



Truro and Penwith Academy Trust

CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Curriculum and Standards Committee held on
23 May 2017 at Truro College.

Present

Trustees: Dr J Blunden (Chief Executive), Mr R Crossland (Chair) and Mr D Walrond

Also: Mr R Gill (Headteacher, Nancledra), Miss J Harvey (Headteacher, St Dennis), Mr A Johnson (Headteacher, Perranporth), Mrs J Larter (Headteacher, St Just), Mr A Stittle (College Senior Management Team Development Post), Mr J Walden (Headteacher, Roche), Mr C Wilson (Headteacher, Blackwater) and Mrs A Winter (Company Secretary)

Apologies

Trustees: Mrs A Firth, Mr A Livingston, Mr D Williams and Mrs E Winsor

Also: Ms H Argall (Cornwall Teaching School Lead) and Mrs J Woodhouse (Headteacher, St Ives)

Item	Decision	Action
17/09	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2017 were APPROVED and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of George Eustice MP in Minute 17/02.05.	AW to amend
17/10	Matters Arising 10.01 Safeguarding (Minute 17/02.01) Members noted that a meeting had taken place with the Council's Together with Families lead to discuss concerns. 10.02 RAISEonline (Minute 17/02.02 (b)) The alternative data management system to replace RAISEonline was now available and would be expanded to provide the relevant dashboard data. 10.03 GCSE Grading Changes (Minute 17/05.02) A lack of clarity and late announcements about grade equivalence under the new system was causing difficulties, particularly in relation to student progression from Key Stage 4 to 5. Truro and Penwith College would take a pragmatic approach to grade 4/5 passes in relation to course requirements, however, Universities might insist on a grade 5 (equivalent to a top C) meaning resits for those who had achieved a pass at grade 4 could be necessary.	

	<p>10.04 Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) Bids</p> <p>CIF bids had been partially successful – St Dennis School had been awarded funding towards replacement windows. A bid to upgrade toilets at Pendeen had been approved although associated damp remedial work had not been successful and would be appealed.</p>	
<p>17/11</p>	<p>School Improvement: Reports on School and Headteacher Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Visits</p> <p>Each Hub Lead reported on recent school improvement activities and SHIP visits and during discussion a range of issues were raised and explored, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted inspections of Pendeen and St Ives schools in March 2017 had resulted in both schools being graded ‘Good’ for overall effectiveness - staff and pupils were commended by the Committee on this excellent outcome • the Regional Schools Commissioner Education Specialist (Maths) visit to Mithian School had been productive and recognized the significant progress that had been made • three new schools (Pensans, Newlyn and Alverton) were joining TPAT on 1 June 2017 which would create a big increase in the numbers within the Penwith Hub – each new school was very different and would need a different level and type of support • all schools had concerns about the difficult financial position which would impact primarily on the levels of support staff and teaching assistants and increase the challenge of maintaining standards • Governor recruitment was an ongoing difficulty at a number of schools – attracting volunteers with the appropriate skills, especially as governor responsibilities and commitment had increased, had become more problematic with academisation • TPAT governor development events were not well-attended, largely due to the travel distance involved – activities at school or hub venues were likely to be more attractive to governors • a number of schools were awaiting an Ofsted inspection and were in a strong position in readiness for a visit • the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Cape Cornwall, (placing the secondary school in special measures), was a concern for local TPAT primary schools - an interim executive board would be put in place and it was hoped that creative solutions could be found to ensure continued cross-phase provision in the locality • fluctuations in the numbers of pupils with high needs meant that performance could dip this year in some schools • confidence in predictions had fallen due to curriculum and assessment changes at primary and secondary level • schools were working hard on curriculum development which included a greater emphasis on enrichment activities • as the eligibility threshold for free school meals (FSM) had risen, this was not a reliable indicator of deprivation over time - fewer children now met the eligibility criteria for FSM 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional capacity would be provided across TPAT in 2017/18 to support newly qualified teachers (NQTs) and to develop more consistent standards for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) • new housing would create pressure on school places in some areas as no corresponding increase in school capacity had been planned - a development at Langarth would, however, include a new school and TPAT was reviewing the application process in order to respond when appropriate • as other multi academy trusts and partnerships developed, local collaboration between teachers and schools was becoming increasingly difficult. 	
17/12	<p>Updates: National – Teaching School – Trust</p> <p>The Chief Executive reported on national and local developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Strategic School Improvement Fund (total £140m) – a bid was being prepared for submission by the 23 June closing date to support school improvement activities. The local bid coordinated through the Teaching School/Maths Hub involved 32 schools and would focus on the transition from primary to secondary, maths provision, disadvantaged pupils, leadership and other priorities. • Multi Academy Trust CEOs meeting – the Chief Executive had recently attended a meeting of MAT CEOs in the region to encourage greater collaboration and co-operation, which was supported by the Regional School Commissioner. The meeting had been positive and it was hoped this would enable schools to continue to work cooperatively. 	
17/13	<p>Performance Self-Evaluation Summary</p> <p>The Chief Executive presented the school performance expectations for summer 2017 for each school together with an overview of the common areas for development across the Trust.</p> <p>Trustees considered the individual school analyses and noted that the self-evaluations indicated positive progress. The self-assessed grades for each category within the Ofsted Common Inspection Framework indicated an upward trend with 85% of categories graded ‘Good’ (compared to 70% in 2016) and 15% graded ‘Outstanding’ (compared to 10% in 2016).</p> <p>The Committee discussed the areas for development and the Chief Executive responded to questions on a range of issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil absence/attendance issues – following consultation a trust-wide Attendance Policy was being drafted. Whilst there would be local variations, specific situations and differences between schools it was hoped that a set of principles could be agreed to improve attendance and provide a consistent approach. • Curriculum development – schools were working together on extending the breadth of the curriculum and outdoor learning. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtues Project – an initiative implemented in a number of schools to promote integrity and inspire caring and compassion in every day life was having a positive impact on pupil behavior. • Camborne Science and International Academy (CSIA) Nexus programme (for gifted learners) – Trustees noted concerns expressed by parents at Kehelland School about the emotional pressures and timing of the Nexus entrance exam which had been unsettling for some children. Feedback had been provided to CSIA and the situation would continue to be monitored. <p>Trustees were pleased to note the positive progress being made by schools and supported the areas for development identified.</p>	
17/14	<p>Data Summary – End of Year Forecasts</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the primary school attainment forecasts based on assessments and teacher judgements. Curriculum and assessment changes meant that forecasting the percentage of pupils on track to meet/exceed National Age Related Expectations was difficult. The implementation of the new GCSE grading system meant that predictions at secondary level were also problematic. More detailed data would be provided at a later stage.</p> <p>Trustees noted the data with interest.</p>	
17/15	<p>School Improvement: Monitoring of Sponsored Academies</p> <p>Trustees noted that as both Pendeen and St Ives had been inspected and judged to be 'Good' by Ofsted the level of intervention and external monitoring would be scaled back, although school improvement support would continue to be provided.</p> <p>St Dennis was expecting an inspection immanently, had prepared well and was in a strong position. It was hoped that the school would demonstrate good progress and be removed from special measures.</p>	
17/16	<p>Hub Reporting on Curriculum and Standards Matters in 2017/18</p> <p>Given the growth of the Trust and decision to trial changes to the governance structures and reporting arrangements in 2017/18, the Chief Executive put forward a revised model for the scrutiny and monitoring of school performance.</p> <p>A newly constituted Hub Review Group (an executive group) would assess performance data from each school and produce a report for the Board summarizing key strengths, areas for development and risks for each school (based on a Red/Amber/Green rating).</p> <p>During discussion it was suggested that the timing of Self Evaluation process should be shifted to a later stage in order to base the review of summer attainment and priorities for the following year.</p> <p>The Committee considered and ACCEPTED the proposed arrangements for 2017/18.</p>	
17/17	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The Board would meet at 4.00pm on 11 July 2017 at Truro College</p>	ALL to note