



Date: Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 4:30pm.

Present:

Mrs M. Massey – Chair
Mrs A. Wilkinson (AW)
Miss E. Humphries (EH)
Mrs H. Pate (HP)
Mr A. Middleton (MA)
Miss L. Hodgkison (LH)

Absent:

Mr P. Howell (PH), Mr S. Lockett (SL), Mr D. Bull (DB)

In Attendance:

Mrs E. Abberley – Assistant Headteacher (EA)
Mrs J. MacKreth-Aylett – Deputy Headteacher (JMA)
Mr J. Newham – Assistant Headteacher (JN)
Mrs H. Holland – SENCo (HH)
Mrs E. Leftwick – Assistant Headteacher (EL)
Ms A. Brooks – Assistant Headteacher (AB)
Dr A. Howells – TLA Director of Quality (AH)

Clerk: Mrs C. Gritton

Administration

1. The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received from PH and SL and accepted and the meeting was quorate.
2. There were no Declarations of Interest.
Unless otherwise stated, all papers and policies were uploaded to Governor Hub (GH) prior to the meeting.
3. The Minutes of the TOA LGB meeting held on 3rd May 2023 , **were approved**. Matters Arising – Paper: TOA Matters Arising Log, was **received** and updated therein.

School Performance

4. **Papers LGB Report (4 July 23)**, and **All Achieve SLT and LGB Analysis Week 30**, were **received**.
- 4.1 School Improvement Priorities: As reported in LGB Report and detailed below.
- 4.2 Admissions Update: **It was reported that** 137, Yr7 pupils have confirmed and 16 further offers have been made, 8 of which are out of area. PAN remains at 130, but the school has agreed with the Local Authority (LA) to take up to 150. **Governors were pleased to note that** the increase in numbers is a reflection of the school's improved reputation in the community and Senior Leadership Team's (SLT) work with primary headteachers. Pupil numbers reduce from Yr9 to Yr10, as some pupils go on to Crewe UTC.
- 4.3 Pupil Progress and Attainment: **Governors noted that** the format of the reports enabled Governors to easily understand the data.

Challenge: Governors asked where the school is in terms of curriculum and Teaching and Learning (T&L) development. It was reported that a T&L common framework has been in place across the school since September. All teachers have completed the Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme (TEEP) which encourages a common language for learning across the school, to build on the T&L foundations. Following this, work was carried out to unpack the curriculum. Areas which were not as strong as others were identified and new foundations put in place. The final tranche of work is the external quality assurance of the completed work and, recognising that some curriculum teams are less experienced than others, continue with teachers' Continued Professional Development (CPD) in how to build a curriculum. The next Trust review is scheduled for 6th July.

Challenge: Governors noted that Curriculum Team Leaders (CTLs) drive this work and asked what is being done to support those CTLs. It was reported that the Trust have been of great support in assisting CTLs to articulate sequencing of their curricula, the systems and processes and improvement initiatives, building files to show exemplary schemes of work, building a sustainable approach and evidencing their journey. Staff have worked hard at this and the impact is evident.

Challenge: Governors noted reported improvements to attitude to learning and asked how that is measured, also asking what Code4 is used for. It was reported that all staff input attitude to learning scores and there has been improvement across the school. Code 4 is recorded for a pupil where a lesson has not gone to plan or a pupil has been challenging and highlights for immediate action, where those pupils need support and

intervention. Immediate pastoral support can be provided, in a caring way to deescalate behaviour. Code 4 is a very recent intervention and is being embedded.

Challenge: Governors noted that staff visibility on corridors is reported as needing improvement and asked what proportion of staff are not assisting with this initiative. It was reported that figures are dependant on the time of day, but there has been a push to improve visibility and consistency.

It was reported that Yr11 Progress8 (P8) data was looking positive and it is anticipated that Pupil Premium (PP) data will have improved since last year's GCSE results and progress for disadvantaged pupils continues to improve year on year. **Governors noted that** girls' outcomes were looking a lot stronger than boys' and **it was reported that** there was a higher proportion of boys with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and English as an Additional Language (EAL), although EAL pupils do work very hard. **The Chair recommended that** the school analyse whether boys engage in the curriculum as well as girls do, to ascertain whether the provision is right. The data is showing that boys are improving in KS2, and **Governors noted that** boys' attainment on entry in the current Yr10 was much closer to that of girls' and current attainment reflects this, so it is anticipated that the gap between boys and girls will not be as large when the current Yr10 are Yr11.

It was reported that there have been rapid improvements in data gathering and analysis. Overall, the data is increasingly reliable and if the examination results will be as predicted and progress and achievement will be strong. **[ACTION: SLT will provide Governors at the next meeting, with the action plans for CTLs, showing how targets are set and how they relate to performance management].**

AW left the meeting at 5.35pm

Literacy Governors were very pleased with the improvements achieved and progress students have made, over the 6-week literacy intervention periods. The school is looking to increase the capacity of the literacy programmes, so from September 2023, 4 additional teachers will be trained. The whole school has been literacy tested and pupils who need additional support identified. Some pupils in the upper years also need support, so a new reading programme, designed to engage teenagers, will be initiated and additional programme capacity will be very important to support all interventions. **It was reported that** tutoring funding is used for interventions to support catch up and **the Chair advised that** the school should ensure that staff have clarity as to how that is utilised to support reading interventions, particularly for Yrs10 and11.

Challenge: Governors asked what follow up monitoring is done for those who have completed literacy programmes. It was reported that staff gather a holistic picture of each pupil's strengths and weaknesses, supported by the new Learning Resource Centre (LRC) lead, whose background is EAL.

Challenge: Governors asked what interventions are in place for those pupils who are neither EAL nor SEND. It was reported that those pupils with a particularly low reading age will be placed onto the SEND register and receive intensive reading practice with an assistant SENCo, 3 times a week. The holistic overview is also useful to ensure that pupils receive the most suitable intervention/s for their particular needs, which can be adapted and changed as required. There is an intention for staff to visit feeder primary schools in the next academic year, to gain greater understanding of how literacy is taught, to support literacy transition.

4.4.1 Current SEND Plan **It was reported that** the school has a large programme of lunchtime and after-school, extra-curricular activities, for which various ways of tracking for Pupil Premium (PP) and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) have been trialled. 1 month ago, school started to use the enrichment package within the Evolve system, into which all extra-curriculum attendance can be logged and from which numerous data reports can be generated. It will be fully launched in September 2023, to allow time for staff training in its use.

4.4.2 SEND Report for website publication **The Chair reported that** they had spoken with the Headteacher about the report and would follow up with HH, before it is uploaded to the website.

School Welfare

Wellbeing **It was reported that** a high percentage of staff completed the recent Trust staff wellbeing survey and the results were positive. The majority of staff are supportive of the school's direction of travel, are driven and work hard and are pleased with the school buildings' refurbishments and pupil progress. Middle leaders drive the supportive culture, but staff are also encouraged to take responsibility for their own wellbeing and the Trust offers a support package to reinforce the staff wellbeing focus.

Challenge: Governors asked whether the school publicises its wellbeing scores, recommending that they could be used for recruitment purposes.

5.1 Attendance It was reported that attendance is above and persistent absence is lower, than the national averages.

Challenge: Governors noted that Yr10 attendance was not as strong as the rest of the Yr groups and asked why this might be. It was reported that this was being addressed, although the reasons had not been fully identified as yet. The pastoral lead and attendance officer are rigorous in their supportive, triangulation approach to encouraging attendance, carrying out home visits, developing a good rapport with parents, inviting parents in to discuss absences and collecting absent pupils in the school mini bus and attendance has improved, reaching 91.11% as at the date of this meeting.

[ACTION: SLT will provide attendance data for those pupils who are SEND and PP].

5.2 Behaviour : It was reported that External suspensions' numbers are decreasing since the implementation of new behaviour provisions at Easter. The 3 new pastoral leaders and SENCo are working closely with The Hub and further decreases in suspensions are anticipated. Governors were keen to understand whether the school's provisions are right for those pupils who are being suspended and whether the school is meeting the needs of those who have repeat suspensions. In order to help analyse this: **[ACTION: SLT will add a column to the table in the report, showing the overall number of pupils who have been excluded].**

5.3 Safeguarding: It was reported that the Chair had visited the school as Safeguarding Link Governor and EL appeared to have settled in well and was making good progress on getting to know the school. **Governors received the Safeguarding visit 22.06.23** report. The Chair will visit again before the summer holiday to talk to pupils. Safeguarding Children in Educational Settings (SCiES) reported that the school's use of CPOMS is good. The Chair asked that the school ensure that EL continues to have protected time to carry out the role and is well supported.

5.4 Looked After Children (LAC) /Early Help (EH) Report It was reported that LAC funding has been well spent on opportunities for increased enrichment activities, such as Kindles for reading and music lessons and can be properly accounted for.

5.5 Staffing Matters: It was reported that the school is fully staffed for September and both English and Maths are staffed with subject specialist teachers. Early Careers Teachers (ECTs) make up roughly 1/3 of teaching staff, bringing enthusiasm and passion to their teaching. Cross-department staff buddying is working well.

Policies

6.1 The following policies were **approved**, subject to checking the links are correct, typos, numbering pages and:

6.1 Accessibility Plan

6.2 Attendance Policy

6.3 First Aid and Medicine Policy – Inclusion of a list of 1st Aiders.

6.4 SEND Policy **the chair reported that**

6.5 **Link Governor Monitoring visits:** Governors were encouraged by the Chair to arrange link Governor visits and send their reports to the Clerk for upload to GH.

Governance Matters

7.1 **LGB Composition** This was AW's last meeting as member of the LGB. The Chair thanked AW for her support and work for the LGB and school. AW will continue to support the school, working with EA. Governors will let the Clerk/Chair know of any potential new Governor proposals and **[ACTION: The Clerk will contact Governors whose attendance/availability suggests they may not wish to continue on the LGB].**

Governors were reminded to update their training log on GH.

7.2 **LGB Skills' Audit** Governors were thanked for completing the skills' audit. **It was reported that** the audit had identified some great strengths in the LGB and AH will work with the Chair to identify training needs.

7.3 **School Website Compliance** **It was reported that** there had been improvements to the school website and the Chair will continue to work with the school to drive further improvement needs.

AOB

8.1 **Local Matters:**

- The Chair, the Principal of Crewe UTC, the Crewe UTC LGB Chair and Mr Barlow from the Trust, had met to discuss how the Trust schools and LGBs could work together to ensure the Crewe provision is good and the issue of lack of alternative provision.

- **Governors** had a tour of the school, prior to the meeting and **noted that** many common areas are now smart, tidy and very welcoming since being decorated. Further work is planned for the summer holidays and next academic year.
- The Trust had carried out a school review in June and another was planned for later in the week, to further plan the focus for September.

8.2 Matters to Share with the Trust Board: **The Chair reported that** there are risks with the Single Central Record being maintained at Trust level and will discuss this with the Trust Executive and Headteacher. [Subsequent to this meeting, **it was confirmed that** the issues with the Trust administration of the SCR have been resolved]. **A Governor recommended** the school look at 'Staff Safe' on CPOMs and passed the details to SLT.

8.3 Matters for the Trust Board to Share with the LGB Nothing to report.

8.4 AOB Next year's meetings will be scheduled to better align with data drops.

The Chair thanked staff for their hard work and congratulated them on the accelerating progress made.

Next Meeting : Thursday 5th October 2023 at 4:30pm

Meeting Closed 6:15pm

Signed.....Date.....