

Minutes – Frome Vale Academy Council

Date	23 April 2024	
Location:	Frome Vale Academy	
Time:	5.15 pm	
Present:	Kate Richardson (KR)	Director of Education
	Jan Saunders (JS)	Senior Principal
	Nikki Dawson (ND)	Senior Vice Principal
	Paul Stephens (PS)	Parent Academy Councillor
	Christian Simmons (CS)	Sponsor Academy Councillor (Vice Chair)
	Tracy Pakrooh (TP)	Teacher Academy Councillor
	Jim Mulcrone (JM)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
	Lori Streich (LS)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
	Ricki Petchley (RP)	Support Staff Academy Councillor
	Tom Hartshorn (TH)	Parent Academy Councillor
Apologies:	Laura Walder (LW)	Sponsor Academy Councillor (Chair)
	Sophia Feinbaum (SF)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
Attendees:	Linda Corbidge (LC)	Academy Council Clerk

Minutes

Item	Description	Action
1	Introductions	
1.1	Welcome and introductions were made by CS who was chairing the meeting in the absence of LW.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no verbal declarations of interest made for this meeting.	
3	Governance	
3.1	Membership	
3.1.2	It was noted that the vacancies for LA Representative and Student Advocate were ongoing.	
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the meeting held 27 February 2024 were agreed as a true record.	
5	Matters Arising	
5.1	<i>LW will follow up on contact with WECIL charity re councillor vacancy.</i> ACTION: taken forward for LW.	LW
5.2	LW will take the discussion around SEND assessment and paediatric assessor to COAC. Take forward for update at next meeting.	LW
6	Academy Council Report	
	<i>AC Report and Term 3 data had been shared.</i>	

Item	Description	Action
6.1	Pupil Voice	
6.1.1	<p>JS provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> democracy debates have continued around class captains – the outcome was that the pupils didn't want one. The importance of everyone voting is emphasised. Will be starting 'Wake and Shake' in the mornings; pupils raised discussion around workload for teachers. lectern made to elevate public speaking is now being used in assemblies etc. most pupil voice groups took place last term and actions implemented. the bank is in progress – pupils get paid in Penguin Pounds every Friday. The aim is for a savings scheme to be in place from September so that pupils understand the benefits of saving. There is now a Frome Vale shop set up in the hall; interviews are this Friday for pupils to run the shop. 	
6.1.2	<p>What is being sold in the shop?</p> <p>Pens, pencils, notebooks, parents are knitting keyrings, Frome Vale Hoody (use Penguin Pounds to buy).</p>	
6.1.3	<p>What percentage of the pupils receive the money?</p> <p>Every child who belongs to a pupil voice group can receive the money (about 80% of the school belong to a group). About 60 children receive the money.</p>	
6.1.4	<p>What proportion of the children who got jobs are SEND?</p> <p>There are a lot – I will bring data to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>ACTION: ND to share data on how many children with SEND have jobs in school</u></p>	ND
6.1.5	<p>Are SEND children supported to complete applications and interviews?</p> <p>Yes, there is some support at the start; we could do more going forward.</p>	
6.1.6	<p>Do you know the number of pupils who are looking for a job but are not able to get one?</p> <p>Yes, we do keep a record and will support with some coaching.</p>	
6.1.7	<p>Is there a maximum term for the job?</p> <p>No, the pupils need to resign. Year 6 pupils will be leaving their roles which opens up opportunities; they have already offered to induct new pupils in role which is really positive.</p>	
6.1.8	<p>Do you think having a fixed term might be a good idea?</p> <p>Yes, possibly. There are quite a lot of jobs that older children need to do. The only way they lose the job is if they are not doing the job properly (which provides life skills).</p>	
6.2	Staffing and Wellbeing	
6.2.1	<p>Are there any staff survey results?</p> <p>We did not run a staff survey as it was a tricky term due to staff illness. 1:1's were carried out to support individually.</p>	
6.2.2	<p>What is staff morale like as it is SAT's season?</p> <p>There are 3 people involved in SATs, TP is one of them. Councillors asked TP the question.</p> <p>TP commented that SAT's preparation is going well. JS/ND provide support for the staff involved and the model to support the children has been used for the last 6</p>	

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	years (1:1 high expectation, drilling down to what they need). Data is as expected, and the children don't seem stressed as they know where they are.	
6.2.3	Overall, is the children's performance as expected for this time of year? Yes, it is similar to the previous Y6.	
6.3	Pupil Premium Link Visit	
6.3.1	JM reported that he had visited the school for his Pupil Premium Link visit and raised a query around sharing of data so that councillors can understand data over time. Following discussion, it was agreed that it would be helpful for the data presented to Academy Council to include narrative to provide further explanation on trails/trends to allow tracking of success of training/interventions. <u>ACTION: JS will discuss arranging a session on interpreting data at the Term 6 meeting with LW.</u>	JS
6.4	Curriculum	
6.4.1	JS highlighted that work is taking place on refining the curriculum as it has been recognised that some content needs to be simplified and sequenced so that is more cumulative. Lesson objectives/content has been reviewed and core lessons will be prepared/resourced for delivery so there is consistency across year groups. It is a lot of work for subject leaders currently, but the benefits will be huge in the long term. Subject leads will then review effectiveness/consistency going forward. Quality is being checked by SLT.	
6.4.2	Is there a time frame to complete the work? Priorities have been identified, with History first. The review process has been useful as it has picked up some anomalies in the curriculum (e.g. repeating of some content across the school).	
6.4.3	How are you planning EDI objectives to ensure they run through all subjects? When planning the curriculum, we ensure elements of EDI are included to reflect the cohort we have. Throughout our curriculum we always include EDI and this a thread throughout the CLF curriculum.	
6.4.4	Is there enough scope in the set curriculum to enable good quality teaching? We need to ensure consistency as primary teachers don't have the subject knowledge across the curriculum. Interviews this week have been more about testing for good teaching/pedagogy than subject knowledge.	
6.4.5	How do you ensure the quality of the teaching? We go into classrooms and are seeing consistency and good pedagogy in the classroom.	
6.5	Academy Review Visit	
6.5.1	What was the result of the ARV last term which looked at implementation of writing? It is good to have an external check. The ARV showed positive consistency across the school. This will be checked again in Term 1. We have requested that the ARV this Friday re-looks at learning behaviours to check progress and also to look at oracy to see how it supports learning behaviours.	
6.6	Outcomes/Progress	
6.6.1	JS provided highlights from the report:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 data is challenging; there are a lot of SEND children/movers in the cohort. Year 5 is challenging for various reasons: there have been a lot of joiners and staff movement. 	
6.7	Behaviour	
6.7.1	<p>Have there been any suspensions?</p> <p>We have had one suspension which turned into a managed move to another school.</p>	
6.7.2	<p>Do you know why the pupil has been successful in the other school but not at Frome Vale?</p> <p>They needed a fresh start which has been successful. KR commented that Frome Vale is a one form entry school which makes it more difficult to move pupils to another class.</p> <p>Two children are returning from The Nest shortly. We will be supporting them to ensure they are successful on their return.</p>	
6.8	Attendance	
6.8.1	<p>JS reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attendance is currently a more positive picture compared to last year at 95.5% (1% above NA). Early Years data is not as good although there has been illness in the cohort. The school is focussing on this with the help of the Education Welfare Office to ensure that this does not follow on into Reception. 	
6.8.2	Councillors commented on the improvement in data for persistent absence, which is at 11.1% compared to 28.8% last year.	
6.8.3	<p>The report states that a member of staff was not well and pushed through. Do you encourage staff to go home when appropriate?</p> <p>We recognise and support staff who are struggling and will send home if appropriate.</p>	
6.9	SEND	
6.9.1	<p>Have children who need help got the support from Bristol City Council?</p> <p>I have had strong conversations with BCC to find out what is happening – all services are strained as there is not the resource out there and we need to wait as BCC do not have the staff. We have increasing numbers of parents financing EHCP assessments themselves. It is also extremely difficult as schools are unable to access medical professionals to support referrals as Paediatric support is not available.</p>	
6.9.2	<p>Is there any support with this from CLF?</p> <p>KR responded that there is a new central team colleague leading the SENCOs. The Trust approach is to work with the council team as it is a complex situation and will be an ongoing issue. ND commented that she had had conversations around the suggestion that schools could have a triage system so the most in need across schools get the help first. KR added that what we can do is share intelligence of how to navigate the system.</p>	
6.9.3	<p>Are there any children in Y6 who have not got what they need for transition?</p> <p>No, everything is in place for their transition however the new Reception cohort will be complex around supporting the year group.</p>	
6.9.4	Is this unusual for Frome Vale?	

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	It is similar to other schools across the city, we need to use our resources as best we can as the cohort is impacted by lack of funding. We are having more conversations around the school not being able to meet the pupils needs for requests for admissions.	
7	Safeguarding	
	<i>Safeguarding Report for Term 4 had been shared</i>	
7.1	LS (Safeguarding Link) reported that she had met with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) today and will share the visit report shortly. LS fed back that DSL had commented that communication between the school and the professionals is good.	
7.2	JS commented that there are resource gaps which is resulting in the Bristol Charities Family and Engagement Worker's time now being stretched between other schools. A meeting will take place shortly to discuss the support.	
8	Health & Safety	
8.1	RP highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the new one-way system for coming into the school has been successful. The quiet area fenced off has prevented mud coming onto the playground. The hardcore football pitch has been a problem. The children can now go onto the field as there is a new drainage system. JS added that the changes we are making in the KS1 playground are successful.	
9	Finance – Budget 2024/25	
9.1	JS reported that the academy was starting the year at a £90K deficit due to energy/salaries. JS explained the uncertainty this term around staff movements to other schools and the potential positive impact on the budget. ND advised councillors that she would be leaving in July for a headship at another school which will impact positively the budget. JS said that she will have a clearer position in staffing/budget in July. Councillors congratulated ND on her appointment.	
9.2	How many teachers could you lose before you feel impact? We have been in this position before as teachers tend to move on as they have maximised their opportunity due to the small school. We will focus on staff training/school culture in September. The work on the curriculum will help with the moves, particularly for Early Career Teachers (ECTs) coming in.	
10	Policies	
10.1	Councillors noted the following reviewed CLF academy policies: Attendance; Online Safety, Remote Learning, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions.	
11	Link Councillor updates	
11.1	There were no further updates.	
12	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
12.1	None.	
13	AOB	
13.1	None.	

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

FVA Meeting Minutes 23042024

Next meetings:

FVA		
AC1	27/09/2023	5-8pm (CLF Board & Academy Council Results Review)
AC2	17/10/2023	5-7pm
AC3	12/12/2023	5-7pm
AC4	27/02/2024	5-7pm
AC5	23/04/2024	5-7pm
AC6	02/07/2024	5-7pm