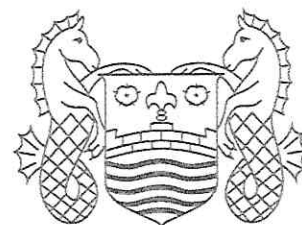


**The Netherhall School and Oakes College
Local Governing Body
Meeting Minutes**



06 December 2022 via Zoom

Governors present

Shelley Monk (SM Chair), Chris Tooley (CT Principal), Paul Bullen-Smith (PBS), Nicky Odgers (NO), Gilles Monniaux (GM), Ellie Wood (EW) and Heather Edwards (HE)

Others Present

Roxanna Glennon Lynch (RGL), Janet Goldsworthy(JG) (Clerk)

The meeting was quorate throughout.

	ITEM	ACTION
1	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence No apologies. The committee welcomed Heather Edwards who has now been approved by the trust. HE introduced herself. She is to become Safeguarding Governor and will complete a handover with RC.	
2	Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items There were no declarations of interest. Send Business Interest form to HE	JG
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising The minutes of 20.10.2022 were still to be approved. JG to send minutes to PBS and NO which would be approved at the LGB on 24.01.2023. There was no AOB.	JG
4	Principal's Report The data in this report has been produced at the same point as last year's report so that governors can easily compare the information. The key points are that pupil numbers have increased, the school is full in years 7 to 11 and there are waiting lists for most year groups. There is a general trend towards reduced exclusions and behaviour incidents. Attendance is increasing but remains too low, much of which is due to a higher proportion of requests to visit sick family/return to Ukraine to visit family. Q is there any growth funding available? A The school has been approached to expand Year 8 which would be worth an additional £170k this year. Q Is the trend towards reduced exclusions particular to Netherhall? A Netherhall appears to be significantly below the average compared to other AL schools. Q In total, how many days exclusions? A This would be useful information and can be added for the next report. Many of the incidents occur outside school where we have little jurisdiction. Q Are these incidents likely to increase?	

Chair's signature..... 

Date..... 27/1/23

A The police have said that their resources are depleted and that they are not able to address these instances in the same way as in the past.

Q How bad does behaviour have to be before a student is excluded?

A This is a staged process. Students are taken to Reboot at Stage 4 and are only excluded if they refuse to go to Reboot. The exclusion is typically for a half day after which they use Google Classroom then are re-admitted during a meeting with the parents.

Q PP attendance appears to reduce dramatically in Year 11. What is this due to?

A It is difficult to answer this question as the cases are complex and unique and there is no single reason. Any pupil with an absence rate below 50% receives a daily check in. The LA are reluctant to prosecute.

Q Is there any evidence that prosecution is effective?

A Again it is difficult to tell. Attendance sometimes drops off after prosecution.

Q Has the existence of the extra curricular programme impacted afternoon attendance?

A It's difficult to tell. The CIN day had the greatest daily attendance level. The Innov8 group has increased attendance so it would appear that if students are motivated, attendance improves.

The low attendance levels of individual students with anxiety and medical needs can impact the data significantly along with the attendance levels of mobile students. Taking out the AP students from the data would show a stronger picture in terms of absence. Even then, our attendance is still the lowest in the trust.

Q What was the Stage 2 complaint about?

A There was an investigation as a parent was upset that a SEND pupil had not been offered a place in Sixth Form. The investigation revealed that the school had followed the correct procedure.

Ofsted had been invited in to complete a review of safeguarding. It had been a challenging meeting. CT had not been available and DB had to stand in. A report was sent to JC at AL. After a review by the trust, the safeguarding lead had confirmed that children were safe but that the issue was with recording information. As a result, a strict action plan has been put in place necessitating a full chronology for the school's 50 most vulnerable students detailing all actions and non actions for these students.

Governors challenged the need for such detail in the recording of safeguarding issues but it seems that Ofsted are increasing their expectations in the area of safeguarding. The current safeguarding system, MyConcern, does not allow for the recording of behavioural incidents in this way. HE offered to speak with SL to discuss her experience with MyConcern. As a result of the new recording system, the safeguarding risk in the Risk Register had been downgraded.

Q Is the safeguarding system secure?

A Yes, it is held on the school server and secure logins are shared with users only.

The school had set a balanced budget but financial challenges during the year had meant that the outturn was difficult to predict for a number of reasons eg. SEND funding scenario, unfunded pay increases. The financial outlook is negative with next year's budget in slight surplus but a £1m deficit forecast for 2024-2025. AL have advised their schools not to make stringent cuts. The

	<p>outlook is the same for all schools although it is felt that the government will need to step in to support schools ahead of a general election. GM has discussed this situation with CT at length and will complete some scenario and sensitivity testing ahead of the next meeting.</p> <p>Q What are AL doing to support schools with these financial challenges? A AL are looking at possible solutions including funding schools differently and using external expertise. GAG pooling is also being discussed and most principals were in agreement with this although they had not seen any detail on what the allocations would look like. There is also a plan for all schools to be supplied with solar panels in response to increasing energy process.</p> <p>Q Can the school explore other sources of income? A The school is about to sell the Site Manager's bungalow for £683k but the ESFA have stated that the proceeds can be used only for capital projects. JC has pushed back on this to check to see if this could be used as revenue funds. The sale of the lower school field would also result in an injection of several million pounds.</p> <p>Q The existence of the mental health assistant is noted. Is there scope for this person to take on more tasks and responsibility? A No – she has a full schedule of work with individual students.</p> <p>Q How is the outreach work with parents progressing? A This has been well received and programme numbers are increasing.</p>	GM
5	<p>SEND report</p> <p>The SEND report had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>RGL joined the meeting at 18.45pm.</p> <p>There is confusion as to the purpose of the SEND policy and the SEND statement. RGL to clarify and to review the SEND policy and update governors on SEND government funding and challenges for the next meeting in January 2023.</p> <p>Key points to note:- There is uncertainty surrounding the funding of High Needs The LA are consulting on changes to the HN budget which is currently unaffordable All 13 requests for Year 7 EHCPs had been overruled</p> <p>RGL gave an update relating to the 4 EHCP pupils.</p> <p>Q What is your view of the recording now required for safeguarding? A I understand the need but there may be an issue using multiple systems.</p> <p>Q If the school has a legal duty to fund HN pupils but the school does not have the funds to support this, can we transfer fault to the government? A EHCPs are statutory but this doesn't mean that they are legally necessary. Fortunately parents are not litigious so far but this could happen in the future.</p> <p>Q How are TAs deployed in light of the EEF recommendations? A Measuring the impact of TAs is challenging but this model is necessitated as a result of the lack of availability of external provision.</p> <p>Governors thanked RGL for her hard work and update. RGL left the meeting.</p>	RGL

6	Safeguarding report and strategy	
	<p>A report had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Q Why had the issues relating to safeguarding not been identified before by Ofsted or the school?</p> <p>A Leadership teams are in despair with the results of the safeguarding audits currently being received. This is due to the fact that Ofsted have increased the expectations and the degree of scrutiny is even higher. AL need now to build in more vigour to their safeguarding reviews.</p>	
7	Risk Register	
	The Risk Register had been updated for finance and safeguarding	
8	Governance updates	
	Due to time constraints, this section was moved to the next meeting?	
9	AOB	
	None	
10	Election of Chair	
	<p>The election of a new chair took place by secret ballot. There were two nominations for joint chairs – NO and PBS who left the room. JG counted the votes and declared that NO and PBS had the majority vote and were duly elected as the new chairs of governors.</p> <p>SM said how much she had enjoyed her time as Chair at the school and thanked CT, the SLT and governors who had presided over an amazing period of change at the school. Statements of sincere thanks were given by CT and NO to SM for her hard work and commitment to the school over a number of years. SM would remain a governor at the trust school, Marleigh.</p>	
11	Date and time of next meeting	
	LGB – 24 th January at 6pm on site in the library The meeting closed at 8.30pm.	

Items for Future Meetings	
Meeting	Item
LGB	Financial modelling of scenarios SEND policy and statement

Action Log			
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
2	Send Business Interest form to HE	January 2023	JG
3	Send draft minutes 10.10.2022 to NO and PBS	January 2023	JG
4	File finance governor link visit report	January 2023	GM
4	Financial modelling	January 2023	GM

Chair's signature.....

Date.....27/1/23



5	Review SEND policy and statement	January 2023	RGL
5	Report to governors on SEND funding consultation	January 2023	RGL

Rolling Action Log			
ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Check with RGL that SEND policy and SEND statement have been reviewed	December 2022	NO	Outstanding - awaiting response from NO
Check access to The National College	September 2022	JG	Completed December 2022
Visit report on key financial challenges facing the school	January 2023	GM	Outstanding – awaiting report
Sign off Code of Conduct and other required policies	December 2022	ALL	Completed – December 2022
Handover with new safeguarding governor	December 2022	RC/HE	TBC

Chair's signature.....

NS02

5

Date.....27/1/23