



**Abbey School Local Governing Body
Quality of Education Meeting
Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 12:00 noon
Abbey School with MS Teams Link**

Those Present:		
Luci Windle	Exec. Headteacher	LW
Alison Warner	Chair – Safeguarding Link Governor	AW
Janine Brullo	Parent Governor	JB
Ivy Dorchester-Brown	Governor – Wellbeing Link Governor	ID-B
Tayla Hamilton	Staff Governor	TH
Sue Hodgkinson	Parent Governor	SH
Dawn Jeffery	Parent Governor	DJ
Peter Macaulay	Support Staff Governor	PM
Jim McIntosh	Governor – Finance Link Governor	JMcI
Sonia Seymour-Thackery	Vice Chair & Parent Governor	SS-T
Also Present:		
Wayne Askham	Head of School	WA
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO – Strategy & Partnerships	JH
Emma Sheedy	Governance Clerk	ES
Apologies:		
Ian Tankard	Parent Governor	IT
No Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from IT.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted from IT.	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
2.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business None.	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
3.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda There were no declarations received.	
3.2. Review & Completion of Register of Interests Governors were reminded to complete and return Register of Interest Forms to Clerking Services.	
4. ABBEY SCHOOL LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MINUTES	
4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 6 th July 2021 were reviewed and approved.	
4.2. Review of Action Tracker The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.	
4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes None.	
5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
5.1. SEF & SIP priorities – LGB to agree key areas of qualitative scrutiny <u>School Evaluation Form (SEF)</u> LW explained the plan was to provide Governors with an overview of their Ofsted judgements. The focus has been on re-integrating pupils and staff back into school to ensure that they are happy and healthy. Therefore, the progress rating is significantly lower than usual but this has not affected outcomes for KS4/KS5 and external accreditations. LW advised that all leavers left with the grades they wanted to. However, during follow-up interviews, Abbey learnt that two pupils' College courses had been downgraded and LW shared context and her hypothesis for this. All other leavers are in their correct placements. Three leavers secured internships at Gulliver's Valley, matched to similar roles undertaken on STEAM Street. Leaders reflected on the focus for KS4 outcomes	

during the school year. All leavers secured the correct qualifications for their first preference courses.

School context reads very similar and PP is shown as 53% but this is probably higher. There has been an increase in LAC. LW overviewed the various awards Abbey has achieved – Anti Bullying, Gold Healthy Schools, and Silver Unicef Rights for Responsibilities. Abbey will be working towards Gold Unicef but this is a tough process.

Abbey has graded themselves as a '1' in all areas, school is very much in the recovery curriculum and data has been affected but programmes are taking effect. Abbey are keen to further develop STEAM Street including focused after school clubs because this facilitates real tangible outcomes for children/young people. WA welcomed Governors to the Job Fair on Wednesday, 6th October.

The Parents/Carer Charter will be addressed, which is up for accreditation. The Lead is making a relentless and positive impact with families.

Abbey are further forward with 6th form and the personalised curriculum – 3 pathways – and are focused on ensuring the preparation for adulthood is embedded. School are also exploring certificated professional accredited courses, which provides pupils with a sense of purpose. Abbey are part of the NEMESIS project and are exploring a bid for British Arts, collaborating with other schools around the world.

Family feedback following lockdown and COVID was outstanding and Abbey's COVID response is included in the SEF.

Governor discussion/challenge was as follows:

The Chair queried the two pupils' downgraded College courses and asked if they could do a hybrid between BTEC L1 and L2 and LW provided reassurance that Abbey have offered to do as much as possible to resolve this. **The Chair wondered if COVID has negatively affected the pupils socially and emotionally in new surroundings.** LW added that all work was externally moderated and Abbey were confident with their judgements.

A Governor asked for more information regarding the Jobs Fair and it was agreed for WA to distribute this after the meeting. **A Governor asked if Horizon are involved with this** and LW explained that pupils on Pathway 3 at Horizon would be involved. LW added that Parents are not invited but Governors are.

ACTION 1: WA to distribute the information regarding the Jobs Fair to Governors.

**WA
ASAP**

LW provided an update regarding COVID and reassurance that school update Parents/Carers as the process/procedures change due to the guidance. Wellbeing is such an important factor because children worry and stress when someone tests positive in their household. Staff sickness is high at the moment due to general sickness and Abbey are using supply, which is a rare occurrence. Abbey will be writing to Parents/Carers to outline the differences between cold/COVID. **A Governor commented that general illness is high in the workplace at the moment** and LW explained that staff continue to be as supported as much as possible.

A Governor enquired about opportunities to go to Florida and asked how this would this be worked out so it is fair for all and LW explained these opportunities are linked to the Youth Sports Trust – Special Olympics. LW provided information regarding the ten Abbey Promises, which outlines the experiences every Abbey child should have before they leave. One of the Promises is that every child should experience some form of event.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

The SIP, which is shared with all staff, was overviewed in detail by LW. Discussion/challenge was as follows:

It was agreed for one of the 21/22 Governors Meetings to be held at Horizon.

ACTION 1: LW to organise one Governors Meeting to be held at Horizon.

**LW
30/11/21**

A Governor asked for the rationale for using Apple devices and WA explained about the survey conducted. Apple is more powerful in terms of apps, which links to improving pupil's communication. Abbey are also invited to lots of Apple events, which are online, by worldwide educators and is good CPD investment.

A Governor asked for more information regarding the Education Endowment Funding (EEF) scheme – Headsprout and WA explained that Headsprout is a phonics programme, which is in its infancy, and Abbey has been selected as part of the Special Schools pilot. Read, Write Inc. (RWI) does not offer a tailored and bespoke approach due to children's needs (autism).

A Governor asked for more information regarding the ten promises and WA advised a letter would be sent out to Parents/Carers this week and overviewed the promises for Governors, which were very well received. **LW added she would like Governors to be more active in school and be assigned to a House**, which was very well received. **A Governor enquired about the cost of taking pupils to the cinema** and WA provided context regarding The Showroom Cinema.

The Chair asked what Rotherham Schools call inclusive cross-country and LW provided context and explained this includes all pupils including those in wheelchairs etc. – it is fully inclusive. LW to distribute the list of sporting events to Governors.

ACTION 3: LW to distribute the list of sporting events to Governors.

**LW
ASAP**

5.2. Appointment of Vice Chair & Link Governors

- 5.2.1. Vice Chair
- 5.2.2. Teaching & Learning Link Governor
- 5.2.3. Safeguarding Link Governor
- 5.2.4. Finance Link Governor
- 5.2.5. Wellbeing Link Governor

It was agreed for Governors to carry forward their 20/21 Link Governor roles, with the addition of IT as Careers.

JMcI questioned where H&S fitted in the link governor roles and LW/JH explained this is not required as the Trust has an external Competent Person.

<p>Governor Training will be addressed in due course and LW reminded Governors regarding EduCare, NGA and the Federation of School Trusts. LW asked Governors to email her if there is anything in particular Governors would like or need assistance with.</p> <p>The Chair suggested nominating a Governor for Eco-friendly and JH explained about the cross Trust Mandate Group. LW recommended TH.</p>	
<p>5.3. School Dates for 2022/2023</p> <p>Governors agreed to adopt the LA dates for 2022/23.</p>	
<p>5.4. School Admission Refusals</p> <p>LW advised of 30 refusals so far this year and there is an increase in requests from Wakefield LA.</p>	
<p>6. GOVERNANCE MATTERS</p>	
<p>6.1. Governors to complete Activity Log</p> <p>The Clerk reminded all Governors to email activity to clerkingservices@nexusmat.org</p>	
<p>6.2. Chair/CEO Verbal Update of Key Issues from Trust Board of Directors</p> <p>JH stated how nice it is to meet face to face for the first time.</p> <p>The Central Trust have followed up the review of ICT across the Trust and are now advertising for a Head of Digital Technology.</p> <p>DMBC are assisting the Trust with assets and capital projects.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with Sheffield and Barnsley LA's regarding growth and development, building on some of the successful work of Abbey such as the Horizon Hub.</p>	
<p>7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>7.1. To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair</p> <p>7.1.1. A Governor raised concern regarding lost property and asked how this could be improved and LW explained that school are dealing with this and trying hard to resolve the ongoing issues.</p>	
<p>8. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK</p>	
<p>8.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>8.2. To consider any areas of risk discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	

9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 30 th November 2021	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School	Business Meeting
Tuesday 25 th January 2022	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School	Quality of Education
Tuesday 15 th March 2022	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School	Business Meeting
Tuesday 10 th May 2022	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School	Quality of Education
Tuesday 28 th June 2022	16:00 – 19:00	Crags School	Leadership Summit
Tuesday 5 th July 2022	12:00 – 14:00	Abbey School	Business Meeting

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE