



Date: Tuesday 07 December 2021
Time: 16.30 Meeting
Venue: Didsbury High School – Conference room

Clerk: M Hill/E Morrison
Present: S Williamson (Vice-Chair), J Game, M Kara-Mohammad, S Wane, D Woolley, K Houghton, T Theobald, A Clayton (Part of), H Wilson (Part of)

Apologies: P Clements

| Action | Initials | Item |
|---|----------|------|
| Clerk to add agenda Covid-19 response to all future meetings | EM | 1 |
| Circulate supporting documents | EM | 2 |
| Governors to meet to discuss format of information | All | 2 |
| Safeguarding policy to be circulated in original and new format | EM | 3 |
| Governors to respond to Safeguarding Policy review within 2 weeks | All | 3 |
| Provide feedback on exclusion process | All | 3 |

| Agenda – Part 1 | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|--------|
| Category | Item | Notes | Action |
| 1 | Governance Arrangements | <p>Apologies were received from PC</p> <p>All other members were in attendance throughout.</p> <p>SWi welcomed all and opened the meeting.</p> | |
| | Training | <p>The floor was offered to KH, AC and HW presented the Personal Development curriculum which is delivered at Didsbury High School.</p> <p>SWi asked if this is something that is actively put in front of parents. KH explained that there was a consultation with parents approximately one year ago. Some parents asked regarding age appropriateness. DW explained it was more an issue in primary schools rather than high schools. KH advised we aim to engage the parental community in discussions, so messages can be reinforced at home. We have emailed parents, for example, after online safety was discussed in school.</p> <p>SWi asked if this was a developing approach throughout the school. KH/AC explained about the information available on the portal. We work closely with Healthy Schools and they have supported DHS in conducting an audit. SWi asked how we performed, KH explained we had done well and they had advised to bring topics earlier than we had actually wanted to.</p> | |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-------|
| | | <p>PHSE should be a moving topic. JG asked if we use these when looking at behaviours being exhibited in school. KH advised that conversations have taken place regarding protected characteristics being taught. We have a duty to teach all the curriculum and are in no way pushing an agenda.</p> <p>JG noted that this is reflected in behaviour policy.</p> <p>MKM noted he was pleased to see financial education in the curriculum and queried if it was taught prior to year 10. KH explained that it wouldn't just be taught in B&V but would also be spread across other subjects, eg in maths. KH explained how we also use tutor times to teach life skills and this is also covered in assemblies. Tutors then reiterate the subject in tutor times the next day.</p> | |
| | AOB items | Ofsted Training Course | |
| | Register of interests | No changes | |
| | Code of Conduct | MKM and SWa confirmed they agreed to this policy | |
| | Part 1 Minutes | The previous minutes were approved. | |
| | Membership: Recruitment Update/ Succession Planning | JG was confirmed at the Trip and Visits Governor. The Vice Chair expressed his thanks for this. | |
| | Scheme of Delegation | No material changes to note. | |
| | Trust Board Update | <p>The contents of the update were noted.</p> <p>Didsbury was the only school in the Trust to have an in person Open Evening, which attracted 1236 visitors through the door resulting in Didsbury being the third time in a row most over-subscribed school in Manchester. Manchester LA asked school to start wearing masks etc after half term.</p> <p>SWi asked that Covid is a standing agenda item.</p> <p>It was noted that school is ready and prepared to switch to an online teaching model if required and it is expected that close contact tracing will return.</p> <p>JG asked if there was any additional governor involvement required due to Covid. DW explained we are prepared and ready if we had to lockdown again or send home bubbles of students. JG asked if Covid had</p> | Clerk |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--------------|
| | | | <p>affected any Christmas plans. TT explained about the school concerts changing and this is a trust wide approach. To minimise disappointment, Christmas concerts will be held internally.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>School Performance & Accountability</p> | <p>Strategy and Development Plan, including Strategic Priorities and Critical Success Factors (school level)</p> | <p>SWi asked documents are circulated electronically</p> <p>DW explained that he had met with SWi prior to this meeting, and they had agreed to focus on one cornerstone at each meeting.</p> <p>TT presented a session on Leadership and Service.</p> <p>It was noted that 172 students currently hold positions of responsibility within the school. The school has 39% pupil premium students, it was acknowledged that whilst there is proportionate representation on the board of students, there is some work to do to encourage and support pupil premium students into other leadership roles.</p> <p>JG asked about the timescales for reporting achievement against intent. TT advised that initial information will be available in the spring when the DDPs are reviewed. The House team also review this on a half termly basis.</p> <p>MKM asked what the role of subject ambassador involves. TT advised this is dependent upon the subject leader, broadly it involves promoting competitions, supporting revision for other students and supporting in events. The enterprise elective have been making and selling items for local charities, drama ambassadors are supporting the show with lighting and sound.</p> <p>MKM asked how we are engaging students who haven't done so already. TT advised there are other responsibilities coming up, for example acting as pen pals for the local senior population and students will be targeted and encouraged to take part.</p> <p>SW asked how does feedback work for the students? TT explained about the application process works, formal application etc. Board of students are interviewed and feedback on their interviews was given whether they were successful or not. The students need to learn how to work as a team.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|---|-----|
| | | Head's Report | <p>DW presented the Head's Report.</p> <p>JG noted that is difficult to hold the school to account, as the report has changed. There need to be some comparative data.</p> <p>DW advised that the reports follow the same format in each school, the benchmark in the established schools is year 11 data which we do not yet have. We will have a starting point this year when year 9 have sat their languages GCSEs.</p> <p>JG enquired if there is a list of things we need to measure? DW noted that presently Ofsted doesn't have a view on attendance, exams or exclusions because of the impact of Covid.</p> <p>JG asked how to know what to probe, DW directed governors to the SDP. We are working on trajectories. The spring RAG rating will be indicative.</p> <p>SWi – what can we measure? TT noted we could look at data, but it's not reliable for example there were no exclusions for the second half of yr 1 however we were in lockdown so this is not a reasonable benchmark.</p> <p>SWi summarises governors cannot be on the back seat and need a separate meeting to discuss.</p> <p>JG advised that CN getting the chairs together to share knowledge.</p> | All |
| | | Governor Activities | SWi asked that governors report back at the next ACM in terms of their link responsibilities. | |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------|
| 3 | Governor Monitoring | Finance Update | <p>DW presented a report benchmarking spend against other Trust schools. DW explained there was an ebb and flow and how the school has savings for expansion and how the plans for Year 10 and Year 11 areas. SW asked how do the decisions to make improvements come from? DW explained how most plans were in place before school started. New pitch plans go in for approval tomorrow. JG expressed thanks for the benchmarking as it adds context to the discussion.</p> <p>KH presented the Pupil Premium strategy, noting there is a national reporting form. It was noted that the school attracts students from the most affluent and also the most deprived areas. Strategies are constantly reviewed and will change and evolve over time.</p> <p>TT advised that we are working with the UoM and Oxford to encourage students to have the confidence to apply.</p> | |
| | | Policy Review | Governors asked for a tracked document to review. | Clerk |
| | | Governor Self Review of Impact | SWi asked governors to report back on the experience of conducting the first permanent exclusion | All |
| 4 | Governor Development | Training Governor Verbal Update | Ofsted and Exclusion training has taken place. | |
| 5 | Community Engagement | Stakeholder engagement | DW reported on the various trips and visits that have taken place this term. He outlined the visiting speakers we have had in school and also noted we have held a number of events eg Open Evening, Parents Evening, SEND Champions. | |
| | AOB | | <p>JG reported on the Ofsted training course. There is a list of questions for governors JG felt she couldn't answer them as yet. JG to circulate. DW suggested picking out a couple of questions at each meeting to explore. There is a Local Authority QA visit planned for for January and the results of this will be fed back.</p> <p>MKM asked when Ofsted are expected, DW said it could happen next year however there is no certainty.</p> | |

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Meeting Dates: | 08.03.2022 14.06.2022 | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|

| Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | • Governors are feeling more confident in holding school to account |
| | | | | • Covid plans were explored |
| | | | | • Trips and visits governor appointed |



Signed by the Chair:

Date:

8th March 2022