;</li> <li>• We are also looking at what work we can do to support our families with different faiths and cultures.</li> <li>• There have been two referrals to CAMHS – a significant increase to normal; we are concerned about children's mental health. The children are receiving play therapy but we are keen to get CAMHS involved – there is a waiting list. We have recently formed a partnership with Learning Support West to do some mentoring which has been really successful in school as well.</li> </ul>	
7.6	<p><b>Staffing</b> Is good – we have recruited a teacher and a TA for Early Years and 1:1.</p>	
7.7	<p><b>Pupil Premium and Catch Up Funding</b> Catch Up Funding - we have needed to think creatively in teams across the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 3 has had funding for the longest time to support Maths in Year 3. <i>(Post meeting Note: the maths data has come in lower than predicted in term 5 due to lots of absence due to Covid).</i></li> <li>• Year 6 had funding for 5 months; the outcome is that the children are now very much ready to go to secondary school with a good set of results; we are confident it would be the same if statutory assessment.</li> <li>• Some funding for Year 1 as this is the group we are most concerned about regarding loss of learning due to the pandemic; there are low starting points and more work to do with a Pupil Premium gap there. Some funding, not huge; approximately £9000, will be directed to this cohort.</li> <li>• We have also had academic mentor who has just finished. This has been really effective by keeping a short, sharp focus on a particular area. As a result Year 2 reading has shown real impact; the Pupil Premium gap has narrowed in that class and they will be given additional support next year.</li> <li>• Years 4, 5, 6 have no PP gap. There are no gaps emerging apart from Year 2 cohort. PP percentages are dropping quite dramatically – only 6 now in Year 1 and 3 in Reception; this will have an impact on budget over time and we will need to think carefully going forward.</li> </ul> <p>Pupil Premium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus will remain on Quality First teaching and will be connected to CPD. There will be a Pupil Voice focus in September on finding out the needs of PP children in school. PP strategy is also a focus for CLF moving forward.</li> </ul>	
8	<b>SEND</b>	
8.1	<p><b>SEND Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors came into school and looked at classes/teaching/talked with teachers, reporting a positive picture on what the school provides.</li> </ul>	

Item	Description	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations were thinking around how we sustain that model. ND will work on this next year; to empower middle leaders on what the curriculum is like in other curriculum areas</li> </ul>	
8.2	<p><b>SEND Report</b></p> <p>The SEND AC Report had been shared and noted by councillors. ND highlighted her focus following return from maternity leave:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEND Policy – this needed to evolve to be more Frome Vale – this has been updated and will be shared with MG (SEND Link) before bringing to Council.</li> <li>Developing the III (Intent, Implementation, Impact) - helps focus for actions in September</li> <li>Developing EAL Policy for Frome Vale – we need to have a process for how we assess/record. This is a big project and will need monitoring by councillors going forward.</li> <li>ND to be really active with pupils – hear read, talk to about progress.</li> <li>Applying for top up funding.</li> </ul>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Pupil Voice</b>	
9.1	There had been a very effective democratic debate on line regarding bubbles – 66% want to mix again. Will be mixing from September if guidelines allow.	
	<b>Questions from Academy Council</b>	
<b>9.2</b>	<b>This sounds amazing - are the arguments captured anywhere?</b>	
9.3	There were strong arguments – a lot about wellbeing, socialisation and mixing with people. <b>ACTION: JS to share.</b> ND welcomed councillors to come and join in one of the debates next year.	<b>JS</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Parent Engagement</b>	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental engagement is really good – most of the new groups have met twice; third tomorrow with EDI and Wellbeing on Thursday.</li> <li>EDI is the most developed so far. Some parents are very keen on developing EDI and community and have background interests in that. Parents have developed a layered approach which will be looked at further by the school/federation to ensure aligned.</li> <li>Community group – one of the projects is commemoration of the school being 70 years old next Easter.</li> <li>Fund Raisers Group – some of the recent fund raising has been their idea; to dress up as a sports person. They are keen to get going once they can fully reform</li> <li>Environment group – a lot of interest. There had been a uniform sale – one parent has done a lot of work on this.</li> <li>The aim is that all groups will be self-sustaining as we move forward.</li> </ul>	
10.2	Twitter is very active.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Safeguarding</b>	
11.1	Term 5 Report had been shared, JS highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referrals had been made – there were frustrations that some issues were not being picked up by agencies. The school was continuing to push for further support.</li> </ul>	
11.2	A recent pupil questionnaire had been positive regarding children feeling safe in school. <b>ACTION: Present analysis of pupil questionnaire at next meeting.</b>	<b>JS</b>

Item	Description	Action
	<b>Questions from Academy Council</b>	
<b>11.3</b>	<b>Why are the number of wellbeing incidences going up?</b>	
11.4	We are not able to say this is a direct result of the pandemic although there are possibly links. Children are holding a lot of feelings about home situations and taking these on board. We have provided emergency therapy for some – support is centred around that, which is a shift. Regarding sexual harassment and violence report – work had been done in school with training produced by Steve Bane (CLF Safeguarding Lead), a peer on peer on peer abuse audit and processes.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	
12.1	HA reported on the health and safety meeting held last week, reporting no issues – all good. The school are awaiting new guidance to come out to see what arrangements are needed for September.	
12.2	The Health & Safety Audit two weeks ago had shown the academy to be outstanding.	
<b>13</b>	<b>Equality Diversity and Inclusion</b>	
13.1	JS had updated on the parent engagement groups on EDI. The children’s group is still in existence – moving forward we are particularly keen to show representation of roles in schools; the children will produce the work.	
<b>14</b>	<b>Ofsted Preparation</b>	
14.1	KR shared slides and briefed councillors regarding Ofsted preparation.	
14.2	Ofsted Review of Sexual abuse in schools – June 2021 KR gave further explanation of the training provided by Steve Bane, the completion of the peer on peer review, procedures around that and awareness of how to mitigate it linked to PSHE curriculum, Frome Vale Citizen and implementation of RSHE curriculum. Complimentary feedback had been received on robust reporting on CPOMs. Further recognition – connections with other agencies/DSL training/high profile in networks. This will now form part of the termly Safeguarding review at Frome Vale. It will also appear in Nimble training in September for everybody.	
	<b>Questions from Academy Council</b>	
<b>14.3</b>	<b>What is our role in the inspection and what you are going to want on a practical level?</b>	
14.4	KR explained the process and involvement. JS emphasised the importance of evidence to prove impact from councillors through link meetings, ensuring consistency across other areas to evidence impact and questioning and completion of Nimble training modules.	
<b>14.5</b>	<b>How is awareness going to be built into the RSHE sessions and how can you ask those questions to our younger children?</b>	
14.6	Our culture of safeguarding is that children feel secure to have a voice and talk to somebody – each term we talk about who to talk to at school. The RSHE curriculum will allow further development of voice in that area. The E Safety and online activity is linked to the ‘I am a Citizen’ document which we go through repeatedly. We are currently looking for posters which will suit all year groups in school.	
<b>14.7</b>	<b>You could ask pupils questions by asking them to colour in how they feel</b>	

Item	Description	Action
	<b>about spaces in the school.</b>	
14.8	We did an activity recently on safe spaces in the school – the overall picture is positive re feeling safe.	
<b>15</b>	<b>Policies</b>	
15.1	The following policies were shared and <b>noted</b> by councillors: CLF approved policies: Online Safety; Remote Learning and Toileting & Intimate Care. Academy policies: Staff Wellbeing; Infection Control; Trespassers in School and Community Cohesion.	
<b>16</b>	<b>Governance</b>	
16.1	Training – new Nimble modules should be completed in September.	
16.2	Link Councillors – will review in September.	
16.3	Councillors discussed visits to the academy – taken forward to September. LW encouraged online meetings with links in the academy in the meantime. <b><u>ACTION: LW will arrange dates for AC visits at the beginning of September (Fridays)</u></b>	<b>LW</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC</b>	
17.1	Councillors to contact LW if there are any items to take to next COAC in September.	
<b>18</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<b>Questions by Academy Council</b>	
<b>18.1</b>	<b>What kind of support is there for children over the holidays?</b>	
18.2	There is a Summer School running in conjunction with Progressive Sports; 20 children have been identified for 2 weeks attendance 8.30 – 3.30 pm	
<b>18.2</b>	<b>Is there no further support?</b>	
18.3	There is no further support organised by the school. JS will continue to monitor for safeguarding concerns throughout the holidays. Other activities are available but not organised by Frome Vale.	
<b>18.4</b>	<b>How about sending activities for children to do – possibly a Summer Bingo Sheet to send out to parents?</b>	
18.5	A reading challenge is being sent out and Lynn will share other activities in the newsletter. It may also be possible to send out the 25 activities which will be shared on the Love of Learning pages in the final week – it may be possible to send these out. The Children’s Centre also offers opportunities inside and outside which are shared. The National Trust provides a tick list which could also be shared. JS said it was a really good idea to update families on free and accessible activities as the cultural capital is small for some families.	
18.6	LW and councillors thanked all staff for keeping going in difficult circumstances.	

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm

#### Next meetings:

The CLF Board and Academy Council Results Review meeting (to which all Academy Councillors and Principals are invited) that previously took place on a Saturday morning, will this year be held on the evening of **Wednesday 22nd September from 5 – 8pm via Teams.**

**Academy Council – 5 pm 19 Oct, 30 Nov, 8 Feb, 5 Apr, 5 July**