

ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 11th March 2025

Time: 17:45

Venue: Gorse Bank Primary School

Clerk: C Longden

Present: N Mitchell (Chair), L Woolley, F Bell, G Lavelle, S Mellor, S Illingworth, T Allaby, N Turvey, H Thompson, P Wanless (Crown Street Observer).

Action	Initials
Governor Moderation required for SATS week – further information to follow	Clerk to circulate
Governor Succession Planning to be reviewed again at ACM3	Clerk for Agenda
Pupil outcomes to be reviewed again at ACM3	Clerk for Agenda
A Turrell to be invited to ACM3	LW/FB
Autumn Visit date to be shared with Governors	LW/Clerk
PHSE Record of Visit for agenda ACM3	Clerk
Academic Leads to oversee Governor Link Visits by ACM3	LW/FB/Clerk
Safeguarding referral data to be provided to ACM3	FB/Clerk
Governors to review the SDP areas Personal development and wellbeing of staff and parents in ACM3	All
Cyber Security Training to be completed by ACM3	All

Agenda – Part 1				
Category	Item	Notes		Action
1	Governance Arrangements	Training – Curriculum Writing Strategy	<p>N Turvey shared a Writing Strategy document and provided a verbal update on the Trust Writing Strategy with a focus on GBP. The committee were provided with information about the 3 year strategy and given an overview of the application of the strategy in school. N Turvey demonstrated the passion for English in school, emphasised the strong reading culture and the use of the language programme Oracy. Going forward work will be done with Authors and bringing parents in to read with the children to support home learning. The importance of links with handwriting and spelling were also highlighted.</p> <p>Question: Is there time in the timetable to fit the strategy in, if every subject wants time?</p> <p>English is taught everyday, the use of time is constantly being reviewed so English can be targeted.</p>	Noted

		<p>Question: As a parent really like the Year 6 summary of writing expectations, is this shared with parents in each year group?</p> <p>All parents receive the expectations at parents evenings</p> <p>Question: Is the Cheshire East moderation the same as other Local Authorities?</p> <p>All have similar areas but there is a slight difference that staff need to be mindful of.</p>	
	Apologies	Apologies were received from C Liu and Z Shah.	Noted
	AOB	G Lavelle asked for Governor moderation for Multiplication and Phonics in SATS week, w/c Monday 12 th May. Further information to be shared.	Clerk
	Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	No declarations were received.	Noted
	Register of business interests	Register was circulated for updates. S Mellor has taken a new role as a Trust Board Director.	Noted
	Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 16 th October 2024 were approved	Approved
	Membership and terms of office	Thanks were given to all Governors for their time. S Mellor's term was extended until 31 August 2025, N Mitchell's term was extended to 31 August 2025 to be reviewed again at ACM3 for succession planning.	Clerk Agenda ACM3
	Trust Board updates	Trust Board Reports from 2 nd Oct 2024 and 4 Dec 2024 were received	Received

2	School Performance & Accountability	Pupil outcomes	<p>Autumn Data Summary</p> <p>2.1 Gorsey Bank</p> <p>Reception data is strong with 80% Good Level of Development (GLD). The next data will become available in the next couple of weeks. Year 1 is a higher need cohort with some EAL children, new links have been formed with Hazel Grove Primary School for support and the sharing of good practice. Handwriting and letter formation are areas that are having further work. Y3, 4, 5 have a reading and maths focus. White Rose being used for standardised scores, 95 to be achieved as an expected standard.</p> <p>Question: Have the results been underestimated?</p> <p>Yes. Y6 KPI's are ambitious, all good.</p> <p>Question: Can there be a further AC update?</p> <p>Update to be provided at ACM3</p> <p>Question: How is the data tracked from Y4 to Y6?</p> <p>Tracked using DALP, it has been tested on retrospective data to ensure accuracy.</p> <p>Question: Can you track individual Pupil Premium children's progress?</p> <p>Individual KPI's can be tracked using individual starting points, it is the same for EAL and SEND children.</p> <p>Governors were reminded that the list of acronyms is available within the Governance section of Sharepoint.</p> <p>2.2 Crown Street</p> <p>The data was presented to the Committee, time has been spent on the personal and social regulation of the children to improve their attention and listening skills to prepare them for learning. The children are progressing well.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Clerk Agenda ACM3</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
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		School Development Plan	<p>2.3 Gorsey Bank Primary</p> <p>The report was presented to the Committee, focussing on the 4 areas of the SDP showing continuous progression on the 8 year overview to show embedding.</p> <p>Resources have recently been audited in Maths particularly manipulatives (counters/marbles) and the PTA have agreed to fund some replacements. A future training day is planned for the use of manipulatives.</p> <p>The colour coding within the document was explained, the Inset will be used for Languages and future areas of RE and PHSE will be targeted.</p> <p>Question: How was the decision made on which subjects to focus on?</p> <p>The subjects were audited to determine priority and work commenced with those subjects, it has been successful and staff are being supported with continuous feedback.</p> <p>A Turrell to be invited to ACM3 to present on Inclusive Attitudes.</p> <p>2.4 Crown Street</p> <p>The report was presented to the Committee, CS is at a different stage of development with a focus on culture and the curriculum, the children are young and need behaviours modelling. The priority has been the setting up of Early Years and the Pre-School Curriculum Development.</p> <p>The next stage is for DOP and HOS to visit a school in Manchester to see how they triage, track and assess.</p> <p>Question: How is the culture being created?</p> <p>Staff are an important part and they have been very supportive creating a vision of trust. Children are at the heart of everything, modelling the culture is important.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>LW/FB</p> <p>Noted</p>
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		Director of Primary's Termly Report	<p>DoP note of visit –</p> <p>2.5 Gorsey Bank Primary & 2.6 Crown Street Primary</p> <p>The DoP presented the report on the formal visits, reviewing KPI outcomes, action plans and monitoring that has taken place and the agreed actions going forward.</p> <p>The school has a very dedicated Senior Leadership Team. The Governors have an open invitation to attend the visits. Date to be provided for Autumn Term Visit.</p> <p>Question: Does the Committee validate the KPI's</p> <p>This is done by the Trustees.</p>	LW/Clerk
3	Governor Monitoring	Link Governor Records of Visits	<p>Gorsey Bank Primary</p> <p>3.1a SEND</p> <p>The walk around was completed with SendCo and parent welcome days have been held. The writing strategy has been reviewed to ensure inclusive of SEND, streamlining processing and the updating of parents to be reviewed at the next meeting.</p> <p>3.1b EAL, 3.1c English & Safeguarding, 3.2 Crown Street Safeguarding, verbal updates all received. DoP thanked the Governors for all their work on the visits.</p> <p>PHSE visit is booked in to be completed.</p> <p>Governors were reminded that SEND training is available online.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Agenda ACM3</p> <p>Noted</p>
		Safeguarding and Send Link Governor updates	<p>Academic leads to oversee the Governor links, by AC3 will be up to date. Visit dates to be checked.</p> <p>Now looking at how to take parent engagement to the next level with weekly coffee briefings, presenting information at parents evenings, leaflets to takeaway.</p>	<p>FB/LW</p> <p>Agenda ACM3</p>

		Finance Update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	<p>Management Accounts December 2024</p> <p>3.4a Gorsey Bank Primary</p> <p>The report was presented to the committee who were advised it is important to look at the Trust as a whole. Trusts are not permitted to be in deficit. The Governors were advised on the forthcoming increases in pay/pensions that will impact the school budget.</p> <p>GBP are looking at ways to increase income by applying for funding streams and the income from the kids club.</p> <p>The Executive team are reviewing cost saving measures.</p> <p>3.4b Crown Street Accounts</p> <p>Report was presented to the Committee, current focus is on energy costs. Not all funding has been received yet for pupil premium and SEND. Pupil numbers will have an impact on the accounts as they increase.</p> <p>3.5a Gorsey Bank Pupil Numbers</p> <p>Numbers are pleasing with 83 first choice applicants (60 places). Important to continue to push the marketing and not take numbers for granted.</p> <p>3.5b Crown Street Pupil Numbers</p> <p>22 first choice applicants (30 places). Manchester LA is different in the admissions process to the Stockport LA but the numbers are positive.</p> <p>Question: Has Crown Street been audited by Manchester LA?</p> <p>CS has been audited pre-Ofsted and will be fully inspected in the 3rd year of opening.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
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		<p>Policies – undertake school level reviews of relevant policies and note Trust/phase policies</p>	<p>3.6 Crown Street Attendance Policy</p> <p>The policy is slightly different to the trust policy and is inline with the Model Policy used by Manchester LA.</p> <p>Question: What is the Attendance Policy in the other Primaries?</p> <p>The trust policy is used. However, the Manchester Policy is a better fit for Crown Street.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
		<p>Behaviour, Safeguarding and Attendance update</p>	<p>3.7a GBP Behaviour and Safeguarding</p> <p>The document was received by the Committee.</p> <p>Question: Has the number of referrals increased?</p> <p>The recording of incidents on CPOMS looks higher due to the way incidents are recorded. It is important that incidents are logged no matter how small to build a bigger picture. Referrals are not needed for families already being supported. It is pleasing to see the teachers are recording all incidents for safeguarding.</p> <p>Previous full year referrals to be reviewed at ACM3 to allow comparison.</p> <p>3.7b Crown Street Behaviour and Safeguarding</p> <p>Currently building a picture of the families and children, the recording of incidents is really important.</p> <p>3.8a Gorsey Bank Primary Attendance</p> <p>The report was received by the Committee</p> <p>Question: Is there still persistent absence?</p> <p>There is an improvement in numbers. It is important to understand the contexts behind the numbers, every figure is an individual child. Attendance letters are sent to every parent where the child falls below 95% and action plans are put in place. There are pupil premium patterns with low attendance which are monitored. The school applies fines when necessary.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>FB/Clerk Agenda ACM3</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

			<p>3.8b Crown Street Attendance Policy</p> <p>Slightly different in approach as pre-school attendance is not compulsory. It is important to send pro-active messages to parents from an early stage. Where modified timetables are in place this is not reflected in the statistics.</p> <p>Question: At a recent High School Parents Evening, attendance was highlighted as having an impact on grades and this information was given to parents on a 1:1 basis. Is this something that could be done at Primary level?</p> <p>Attendance can be discussed at parents' evenings if there is a concern.</p>	Noted
		Health and Safety update	<p>Health & Safety Update</p> <p>3.9a Gorsey Bank Primary & 3.9b Crown Street Primary</p> <p>The contents of the reports were noted by the Committee.</p>	Noted
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training plan	<p>It was agreed that Cyber Security would be the next training to be completed prior to ACM3.</p> <p>Clerk to send details to Committee.</p>	All/Clerk
		Clerk to minute any training undertaken since the last meeting	<p>Please send your completed certificates to the Clerk for retention.</p>	Noted
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Parental Engagement Strategy</p> <p>5.1 Gorsey Bank Primary</p> <p>Report received by Committee</p> <p>Crown Street</p> <p>The PTA has now been set up, looking for funding towards the Playground. Organising parent reading and stay and play sessions. Mystery Readers gets really positive feedback.</p>	Noted

	AOB		No items presented	Noted
	Meeting Dates:		ACM3 was confirmed as Tuesday 15 th July 2025. Chair has requested Tuesday meetings where possible.	Noted

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
Overview of Writing Strategy Received	
Terms of Membership for S Mellor and N Mitchell extended to 31.8.25	
Minutes of ACM1 Approved	
Crown Street Attendance Policy Approved	
Updates received on Pupil Outcomes, School Development Plan, DOP Visits, Governor RoVs, Management Accounts, Pupil Numbers, Behaviour and Safeguarding, Health and Safety.	

Meeting ended at 7.40pm

N Mitchell
Chair of Academy Committee
15.07.2025