



THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST: QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Quality and Standards Committee held on the 9th of February 2023

Time: 16:55 – 18:37

Venue: TCAT Development Centre

Chair: Sheila Yates

Clerk: Katie Whitmore katie.whitmore@entrust-ed.co.uk

Committee Members			End of Term	Attendance
AM	Andrew Moorcroft	CEO, Trustee	N/A	Not in attendance
LM	Lacy Muir	Trustee	16.12.2026	Present
HP	Howard Platt	Trustee	01.07.2025	Present 16:55 – 18:01
SR	Susan Richardson	Trustee	03.12.2023	Present
SY	Sheila Yates	Chair, Trustee	01.04.2024	Present
Also In Attendance				
VB	Vicky Briggs	Director of Education, TCAT		Present
MM	Martine Molyneux	Lead Practitioner for MFL, TCAT		Present 16:55 – 17:24
TL	Tim Long	School Improvement Lead, TCAT		Present
CR	Claire Roper	Committee Associate		Apologies Accepted
KW	Katie Whitmore	Entrust Clerk		Present
CW	Carolyn Williams	Committee Associate		Present

Documents shared ahead of the meeting
<p>Agenda TCAT Q&S 09.02.2023</p> <p>Item 6 FINAL Minutes TCAT Quality and Standards 06.10.2022</p> <p><i>Item 7c:</i></p> <p>Beamont Collegiate Academy TCAT Review 21.11.22 FINAL</p> <p>Broomfields Junior TCAT Review 06.12.22 FINAL</p> <p>GSP TCAT Review Nov 22</p> <p>Meadowside TCAT Review 02.11.22</p> <p>PHS TCAT Peer Review with agreed HT responses 16th and 17th Nov 22 FINAL</p> <p>Priestley College TCAT Review AUTUMN 2022 FINAL</p> <p>STB Peer to Peer Review 05.01.23 FINAL</p> <p>TCAT Peer Review Padgate Academy L&M 12.10.22</p> <p>Item 8a Trust attendance report January 2023</p> <p>Item 8b Trust suspensions and perm ex report January 2023</p> <p><i>Item 10:</i></p> <p>BHS Ofsted report 2022</p> <p>PS Ofsted Report September 2022</p> <p>Item 12 TCAT mid-year summary report</p> <p>Quality and Standards PP to support items 7, 10, 11</p>

Part one – non-confidential business

The meeting was quorate; committee required three Trustees present





Part one of the meeting opened at 16:55

There was no Confidential Appendix to the meeting.

1	<p>Welcome / Items for AOB / Items for Confidential Part Two</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Committee members and those also in attendance.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the Trust Lead Practitioner for MFL (Modern Foreign Languages), who would be presenting an update on MFL across TCAT.</p> <p>There were no items for discussion within AOB.</p> <p>There were no items for discussion within a part two, Confidential Appendix.</p>
2	<p>Lead Practitioner Update</p> <p>The Trust Lead Practitioner for MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) presented a verbal update to the Committee on the updated position of MFL across TCAT and the following was noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new slimmed down MFL curriculum had been launched in September 2022. • All TCAT staff were being trained on the updated curriculum and would be supported in school • There had been good feedback from pupil voice, and numbers had so far improved for options for MFL GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) • NCELP (National Centre for Excellence for Language Pedagogy) courses were being used to provide resources which staff were being asked to incorporate into the new curriculum. • MM was working with a SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) nurture group to develop a strategy that would then be shared with staff across TCAT. • The new curriculum would sequence the learning of languages to retain longer term; MM had been into schools to model and provide training. <p>Trustees questioned how the Trust could ensure consistency in the teaching and learning of MFL in primary schools in preparation for secondary school. MM advised that this would be difficult to implement, and further there would be children from primary schools outside the Trust joining TCAT secondary schools. MM discussed the need to ensure that primary teaching staff were talking to children about the skills needed for learning a language. The focus over the past year had been to upskill staff to deliver languages and prioritising the building of resource and curriculum across the Trust. MM went on to discuss that Key Stage 5 (KS5) children would be learning the importance of language skills for their future; this is as a result of MM completing training with Oxford researchers which highlighted that nine different languages were taught at Oxford University. There would be a twilight event for KS5 pupils to make it clear what it would be like to study a language at university.</p> <p>Trustees queried the confidence of teaching staff to deliver MFL. MM discussed that this was inconsistent across TCAT, however the development of the curriculum and resources base, and the training and modelling of MFL that was being delivered across the Trust was enabling staff to grow in confidence in delivering MFL. Trustees went on to ask if there were any additional external training opportunities for teaching staff. MM advised that the Turing Scheme (UK government's programme for studying, working, and living abroad) offered additional training which the Trust had</p>



	<p>funding for. Additional training for language upskilling could be sourced at the Instituto Cervantes and the Institut Francais.</p> <p>Trustees asked, given the varying levels of confidence of teaching staff in delivering MFL, if it was feasible to consider reducing the number of languages learned across the Trust, for example by phasing out German. MM discussed that Germany was the UK's second biggest business partner, contributing the 8.5% of the GDP (gross domestic product); this was not necessarily something that children and parents were aware of, and further, in general, parents and children were not aware of the wider reasons why languages were useful</p> <p>Trustees asked if the Trust could offer any support in terms of recruitment of MFL teaching staff. MM advised that there were currently fewer undergraduates studying MFL, and further that ITT recruitment was currently challenging.</p> <p>Trustees thanked MM for her report and discussions.</p> <p>Action: MM will share the updated position paper for MFL across the Trust with the Committee.</p> <p><i>17:24: MM left the meeting at this point</i></p>
3	<p>Attendance / Apologies for Absence</p> <p>CR had sent apologies for absence in advance of the meeting; CR involvement with the Committee as an Associate would not impact the quorum of the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that AM was an ex-officio Trustee and Committee Member by virtue of being CEO, and HP was a Committee Member by virtue of being Chair of the Trust Board. It was noted that their attendance or non-attendance would not impact quorum of the Committee, proving three other Trustees were in attendance.</p>
4	<p>Register of Interests</p> <p>There were no new declarations to the register of interests.</p>
5	<p>Declaration of pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest declared in relation to items on the agenda.</p>
6	<p>Membership and Organisation</p> <p>There were no updates to the membership and organisation of the Committee.</p>
7	<p>Adoption of the minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee meeting on the 6th of October 2022</p> <p>a) To confirm accuracy of the minutes</p> <p>Resolved: Governors approved the minutes from 06.10.2022 a true and accurate record. These would be duly signed and made available on request.</p>



b) To advise any matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting 06.10.2022

c) To review any actions (below):

Minute Reference	Action to be taken	By Whom	Completion Date
1	VB will send KW details of potential new Associate member to invite to next meeting 09.02.2023. <i>This was no longer being pursued.</i>	VB / KW	COMPLETE
3	TL will review the Terms of Reference with the Trust CEO – clarification of sections twelve and thirteen, and confirmation that the Committee would need sections eighteen and nineteen. <i>Changes had been made and the ToR updated.</i>	TL	COMPLETE
6	VB & TL to provide Trustees with access to the live Scorecard. <i>Trustees will currently receive a screenshot, however in the longer-term Trustees will be given live access.</i>	VB / TL	COMPLETE
7	VB & TL will feedback on progress to support Penketh High regarding suspensions in next meeting 09.02.2023. This would be covered within agenda item 9b.	VB / TL	COMPLETE
10	VB & TL to decide on format for pre-meeting reporting by Lead Practitioners and advise the Chair. <i>MM had presented on MFL.</i> Action: Maths Lead Practitioner would be invited to next meeting 15.06.2023	VB / TL	COMPLETE 15.06.2023
11	KW will include Strategic Objectives (TCAT Reads, SEND Strategy, Catch Up) in the agenda next meeting 09.02.2023.	KW	COMPLETE

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TCAT School Improvement Plan

a) Scorecard (verbal)

The Director of Education noted that the Trust Data Manager had resigned, and that a replacement was being actively recruited. Further to the Data Manager leaving, there had been a glitch in the scorecard preventing live access; this was being addressed in the short term by the Trust Head of IT.

b) Calendar (verbal)

The Director of Education shared that all Autumn reviews across the Trust had taken place, follow up sessions were now in the process of being completed. The next stage of reviews would look at data and predictions, and curriculum planning and staffing.

c) Peer Reviews





Peer reviews had been taking place between schools and the Director of Education, the School Improvement Lead, and Lead Practitioners. The focus of peer reviews had been reading, curriculum development and pastoral systems. Key themes that had come out of the peer reviews were attendance, teaching and learning and assessment, and support systems.

The Chair noted that the peer review reports that had been shared with Trustees would give the Committee an overview of school improvement and accountability across the Trust. At the end of each report there were a list of questions for schools to carry forward. Trustees could access this review should they be called to an Ofsted inspection.

The highlights and questions in relation to the individual peer reviews were discussed.

Penketh High

- There had been lots of ongoing dialogue between the Principal and the Trust relating to the content of the report
- Staff across the Trust had been in school weekly to follow up and investigate areas in more detail
- Initial findings were that pastoral systems were overcomplicated; the Director of Education had been back into school and systems were seen to be working well
- There had been concerns around low attendance, high exclusions, and low performance; the Head of School Improvement had been back in school to unpick these concerns. There was now a 'softer landing' following exclusion, and school were looking at addressing barriers to attendance.
- Areas of concern identified as an outcome of Summer data were being supported through regular meetings with TCAT
- The Principal had been unhappy with the finding that the full curriculum was not being delivered to all children. In line with Ofsted criteria this had been the case; a small group of Year 9 children were not accessing the full curriculum for Maths.
- There would be ongoing meetings to support the Principal and to enable the SLT (Senior Leadership Team) at Penketh.
- Trustees noted that the Chair of Governors had recently changed; the new Chair was an ex-Headteacher so could provide support and challenge around the data.

Padgate Academy

- This had been a school of concern over the recent past and was still a school of focus
- The Principal was credible and doing a great job, and was measured and clear which was having an impact
- SLT were encouraged and enabled with a very clear remit for their roles
- The results might not be there fully this year

Meadowside Primary

There had been a recent change of Headteacher following a successful recruitment.

Penketh South Primary

The school had recently been rated 'Good' following Ofsted inspection, with Early Years rated as 'Outstanding'. The Headteacher planned to retire, and VB and TL would work with the school for continuity.



Sir Tomas Boteler C of E High

Trustees noted that the focus on art and technology at the school was refreshing to see.

18:01: HP left the meeting at this point.

Beamont Collegiate Academy

Trustees questioned the reference to disruptive behaviour in classes which was at odds with how school was performing. This was something that the academy had asked the Trust to focus on, however the Trust had found no serious concerns.

Broomfields Primary

Trustees noted that there had not been a review at Broomfields, however the school was due an Ofsted inspection, and **went on to ask** if there was any Trust support planned to enhance leadership and management. The Head of School Improvement had completed an exercise with senior leaders around articulation for impact and creating specific actions.

Trustees commented that it was positive that the Trust had built in capacity for a focus on schools on an individual basis to affect change.

d) Lead practitioners' autumn update

The Director of Education advised that lead practitioners had completed SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and strengths) analysis as part of Autumn reviews and would work on strategic development in the Spring.

An identified priority across the Trust was Maths, and the Director of Education shared the following:

- Further to a review of data outcomes, peer reviews and Ofsted findings, a need to focus on Maths in particular at Key Stage 3 was identified.
- It had been found that the White Rose Maths scheme was most suited to the requirements across the Trust.
- TCAT Maths Lead Practitioner would be working with Heads of Departments to review what was being taught in schools, against the White Rose scheme,

Trustees queried if there had been any pushback from schools to the changes in Maths. There had been, however this had been expected as schools were using the White Rose scheme to varying degrees across the Trust. The Maths lead was fully behind the plans. **Trustees looked forward** to seeing the outcome.

Trustees questioned if the effectiveness of lead practitioners' time out of school was being monitored. The Lead Practitioner updates to the Committee would demonstrate this, and Trustees noted that the update from MM had been a good example to demonstrate effective use of time outside of school.

e) Hub updates

The Director of Education reminded Trustees of the various hubs across the Trust. The EAL (English as an additional language) hub would be developed due to increasing numbers of children across the Trust.



9	<p>Attendance and Suspensions</p> <p>a) Attendance</p> <p>The Director of Education referred to the report that had been shared with Trustees in advance of the meeting; attendance was improving on the same time last year, persistent absence in secondary was high, and the strategy at Padgate Academy was showing to be working as persistent attendance had dropped.</p> <p>Trustees asked if exclusion would count as an absence. This was not the case, as an exclusion would come with provision to be educated at home.</p> <p>b) Suspensions</p> <p>The Director of Education referred to the report that had been shared with Trustees in advance of the meeting; there had been an increase in suspensions at primary, that suspensions at secondary had decreased on the same time last year, and that suspensions at Penketh were still high but down by 195 days compared to the same time last years.</p> <p>Trustees questioned the breakdown of the suspensions. Suspensions mostly consisted of FSM (free school meals), SEND and PP (pupil premium) pupils.</p> <p>Trustees queried if there were concerns about the numbers of SEND and vulnerable groups being suspended across the Trust. It was noted that suspensions would not include any children with an EHCP (education and health care plan) and that these figures include children who receive level of SEND support but not categorically SEND children.</p> <p>Trustees sought clarification on the process for permanent exclusions. The Headteacher or Principal would contact the Trust initially where they would work through a standard checklist. If the exclusion was upheld, then the LA (Local Authority) would hold a fair access panel where the child would then be placed in an alternative school. Should a second permanent exclusion be upheld, then the child would be placed within the Kassia provision.</p>
10	<p>Assessment Arrangements</p> <p>The Director of Education advised that SEND access arrangements were underway, and that Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assessment arrangements were linked to the LA.</p>
11	<p>Ofsted</p> <p>Trustees had received the Ofsted reports for Penketh South Primary and Bridgewater High in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Trustees noted that both Ofsted reports were very pleasing, and that these in addition to the peer reviews, would ensure that school and governors get detailed feedback.</p>
12	<p>TCAT Strategic Objectives</p> <p>a) TCAT Reads (verbal)</p>



	<p>The Director of Education reminded Trustees that work on the TCAT Reads strategy would continue for a second year; there were good pieces of work that had taken place and good resources across the trust. The next step will be to focus on parental and community engagement.</p> <p>b) SEND Strategy (verbal)</p> <p>There were three phases to the SEND strategy across the Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership, which had been addressed through a Sway • Teaching and learning, which had been addressed by three Sways issued across the Trust • SENDCo support review and mapping out of pinch points for SEND across the year. <p>Trustees questioned the rise in the numbers of SEND in primary. This was due to there being more SEND children in mainstream schools due to provisions being full, and an increased awareness overall of SEND.</p>
13	<p>Safeguarding Panel Update</p> <p>SR advised Trustees that that biggest discussion during the Panel was about transgender, and the Panel had resolved to wait for government guidance while working on any issues on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>It was noted that all schools had had a safeguarding review with the Trust Safeguarding Lead.</p>
14	<p>AOB</p> <p>There were no items of other business.</p>
15	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>15th June 2023, 17:00, at the TCAT Development Centre.</p>
Signed (Chair)	

The meeting closed at 18:37

Action Plan

Minute Reference	Action to be taken	By Whom	Completion Date
2	MM will share the updated position paper for MFL across the Trust with the Committee.	MM	ASAP
7	Maths Lead Practitioner would be invited to next meeting 15.06.2023	VB	15.06.2023