

Minutes – WDA Academy Council Meeting

Version: Draft
Meeting Date: 14th July 2025
Location: WDA
Time: 3.30pm

Chair:	Lance Mason	Sponsor Councillor
	Katherine Brockett	Teaching Staff Councillor
	Huw Grove	Sponsor Councillor
	Andy Kendall	Sponsor Councillor
	Carey King	Support Staff Councillor
In attendance:	Lisa Craig	Principal
	Vicky Counsell	Executive Principal
Apologies:	Catherine Bennett	Sponsor Councillor
	Sarah Rowley	Sponsor Councillor

Minutes

		Action
1	Introduction, Administration and Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from Catherine Bennett, and Sarah Rowley. Vicky Counsell would be joining later.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Academy Council Membership	
3.1	The Chair thanked the CLF governance team for their hard work on recruitment.	
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the 18 th June had not been circulated so were deferred to the next meeting.	SB
5	Matters Arising	
5.1	The matters arising were deferred to the next meeting. <i>KB joined the meeting 15.42</i>	SB
6	Academy Council report – student outcomes	
6.1	LC updated on SAT results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children scoring borderline marks will be checked Some children will be removed from the data before it is published in line with the official process, or given special consideration due to particular circumstances. Black box data takes these children into account. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77 ARE reading, 23 GDS • 69 Are writing, 4 GDS • SPAG 65/ • Maths 81/19 • Combined 65% <p><i>HG joined the meeting 15.47</i></p>	
6.2	<p>LC advised that the combined 65% is the highest since 2018 and is line with national average. Last 2 years were 42/43%. SAT results would support a potentially good results form Ofsted, whereas last 2 years would struggle to support a good outcome.</p> <p>Reading has been progressing for a few years, and writing has improved. Work on maths has really helped that.</p> <p>This data is looking really good.</p> <p>MTC is higher than CLF average and phonics is looking really good.</p>	
6.3	<p>What has made the difference?</p> <p>Phonics change of scheme, 2 years ago and the ongoing practice and structures for the MTC. Support from CLF has helped and the work in mastery at the lower end of the school will help with those really basic number skills.</p> <p>Year 6 there are children that are making low level computation errors, so we have gone through that with real precision and practice. The Daily 5 is helping. Teaching fractions early has also helped as they had time to understand what sits behind it, and then more time can be spent on reasoning.</p> <p>KB advised that once a week there was an arithmetic test, so they are used to having that test. It gives us the opportunity to go through it with them.</p> <p>We narrowed focus of children in year 6, to help get them to the standard needed.</p> <p>We had a SATS club which every KS2 teacher was part of not just year 6.</p>	
6.4	<p>Does a year 1 teacher understand that they have a really important part of what happens in year 6 SATS?</p> <p>KB I think KS2 teachers do.</p> <p>LC noted Year 4 were struggling with multiplication so whenever anyone saw a year 4 child they asked them a multiplication question.</p> <p>KB advised we used times table rockstars a lot, we let them see heat maps so they could see which times tables they were struggling with. With the rockstars we only let them play the game that mirrored the test.</p>	
6.5	<p>Are there transferable areas from maths and reading to writing?</p> <p>KB we teach 4 reading lessons a week, and they are carefully structured with children practicing fluency and structure.</p>	

	Writing we had our visit from the English lead, what came through was that the writing processes were in place, we are going to look next year to the editing process.	
6.6	<p>Is being part of CLF helping us?</p> <p>KB yes, moderators from CLF can identify areas to focus on, Editing and revising was picked up in a number of schools.</p> <p>Changes to the history curriculum, meant that we had to make changes to the English curriculum, so we chose some really high quality texts, and they did some writing and persuasive speeches linked to the text.</p>	
6.7	<p>Year 6 targets have matched up with results. When do you set targets for year 5?</p> <p>We have just had data drop for year 5 so will look at them at the data meeting in September.</p>	
6.8	<p>Ofsted will be really pleased to see that increase?</p> <p>It has been really hard year, but we have had some really good feedback, and then the SATS results and other outcomes is really nice to see.</p>	
6.9	<p>LC advised that from a MAT point of view there is more validation than ever. We can set targets and predictions and the predictions are pretty much spot on. You can see how they have provided that structure.</p>	
6.10	<p>Are the children learning resilience?</p> <p>LC there were some very resilient children but they stayed under the radar. The ones that weren't resilient had distraction techniques. With the wider interventions, and moderation and assessments no one can hide. Teachers are becoming quite bold at targeting their questions at the right people at the right time. They can be a lot more focused and targeted in the classroom. They also have more time to look at outcomes because of the black box data that we have. Now we are given the data our role is to do something with it rather than creating the data.</p>	
6.11	<p>The Academy Council thanked all the staff, particularly KS2 staff for their hard work.</p>	
6.12	<p>What are the key highlights from the year?</p> <p>Culture, staff, students and this year's outcomes.</p> <p>Think we still need to work on outcomes and tighten systems and processes. We need to monitor curriculum – we have created a rolling curriculum, that will mean new staff will have someone current to work with. With mixed year classes in lower years this will mean in a few years there will be mixed year 5/6 class.</p> <p>Attendance and SEND provision will also be a focus.</p>	
7	Safeguarding	
7.1	<p>End of year report will be completed and sent to CLF. Priority is making sure that these children get to the end of the year as safely as possible. But also need to work with SLT on AIP, start new AIP, looking at structures of SIP. Going to start putting AIP onto the new format.</p> <p>There are more handover conversations to be had with VC.</p>	

7.2	We have had 2 incidents that will be discussed with the Chair.	
7.3	Are there any emerging safeguard trends? The trends are more around rough play that escalates, and some sexualised behaviours. The local authority audit has been completed.	
8	Finance, Health and Safety and Estates	
8.1	Small budget surplus predicted for next year but that will be swallowed up as staffing costs change.	
8.2	Health and safety. We are minus a caretaker, but getting support from a local school. Relyon are now opening up. CLF didn't open the fire escape in the hall as it was bike locked overnight. It is opened up for breakfast club now. They lock up at the end of the day as well. There were some issues reported with windows, they have now all been resolved.	
8.3	Without a caretaker, health and safety might drop. What are we doing to recruit? Adverts out for caretaker and lunchtime supervisors. Also internal advert for staff asking if they would be willing to cover lunchtimes if someone is off sick. Had 2 people come forwards that say they could help with lunchtimes. <i>VC joined the meeting 16.36</i>	
8.4	LC talked through teaching changes for next year advising that parents and children have been told of staffing changes ahead of the induction evening on Wednesday and meet the teacher day.	
8.5	Is there a formal mentoring or buddying up system? We have reviewed the handbook at the inset day and added more information to it that we think new staff will find useful.	
8.6	There are some big changes next year, so have you made sure that everyone has somebody they can buddy up? VC advised the maternity cover doesn't start till term 2 so just 2 new members of staff in September.	
8.7	LC talked through the class sizes. This year total school roll is 165 including nursery.	
8.8	Have we had any feedback from the school community? We have had 2 emails about mixed age classes. I have replied to both of them.	
8.9	Parents are likely to ask when they will see Vicky- is there set days? VC it has not been ironed out yet but I will be here very regularly.	
9	Governance	
9.1	Link roles to be discussed at first meeting next year	
10	Equality and Diversity	
10.1	LC will write equality and diversity overview for next academic year to make sure it is up and running for September.	
11	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
11.1		

11.2		
12	Any Other Business	
12.1	The Chair thanked LC for all her hard work and for all that she has done. The AC is going to miss her. LC had been the person who made the transition from Waycroft Trust to CLF work. Thank you for all you have done for the school, the staff and the children.	