

Local Advisory Group Meeting
Wednesday 2nd November 2016

MINUTES

LAG	Local Advisory Group/s	CM	Claire Malcolm – PTA Member Howard
SEN	Special Educational Needs	CB	Chris Billingham – Community Member Howard
PL	Paul Lovern – Executive Head	ST	Samantha Teece – Parent Member St. Mary’s
HB	Heather Bowman – Chair of Directors	CC	Claire Clarke – PTA Member St. Mary’s
SC	Sue Cockayne – Director for LAG’s	MH	Marie Havelock – Community Member St. Mary’s
AA	Antony Allen – Parent Member Richard Crosse	NJ	Nicola Jarrett – Head of School Richard Crosse
MHE	Marcella Henley – PTA Member Richard Crosse	PH	Pauline Hupfield – Head of School Howard
JH	Jan Higgins – Community Member Richard Crosse	JW	Jon Wynn – Head of School St. Mary’s
PB	Phil Bate – Parent Member Richard Crosse	LB	Leanne Brown – Trust Business Manager

Attendance : PL, SC, MHE, AA, CM, PB, PH, NJ, JW, CB, MH, CC, JH, LB

Apologies : HB had sent apologies, ST did not arrive.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Each attendee introduced themselves to the group.

PL explained the purpose of the meeting, explaining how different Academy Trust status is and how the LAG will support the work of the Trust and the schools within. PL highlighted the importance of the group in communicating with all of the schools stakeholders

PL explained that the LAG was similar to the old style ‘Governing Body’ who would serve for three years and whilst the group does not have voting rights the conduct of the group is of paramount importance. PL explained that the group may be privy to confidential information. PL highlighted the fact that the LAG is an important part of the Trust’s Governance.

PL explained that the Governments agenda is for Trusts to grow and that the Trust must consider this and how this may impact on the existing schools within the Trust.

PL referred the group to the LAG Code of Conduct and provided a brief overview of the contents.

Members were asked to

- sign the Agreement and return to LB
- complete the Pecuniary Interest form, highlighting any connected businesses that Members may work for that could trade with the Trust and also any relationships between the LAG Members and the Trusts Members, Directors and Staff.
- make an online DBS applicant as per the guidance notes within their information pack.

PL referred the members to the draft agenda and talked about the suggested format of future meetings. Members gave feedback and the draft agenda was agreed.

JH asked if email addresses could be shared amongst the group to enable effective communication between meetings. The members agreed to this and LB agreed to share these when the minutes were distributed.

A discussion took place regarding pen portraits for use on the website and Members were asked to consider this and let LB know of their thoughts.

AA asked how details of the group were to be communicated. It was agreed that the Trust would send communication, whether via the weekly planner or a formal letter, to parents explaining the purpose of the group and who the Members are etc.

PL talked through a presentation which showed the data for pupils assessment for the previous academic year. It was noted that the results were based on a new set of assessment procedures and a complete change to assessment grading. PL explained that schools had very little support or guidance from the Government with the changes. Members acknowledge the difficulties facing schools with regards to assessment.

MH asked what SEN meant and PL explained that this meant Special Educational Needs.

JW explained that spellings may sometimes seem too difficult for a child's age, however the spellings are set by the Government and are what children are expected to know. NJ said that the early investigations they have carried out suggest that the changes that they have made to the learning of spellings is already working.

MHE said that she had noticed a massive difference already with her child's spelling ability since the changes had been implemented.

PL explained the changes made in relation to Maths. NJ and JW explained that the early signs are again good and this appears to be having a positive impact.

NJ explained that the Trust has invested a lot in CPD for staff to enable them to be able to deliver subjects in ways that ensure that all children enjoy learning and are able to tackle learning in a way that suits them.

AA asked if other schools results appear to have suffered as a result of the Governments changes. PL said in some cases they had, although when you unpick the reasons behind this there were a number of factors that would have affected the results.

PL gave an overview of the SAT's results and attendance and explained the criteria for Pupil Premium classification.

PL gave an overview of the curriculum and other priorities and talked about the importance of meeting the Planned Admission Number in all schools.

AA suggested that Members should encourage parents from posting inappropriate content on Facebook and should take on the role of Ambassadors for the schools, promoting positive and constructive feedback.

A copy of the updated Behaviour Policy was given to the Members but due to time constraints this was not discussed.