

# MINUTES

**The Challenge Academy Trust  
Quality and Standards Committee  
Tuesday 11 February 2020, 6pm**

**PRESENT:**

Jane Griffiths (JG)	Vicky Briggs (VB)
Paul King (PK)	Angela Grace (AG)
Howard Platt (HP)	Matthew Grant (MG)
Claire Roper (CR)	Rachel Morris Brown (RM)
Carolyn Williams (CW)	Stuart Wright (SW)
Shelia Yates (SY)	Susan Richardson (SR)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**            **Lisa Adams – Clerk to Governors**

## Part One – non confidential business

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### 1. **Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. **Absence and apologies**

Apologies were received from Lacy Muir.

**Agreed: The apologies and absence of Lacy Muir were approved**

### 3. **Declaration of personal interests**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

### 4. **Minutes from the previous meeting**

#### **Safeguarding**

It was reported that the recent safeguarding training was really useful. It was felt that attendance of governors was not as big as hoped. AG noted that it was interesting to see that the score cards include a question about attendance at governor training sessions. VB questioned if the location of the venue could have an impact on attendance. HP noted that consideration for

dates of governing body meetings needs to be taken when setting training sessions.

**Action: members to encourage governors to complete the Hays training**

## 5. Safeguarding – Tracy Hatton

It was noted that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time of presenting the safeguarding audit to members. It is good to see that each school is taking safeguarding seriously. In terms of quality assurance the Local Authority complete a 175 audit. Emma Coupe is completing an audit on behalf of the trust for every school.

It was reported that there has been a dip in the attendance in November and December due to a sickness bug. Public Health issued a letter to all schools with guidance on what to do. It was noted that in terms of exclusions 10% is the national average and no school is close to this figure.

It was reported that there has been an increase in the number of child protection cases however this is mostly in one school and will be looked into. The number of early help referrals is decreasing. There has also been an increase in MASH referrals but this is due to longer time scales.

All schools have completed a story board of what they have done well this term. It was noted that some of the highlights are the use of CPOMS and embedding of PSHE. SW reported that Meadowside are early help champions and have been looking at ways to engage parents.

SY noted that the report is reassuring for the trustees to see that all the safeguarding procedures are in place. A discussion took place around exclusions. VB noted that the concern amongst primary school heads is that the problem is being masked at primary level and the issues then arise at the high school.

SY noted that the number of children on the vulnerable pupil register is high at Broomfields. RM noted that things have calmed down considerably. Some of the child in need cases are related to low level domestic violence. SW informed members that a lot of cases need to be put in to context and what one neighbour sees as an issue is see as the norm by another. It was felt that the hub will be good in getting professionals together to see how issues are dealt with.

## 6. Performance Review

### - Primary

**Vicky Briggs – Great Sankey Primary**

The targets have been set against FFT 20. The number of children in Year 6 has changed from when they were in Year 2. One additional child has not attended a school for 6 months prior to joining Great Sankey Primary. The school is currently in a strong position across all phases. The areas highlighted in green are areas of strengths identified from the IDSR. The work on the curriculum is strong however sequencing is proving a challenge. Attendance is a focus for this term as it dipped in the autumn term. In terms of staffing a proposed restructure of the SLT is planned to build on the strength. A member of staff is due on maternity leave. **SY asked** about FFT 20 for the lower years. It was noted that FFT 20 isn't used for setting KS1 targets.

It was reported that there are some children in Year 6 who are not on track and interventions are in place to support these. **SY asked** if the data includes the 3 additional children. It was noted that all but one are included.

### **Stuart Wright – Meadowside**

He reported that the numbers on roll is misleading and it looks like it has decreased. The difference is due to a bulge year leaving the school. It was noted that 4 years ago there were places available but now the school is oversubscribed. **SY asked** if of the 264 children the majority are pupil premium. He informed them that they are due to the location of the school. The national average for number of SEN is 13% and the school has double that number. Due to the number of SEN children the school is unable to set targets using FFT as it would provide unrealistic data. On average 48% will achieve in reading but if FFT 50 data was used it would set a target of 70%. **SY asked** if Ofsted have any issues with the school not using FFT. SW noted that it is not a requirement. VB noted that the headline data for Meadowside is an issue. SW informed members that a judgement is made on where the children come in at and where they leave. This allows them to evidence the progress and the journey of each child. It was reported that 100% of non SEN children passed the phonics check and are at age related. The school has been awarded as centre of excellence for inclusive education. The behaviour at the school is strong. The current focus is on vocab, reading and writing.

SY noted that considering the level of challenge the school faces the attendance is impressive. SW noted that absence has been stable. SY noted that a school can't help the children if they are not in school. She asked as a trust what we can offer to the school. He noted that he has been in Warrington for 4 years and found the capacity at the Local Authority frustrating. However he has been impressed with the organisation and vision of the trust. The support has been bespoke to the

school and teachers. SW reported that he is working closely with BCA and the number of children from Meadowside who have moved up to BCA has increased.

**PK asked** what he feels the school has brought to TCAT. He felt that they have brought the community ethos, enthusiasm and a good knowledge of safeguarding.

### **Angela Grace - Penketh South**

She reported that the school use FFT to set targets but also looks at every child individually. Every cohort is less than 30 so every child makes a difference. An NQT is currently covering maternity in EYFS. There are two children in KS1 with EHCPs which will have an impact on the data. She informed members that in terms of Year 6 there at least a third of the class presenting ASD issues but not diagnosed. There is a child who is on the child protection register and doesn't want to learn. The school are working hard to ensure everything is put in place for this child. Some good staffing appointments have been made and the new Site Manager is bringing a lot of benefits. There is a job share in Year 1 which isn't without its problems. A lot of work has been done in terms of Maths and Barbara Dutton has been into school to work with the subject leaders.

The priorities for the school are

- phonics and making sure reading books are in line with the phonics development
- Making sure subject leaders are all working to the same standards

The numbers on roll continue to rise. SY noted that it is good to see that the numbers are improving. AG noted that there have been a number of in year admissions. There are 22 first choice preferences and a number of 2<sup>nd</sup> choice. **SY asked** how the maths curriculum is going. AG informed them that the school is using power maths. She felt that if it is used properly it is effective however it requires a lot of monitoring to ensure effectiveness. **SR asked** how the children have received it. She noted that the children love the neatness of it. **SR asked** if any information has been shared with parents. She reported that there hasn't been any negative feedback about it. VB noted that the theory behind it is similar to White Rose but effectiveness depends on the teaching. The primary maths hub are currently looking at it. **SY asked** if there are any suggestions that all schools use the same approach. VB felt that there could be if the data was low. The maths hub are looking at the approach and the pedagogy around it.

### **Rachel Morris Brown - Broomfields**

She reported that as a junior school the attainment scores can be higher than the progress scores. The school also has no control over the end of KS1 data. The KS2 writing is significantly above national as is greater depth maths. She reported that she is pleased with the progress scores for the pupil premium children. The reading outcomes were disappointing. A lot of work has been put in across the school around the pedagogy of teaching it. The English lead is taking part in the EEF evidence lead project and is getting a lot out of it. VB noted that the trust is well represented with the EEF evidence leads. Barbara Dutton is working with the leaders focusing on the planning and making sure that everything is in place.

The current Year 6 are well above national in reading and writing in terms of prior attainment. Focused pastoral support is being provided for the children who need it. It was noted that the targets are not easy for some of the children to achieve. The Year 4 staff are currently working on maths planning and have moved to teaching it in mixed ability. **SY asked** what the rationale was behind mixed ability. RM informed them that it was following a recent pupil voice where the children indicated that they didn't enjoy working in sets. It was felt doing it this way allows more flexibility and less upheaval moving the children in sets. The staff have noticed that by having mixed abilities the SEN children are improving. **SY asked** if the school is two form entry. It was noted that the school is a 3 form entry. **SY asked** if the children are still grouped when in class. It was noted that it depends on the task. SY noted that it would be interesting to see the impact on the data.

## **7. Score Cards autumn 2020**

It was reported that all the score cards have been reviewed and completed with the Headteachers.

### **Primary**

Great Sankey Primary have carried out deep dives in geography and history with the support of an external consultant. Penketh South Primary have had an external SEN review. AG noted that a lot was learnt from the peer review at Meadowside Primary.

### **Secondary**

It was reported that Bridgewater is low support however the school is expecting the Ofsted call at any time. One of the schools strengths is that there is a strong balanced curriculum, void of gaming.

BCA is also low support. A peer review has been carried out. The school is not in the Ofsted window.

Sir Thomas Boteler are receiving ongoing leadership support. A number of deep dives have taken place. AM has done two days of workshops with the school. There is a big focus on behaviour and personal development. A financial plan has been put in place. The numbers on roll have increased.

SY noted that no figures are presented on some aspects of the score cards. VB felt that there may need to be a conversation about what information is presented to the trust. SY noted that there is a difference in the information provided from each of the schools. HP noted that for this committee to see more than two pages per school would be unmanageable.

Penketh High are receiving intensive support and are due the Ofsted call. Coaching and support is being provided with the SLT. There is a vulnerability around the KS3 and KS4 position in terms of narrowing the curriculum. SY noted that there are more students on ebac than in many schools however the down side of this is that there are less students on the arts programme. VB reported that there is a financial plan in place. The predictions for Year 10 and Year 11 are strong.

Padgate Academy are receiving enhanced support. There is a plan in place in terms of leadership and finance. Issues are being tackled and a meeting is due to be held with the governors. The school is not in the Ofsted window. A significant restructure is planned for 2020. Misia Barclay has returned from maternity leave.

An appointment has been made for the Principal at Priestley College to be in post from September 2020.

SY noted that Penketh High have made a huge amount of progress following significant changes. In the score card it makes reference to the site being an issue, she asked if there is anything more the trust can do. VB noted that it has been raised at the RSC meeting. VB noted that it is part of a conversation and there have been talks with the FA around the sports facility. It was noted that the footpath is a huge safeguarding issue. CW felt that in order to recruit to the school work needs doing to the site. VB noted that inside the building is well presented and well decorated. The PAN has been reduced to make it easier to fill places. Great Sankey High increasing their PAN has had an impact on the numbers at Penketh High. HP stated that the trust is receiving money for the expansion project at Bridgewater High so a bigger proportion of the capital could be allocated to Penketh High.

### **Target setting**

AM is due to meet with the Headteachers at Padgate Academy to set targets.

The subject hubs are using the target setting data for analysis.

A data expert within Penketh High is currently collating the data for secondary and primary schools.

## 8. Pupil Premium

**HP asked** who put together the pupil premium report. VB reported that she pulls together the report and shares it with the CET.

It was reported that within the trust there are over 1000 vulnerable children with just under £1.5 million funding received. Work has been carried out over the two years and there are some commonalities however at the meetings it is not the same people attending.

The members were informed that a review of all the hubs is being carried out. It was felt that the pupil premium report should be shared with the CET so that it is kept as a high priority. It was also felt that as a trust it is important that there is a clear position of what is happening in terms of pupil premium. The trust were assured that the work will still continue, the change is in who it is reported to.

**SY asked** if every school has a pupil premium representative. VB noted that at times attendance was poor. In some cases the pastoral leads would attend but they weren't part of the SLT. SY noted that this issue with passing it back to the CET was increasing their workload. VB assured members that it would be kept high on the agenda and that the pupil premium hub will continue to provide CPD. HP noted that pupil premium is included on the score cards and that VB would continue to receive individual reports from the schools.

## 9. SEND

It was reported that there is a lot of good work going on across the trust particularly in terms of CPD. SEND will be an area where the trust will look to see if they can purchase extra psychological support across all schools. **SY asked** if this is an option. It was noted that support is already purchased however reports can take some time in getting back.

## 10. Future dates

**HP asked** if the schools could look at Governing Body meeting dates to ensure that there are no clashes with trust training which prevent governors from attending.

## 11. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 9 June 2020, 6pm

**The meeting closed at 7:41 pm**