

Standards & Curriculum Committee

Meeting – Part I Minutes

Date/Time	16 June 2021 5pm	Location	Conducted using the online platform MS Teams due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was also recorded.
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Attendees	Initials		Attendees	Initials		
Jane Collings	JCO	Co-Chair	Nicola Dunford	ND	CEO	
Dominic Course	DC	Chair, Trustee and interim Chair for the Moorland Schools				

Apologies	Initials
Fiona Walters	FW
Corinna Tigg	CT

Absent Apology	without	Initials
None		

In Attendance	Initial	(anyone who is not a Trustee)
Rachel Hill	RH	Clerk
Sarah Clarke	SC/ ATSIL	Academy Trust School Improvement Lead
Matt Matthew	TBM	Academy Trust Business Manager
Alex Waterman	AW	Academy Trust Safeguarding and SEND Lead
Jo Carter	KF	Woodleigh Representative
Lynda Cooper	LC	Newton & Teign Representative
Cat Radford	CR	Totnes Representative

Minutes to
Attendees
Absent
School Website

	Agenda	Led by
	Welcome and Apologies	Chair
	Declaration of Business Interests	Chair
	Minutes of the previous meeting	Chair
1	Matters Arising	Chair
2	Local Board Reports	LB Chairs
3	ATSIL Summary Report	ATSIL
4	CEO Verbal Report	CEO
5	Curriculum Development	CEO/ATSIL
6	Connectivity and Internet	JCO/CR
7	Safeguarding, Pupil Premium and SEND	Chair
10	Policies	All

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	Details of discussion	Action
	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies:</u></p> <p>Dominic Course welcomed Alex Waterman the Academy Trust Safeguarding and SEND Lead to the meeting. Apologies from Fiona Walters and Corinna Tigg were sanctioned.</p>	
	<p><u>Declaration of Business Interests:</u></p> <p>The CEO and Dominic Course (DC) are Directors of South Dartmoor Academy during the closure of this empty MAT. The CEO is a Trustee of the Bearnes Education Foundation.</p>	
	<p><u>Part 1 Minutes of the meeting dated 28.04.2021:</u></p> <p>The Part 1 minutes of the meeting dated 28.04.2021 were confirmed as a true and correct record and will be signed at the next face to face meeting.</p>	
1	<p><u>Matters Arising from meeting dated 28.04.2021:</u></p> <p>1.1 <u>Update on Digital Learning Strategy.</u> The CEO advised that there are two parts to the strategy (i) access to the internet and equipment, which is underway and (ii) delivery. Delivery will be discussed and workshopped with Academy Heads (AHs) on 22 June 2021 and will include implementation and use of equipment and IT across the Trust.</p> <p>1.2 <u>How AHs respond to queries about the National Tutoring Programme</u> The CEO advised. The Trust has looked closely at data. There were some concerns about accuracy of the first drop. The second drop has now been completed. Since then the EIT has mentored when required and schools are progressing children well. A significant number of pupils have moved into the improved bracket. The Trust is now focusing on Quality First Teaching and is being careful not to over-face children. It has been agreed that external tutors will not have the impact reflected in the cost of the National Tutoring Programme. Therefore, at present the Trust is not using this programme. <i>DC asked if parents had asked about the programme</i> The CEO replied that there had been very few enquiries. <i>JCO asked if the Trust had claimed any funding for the programme</i> The CEO replied that if the Trust used the programme funding would be claimed. <i>CR asked if it could be used for Forest School engagement</i> The CEO replied that it was aimed more at secondary school children.</p> <p>1.3 <u>Progress of Sports Premium. Impact of Fund and how it was used during lockdown</u> It was agreed that the ATSIL would record Matt Tanner's presentation regarding the progress of Sports Premium, the impact of the fund and how it was used during lockdown in order to assist local governors articulate the impact to Ofsted. It was agreed that the CEO would put a reminder out through AHs that staff must attend PE sessions as they are CPD to develop staff PE skills. This to be a trust-wide message.</p>	Action ATSIL/ CEO
2	<p><u>Local Hub Reports:</u></p> <p><u>Woodleigh</u></p> <p>The meeting moved to Part II minutes</p> <p>The meeting returned to Part I minutes</p> <p><u>Newton & Teign</u> Following discussion it was agreed that the CEO would put a reminder out through AHs that staff must attend PE sessions as they are CPD to develop staff PE skills. This to be a trust-wide message.</p> <p>It had been noted that some Subject Hubs are more effective than others and establishing best practice was suggested. The ATSIL responded that an impact meeting had recently taken place with curriculum leads and it is apparent that external training is having a significant impact for the better. The Talent Management strategy is gathering pace and there could be some changes to</p>	

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curriculum chairs. The Trust is aware of Hubs that are working effectively. Some are newly established. The CEO added that terms of reference by which they should work had been set up.

Following discussion it was noted that recruitment and marketing issues for schools can be raised directly with TBM or Income Generation Officer.

It was agreed that Estate management should be dealt with directly by the Central Business Team not by the AH. CEO to remind AHs at next meeting.

Moorland Schools

DC noted that he did not have reports from Widecombe and Ilsington. The Moretonhampstead report would be added in due course. The main focus at Moretonhampstead has been on childrens' writing and spelling and grammar and why it has fallen during lockdown. There have been some learning issues with both older and younger children.

DC asked if the Behaviour Policy was Trust-wide. The CEO replied that the Behaviour Policy was trust-wide but that each school would have processes as to how it is implemented. It was noted that the CEO is currently working on a Relational Behaviour Policy which will replace the Behaviour Policy.

DC asked why it had been so problematic to keep children writing through lockdown. The CEO replied that writing was multi-faceted. There is also a lack of parental knowledge of what the high expectations are. The ATSIL added that it has been identified that the pedagogy which sits behind writing is classroom teaching and learning. The interim report from the DfE is around reading and maths and not around writing.

Totnes

The consistency around monitoring staff wellbeing was raised again. Governors are aware that a staff survey will be going out. The ATSIL responded that the staff wellbeing questionnaire has been sent.

Following discussion it was noted that if there are two parent governors who would like to join a Hub it could be possible if their roles are made clear, but only one may be a parent governor. To have two parent governors breaches the Articles. One could be part of the Ethos Group, PTFA or an Associate governor. If a Hub has an associate governor the Hub would have to delegate duties in certain nominated areas. An associate governor is not able to vote unless they have been delegated voting rights for a specific issue.

Action
CEO

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3	<p><u>ATSIL Summary Report:</u></p> <p>Alex Waterman, the Academy Trust Safeguarding and SEND Lead shared on screen the LINK Action Plan for SEND 2021/22. This action plan will now be shared with the EIT and Inclusion Hub Lead.</p> <p>The plan has seven priorities as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To standardise SENCO roles 2. To further improve SENCO training 3. To expand the Inclusion Hub to further support SENCOs, schools and pupils 4. To further support the mental health and well-being across the Trust 5. To support all academies to further embed Quality First Teaching into all lessons, thus maximising teaching time and impact 6. To ensure that Pupil Premium children have the highest quality education which enables them to make rapid progress 7. To continue to develop a Relational Policy to support behaviour management across the Trust <p>At this point in the meeting lengthy discussion took place about SENDCOs and the fact that the named SENDCo requires a formal qualification for the Trust to be compliant with the SEND Code of Practice. In small school settings, a qualified SENDCo may work across a number of schools.</p> <p>It was agreed that, as a matter of priority, the CEO, ATSIL and SEND Lead would feedback on the Trust's strategy to ensure compliance with national guidelines.</p> <p>It was further noted that there is a need to secure national data for SEND to compare with the Trust's performance.</p> <p>DC left the meeting at this point.</p>	Action CEO/ ATSIL/ SEN Lead
4	<p><u>CEO Verbal Summary Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AH Meeting Day on 22 June 2021 will review the curriculum model and intent. • A peer to peer review will take place with the Bridge Schools Academy Trust from Cornwall. • Anticipated age range changes will be placed before the Headteacher's Board in September 2021. • Morchard Bishop will join the Link Academy Trust on 1 October 2021. • The Trust website is undergoing review and changes and the CEO asked for any changes. • The Financial Handbook (to be renamed the Academy Trust Handbook) has some significant updates which governors are encouraged to read. A summary can be found at the following link https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academies-financial-handbook/what-has-changed-in-this-edition 	
5	<p><u>Curriculum Development:</u></p> <p>The CEO reported.</p> <p>Operational models are on the website. Developments will come out of the AH meeting on 22 June 2021.</p> <p>The Ofsted framework is changing in September 2021. Clarity of the governor role during visits was discussed. The CEO replied that Academy Trustees are now being called in to Ofsteds and that Ofsted are aware that the governance model in Trusts is different from maintained schools and that strategy should be dealt with at Trust Board level.</p> <p>However, following a discussion with the Bridge Schools Trust who have recently had an Ofsted visit, it would seem that Ofsted Inspectors are unsympathetic to the fact that children have not been in school due to the pandemic.</p>	

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6	<p><u>Connectivity and Internet:</u></p> <p>This agenda item had arisen due to some concern about connectivity at Diptford Primary, however the matter has now been explained in details and the TBM was thanked for his comprehensive report.</p>	
7	<p><u>Safeguarding, PP and SEND:</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that this had been mostly dealt with under agenda item 3 above. Safeguarding, PP and SEND remain constantly under scrutiny. A data trawl for PP has been undertaken. Results show that pupils are above expected or as expected. Staff are also looking at progress. The CEO explained that data is simply attainment not progress.</p>	
8	<p><u>Policies to be reviewed and recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval:</u></p> <p>In future, it was requested that any changes to policies for approval at S&C were made in SharePoint using tracked changes. This includes AHs who usually make their changes in Teams.</p> <p><u>Stoke Gabriel Admissions Policy</u> – agreed to put forward for Trustees approval.</p> <p><u>Intimate Care Policy</u> – agreed to put forward for Trustees approval.</p> <p><u>Online Safety</u> – agreed to put forward for Trustees approval.</p> <p><u>Positive Handling</u> – agreed to put forward for Trustees approval.</p> <p>Thanked Rachel for Clerking. S&C via Teams but good to come together at some point. AW left the meeting Start time was discussed.</p>	
9	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>9.1 The Clerk was thanked for her services to the committee. 9.2 Future S&C meetings will be held via Teams but the committee will come together at some point in the future. 9.3 The start time of meetings will remain at 5pm.</p>	

Date of next meetings			
Date/Time	15 September 2021	Location	Online