



THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST

MINUTES of The Challenge Academy Trust Quality and Standards Committee Thursday 10 FEBRUARY 2022, 5pm

Attendees		
Sheila Yates	Trustee, Committee Chair	
Howard Platt	Trustee	
Susan Richardson	Trustee	
Vicky Briggs	Executive Principal – Primary	
Tim Long	Executive Principal – Secondary	
Claire Roper	Associate (by Zoom)	
Carolyn Williams	Associate (by Zoom)	
Nuala Curtin	Clerk	

The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

Safeguarding Summary
 Pupil Attendance & Exclusions Feb 2022
 Peer to Peer Reviews (for 10 schools)
 TCAT School Improvement Rationale
 MFL Interim Evaluation TCAT
 Science Curriculum Review
 Maths Curriculum Exec Summary
 TCAT Peer Review Reading Recovery
 History Review Update
 TCAT SEND Strategy

1	Welcome and introductions Sheila Yates, as presiding Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	Absence/ Apologies/ Non-attendance The following were absent: Jane Griffiths; Lacy Muir: Andrew Moorcroft; Paul King (Associate)
3	Minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee on 7 October 2021 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Quality & Standards Committee meeting held on 7 October 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record. a. Matters Arising Susan Richardson reviewed and amended the wording for the Safeguarding section of the Terms of Reference.



	Resolved – Directors adopted the wording for inclusion to the Terms of Reference
4	<p>Safeguarding Update</p> <p>Vicky Briggs presented the Safeguarding Update (report on screen). The Safeguarding review has been conducted with three schools still to receive a visit. This is a more in-depth review than the Section 5 Local Authority. Looking to ensure consistency across the schools.</p> <p>It is noted that many strengths have been observed and there is lots of good practice. Once all the reviews are complete will then finalise training needs and establish the Trust 'formal offer'.</p> <p>Q - are there were any concerns for improvement? A – practice is secure, there are just some 'tweaks' and need more alignment. Schools submit information to the Trust monthly and this is reviewed to identify any trends.</p> <p>Directors discussed racists incidents, bullying and recording – having consistency across the Trust.</p> <p>When first started using this reporting the numbers of reports increased, it did appear there was over reporting. A rise in racial reporting is predicted as there is training being provided on this thus a heightened awareness.</p> <p>A discussion was had on reporting staffing concerns and the process around this.</p> <p>The Early Help numbers category [within the report] doesn't always capture the help that is provided prior to Early Help – going to look to try and capture this information.</p> <p>There are broader themes such as anti-social behaviour in the town has increased.</p> <p>Q – anything on county lines? A – this wasn't too big an issue in Warrington</p> <p>A Director added that it is very reassuring to see the work that is being undertaken and the evidence of good oversight across the Trust.</p>
5	<p>Attendance & Exclusions</p> <p>Tim Long and Vicky Briggs presented detailed attendance data. Attendance is still a priority and there are systems in place. TCAT are currently above the national average but both are below pre-Covid levels.</p> <p>It is noted that national school figures published for primary is 91.9%, secondary is at 86.2%.</p> <p>Q – taking into account COVID19 are some pupils choosing not to return to school?</p>



	<p>A – schools are monitoring elected home-schooling pupils, there are some pupils that have experienced anxiety and unfortunately there few resources to support them.</p> <p>Directors reviewed the pupil exclusion data. Numbers are generally low although relatively high at Penketh High School.</p> <p>Tim Long explained the exclusion data is shared with the Fair Access Panel. Directors discussed the wider school exclusion data.</p>
6	<p>Peer-to-Peer Reviews & Monitoring – 6a – 6j</p> <p>The Chair asked for Directors to raise any points and each school was discussed.</p> <p>Q – how was it found working with different colleagues and with different expectations? A – expectations were managed. Tim Long spoke about the ‘deep dive’ methodology and how the outcomes are quite specific, undertook learning walks, book reviews – it is a disciplined approach, and the structure clearly follows OfSTED lines.</p> <p>Following the reviews, a suite of training has been prepared.</p> <p>A Director added it is good to see these reports as they give an indication of strengths and areas for development in each school.</p> <p>Q – moving forward is there a mechanism for follow up? A – follow up meetings will be held, and professional discussions had.</p> <p>A Director commented that it would be useful for these reports to be shared with the Chairs of the Governing Boards and for the Executive Principals to attend Governing Board meetings.</p> <p>Q – can see lots of questions asked, if a concern is identified how would that feed through and be addressed? A – for where there are concerns there are more regular visits and support provided.</p>
7	<p>Scorecard & School Improvement Rationale</p> <p>Tim Long explained this has been covered in Governor Seminars.</p> <p>Any weaknesses identified go into the Priority Action Plan and then can review across the Trust any particular areas if needed.</p>
8	<p>Lead Practitioner Reviews</p> <p>8a - Mid-Year MFL</p> <p>The MFL review summarises the changes. A Director said she welcomed the comments about the primary schools.</p> <p>8b - Science</p> <p>The reviewed showed there was leadership in this area. There is a poor link between science and SEND provision.</p>



	<p>SEND provision will be a big focus next year.</p> <p>8c - Maths This area underperforms compared to English, it is the least well performing subject across the Trust.</p> <p>Improvement in maths is a priority for the Trust.</p> <p>8d – Scoping documents (TCAT Reads and Recovery Premium) The reading and recovery premium is to be reviewed</p> <p>8e – Scoping documents History The staff member is to be released to prepare the report.</p>
9	<p>Hub update</p> <p>There are 29 hubs across the Trust, some are formal and some informal. There is a need to be realistic about resources and review whether all the HUBs are working effectively.</p>
10	<p>SEND Vicky Briggs spoke about SEND the national and local picture and how they are different in terms of outcomes. The Strategic Action Plan was viewed [on screen]. The SEND vision across the Trust was discussed and the Warrington Local Offer.</p> <p>Most SEND pupils are in mainstream schools and there is an increase in need around ASD.</p> <p>For TCAT there are 233 EHCP and 722 on the SEND register.</p> <p>The SLT seminar was held, and the SEND data shared.</p> <p>The Trust want to demonstrate the momentum there is around SEND.</p> <p>[Susan Richardson left the meeting at 6:40pm]</p>
11	<p>Assessment Arrangements (Summer 2022) Pupils will sit exams but will receive some pre-examination information.</p>
12	<p>Recovery Premium This has been covered earlier in the meeting</p>
13	<p>Destination Data Information on students going on to Russell Group/Sutton Thirty Universities was provided by Priestley College in response to a request from a TCAT Member. Obviously students from other schools also attend Priestley college and Year 11 pupils</p>



	also go on to colleges other than Priestley College. Priestley is happy to supply TCAT schools with further destination data if required.
14	AOB There were no items advised.
15	The Chair thank everyone for their contributions to an interesting and productive meeting. The meeting closed at 6.45 pm Future meeting dates are on the TCAT calendar

Confidential Matters

125. There may be excluded from any item required to be made available in pursuance of Article 124, any material relating to: (a) a named teacher or other person employed, or proposed to be employed, at any Academy; (b) a named pupil at, or candidate for admission to, any Academy; and (c) any matter which, by reason of its nature, the Trustees are satisfied should remain confidential.