

Minutes – Uphill Village Academy

Meeting Date: 10th December 2024
Location: Uphill Village Academy
Time: 5.00pm

Present: **Toby Blackburn (TB)** Chair Academy Council
Vacancy Sponsor Academy Councillor
Vacancy Sponsor Academy Councillor
Stewart Castle (SC) Sponsor Academy Councillor
Sasha Allsop (SA) Teacher Academy Councillor
Anita Beal (AB) Support Staff Academy Councillor
Carina Ridge (CR) Sponsor Councillor

Apologies: **Caroline Jamieson (CJ)** Parent Councillor
Rosie Dyke (RD) Parent Councillor

In attendance: **Sam Hodder (SHO)** Principal
Susie Weaver (SW) Executive Principal

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Introductions	
1.1	TB welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were received and accepted for: Caroline Jamieson and Rosie Dyke.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no declarations of interest pertinent to the meeting content.	
3.0	Academy Council Membership	
3.1	All the Academy Councillors were reminded to provide a bio for the website, to update their pecuniary interests via Governorhub and to complete their training via Governorhub as soon as possible.	
4.0	Minutes of the last meeting	
4.1	The minutes of 15 th July 2024 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.	
5.0	Academy Council Report – Sam Hodder	
5.1	Attendance is slightly up on last year despite there being a lot of sickness recently.	
5.2	We have a lot of robust processes in place to challenge absence and only have a few children who are classes as persistently absent with attendance around 50%-60%.	
5.3	[REDACTED]	
5.4	There are no particular year groups with attendance concerns and our PP attendance is higher than national PP attendance. However, we do have some PP children who we are monitoring.	

5.5	Fridays are our lowest attending day and we think that some families have caravans because both siblings will be absent on the Friday but will return on the Monday.	
5.6	We've had a lot of pupil movement recently with families moving out of the area. One family moved and they had three siblings in the school, so that was quite an impact.	
5.7	[REDACTED]	
5.8	Most of our spaces are in KS1.	
5.9	Do you have anyone interested in taking up those spaces? It's always more challenging this far into the school year because moving your child a third of the way through the school year is challenging.	
5.10	We do get children who move into the area from outside the county though which is how our Y5/Y6 children joined us. They have settled in really quickly though.	
5.11	We've definitely seen an increase in people interested in Reception places. We've done several tours and have another planned in January 2025. This term was the first time we offered an evening tour which was quite popular.	
5.12	We've had support from Springboard who have been providing additional questions from parents with children with SEND who believe we have small classes.	
5.13	Breakfast and After School club remains busy. We are mostly full from Monday to Wednesday but on Fridays we often have less than 10 children so we are closing at 5.00pm	
5.14	There are two members of staff running the club and we have 25-30 children which is the most we have had. This means we breakeven.	
5.15	Do we need to increase our Breakfast Club numbers? No because we would then need to employ another member of staff, and the room would feel overcrowded.	
5.16	There are some pilot studies taking place for universal breakfast clubs, for all children, but the staffing capacity would be a challenge.	
5.17	Jess Hood has reduced to two-days a week, therefore Lucy will take on the Wellbeing role.	
5.18	We've been providing Teaching Partner meetings, the inset day was very well received, and the feedback was very strong. At the next inset day, we've arranged bespoke training for them.	
5.19	Parent Surveys have taken place for the foundation parents to see how their first term has gone. We had fewer responses than last year but that may be because they answered an Ofsted survey recently. They were very positive about the transition into school. Feedback indicated that the afternoon starts weren't popular so we will consider that arrangement moving forward.	
5.20	We invited EYFS to see how we teach reading which was well attended.	
5.21	Parents have requested longer parent-evening appointment slots which is not feasible. We will continue to offer face-to-face or online meetings as requested by parents.	
5.22	The OFSTED Parent View feedback was overwhelmingly positive.	
	Safeguarding	
5.23	Toby will be the new Safeguarding Link Academy Councillor. The Trust has determined that in February 2025 Safeguarding Link role training will be provided with a follow up in May for anyone new.	
5.24	The S175 Audit has been released by North Somerset. The actions from the last audit have been completed where required.	
5.25	Has all the Nimble training and Prevent training been undertaken by staff? The Nimble has been completed. In January a lot of Prevent training will lapse so we will cover that at the January Inset day.	
	Quality of Education	

5.26	The Academy Councillors congratulated all the staff on the OFSTED outcome. We strive for a balance between personal development and academic achievements which was noted by the inspectors.	
5.27	The DOOYA Data is promising. The combined is low at this stage because they've only sat one mock paper. The Y6 cohort is strong, but we have four children who will not sit the SATs. It's clear that the children are making good progress	
5.28	There is a PP/SEND crossover which impacts on the data.	
5.29	We are monitoring Y3 writing and Y5 Maths.	
5.30	What is the dominant SEND need? SEMH and cognition and learning.	
5.31	The Risk Register includes the cost of teaching staff and numbers on roll.	
5.32	We interviewed three staff for lunchtime cover and will employ all of them.	
5.33	Having Support Staff to support the children at lunchtime has been very positive in terms of the children then settling quickly for the afternoon sessions.	
5.34	We have received a grant for the Support Staff pay award which means we are forecasting to break even this year.	
5.35	Jess has reduced to two days a week, therefore the other three days are being covered by an agency member of staff.	
5.36	A Y4 CIC child has joined and therefore we will recruit to the one-to-one support position.	
	SEND - SA	
5.37	We are in line with the national average for the number of children on the SEND register, with slightly fewer EHCPs - 11 to date.	
5.38	North Somerset now judge EHCPs against a matrix of need which means that many children are now receiving lower funding.	
5.39	We've been providing SEND PD at staff meetings and TP meetings including adaptive teaching to ensure the provision is consistent across all classrooms.	
5.40	Staff are encouraged to consider how to change the level of challenge in the classroom to meet need but also to hold high expectations.	
5.41	We've reviewed the teaching handbook and discussed what an inclusive classroom looks like.	
5.42	Adaptive teaching remains a priority because focusing on need is key. Setting expectations and routines was the focus in T1.	
5.43	In January the Education Psychologist will provide some PD for the Teaching Partners.	
5.44	The recent SEND review included visiting the classrooms and speaking to teachers and children. We received positive feedback and some areas to develop.	
5.45	SW thanked SA for supporting other schools in the Trust with SEND reviews.	
5.46	Two suspensions took place today which is very unusual for our school, but the children have additional needs and are struggling to access mainstream education.	
5.47	The SEND provision is very robust in the school and all the staff understand the need to be inclusive and the staff support each other.	
	Mental Health and Wellbeing	
5.48	Stewart Castle will meet with the new Wellbeing Lead next term.	
5.49	Student health and wellbeing and staff health and wellbeing are both key, therefore distinguishing that from organisational wellbeing will be helpful.	
5.50	Staff surveys tend to be positive because staff indicate that they can identify someone that they can talk to.	
	EDI	
5.51	See the EDI Statement. A strand of the AIP is to become an Uphill Citizen using the 'No Outsiders' framework. Assemblies have a focus on not stereotyping people and we read a story at the end of the day which includes a cultural difference.	

6.0	Policies	
6.1	<p>Policies to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusions and Suspensions • Positive Handling & PI • RHSE • Equality, Diversity & Inclusion • Asbestos • Records Retention <p><i>The Academy Councillors noted the above policies.</i></p>	
7.0	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
7.1	None.	
8.0	Matters for the attention of the Board	
8.1	None.	
9.0	AOB	
9.1	<p>How is the performance of supply teachers monitored?</p> <p>We try to use supply teachers who are known to us where possible because they know our routines. New supply teachers are paired with an experienced teacher and there is an experienced TP in the classroom. If we are unhappy with a placement then we feed that back to the Supply Agency.</p> <p>14 June 2024 Festival of Culture at Broadoak. Save the Date.</p>	
9.2	Communication Strategy – Will we expand our social media platforms. This can be difficult to manage, but we could consider moving from X to another platform. Instagram could work well because we use a lot of pictorial content.	
9.3	ACTION: SH to investigate moving from X to Instagram.	SH
9.4	Link Academy Councillors were reminded to make three visits a year, therefore <u>please</u> do undertake one in T3 and submit a link report ready for the next Academy Council meeting.	