



LONGSANDS ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (LGC)

Thursday 5 December 2024

To be held from 5.30pm

At Longsands Academy

Membership: Mark Young (Chair); Lee Larcombe (Vice Chair); Catherine Cusick (Principal); Richard Slade; Robert Simonis.

In attendance: Jo Myhill-Johnson (Regional Director); Lauren Ward (Head of Governance and Executive Services); Andrew Corcoran (Vice Principal); Seb Hood ; Prospective Governors: Hazel Bell; Rob Offord.

Clerk: Melanie Basson

Minute Reference	Summary of action required	Responsible	Status
20.06.24 Item 4	Present the Astrea Longsands Way to the LGC.	SH	Item 6
20.06.24 Item 4	Share the culture code and what to do folders	CC via SK	
20.06.24 Item 5	Make a safeguarding-focused visit to address further queries arising from the report.	LL	
20.06.24 Item 5	Confirm potential visit dates with Mr Simonis based on data deadlines.	CC/Kate	
10.10.24 Item 1	Share safeguarding presentation with the clerk for circulation to members	CC	
10.10.24 Item 4	Edit suspension data and recirculate Principal's Report.	CC	

Agenda

Item	Timings	Subject	Format
1	2 mins	Introductions and apologies to include Chairs update RSi apols	Oral item – Chair

2	2 mins	Declarations of interest	Oral item – Chair
3	5 mins	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising Minutes of last meeting on 10 October 2024	Papers attached - (pp3-6) - Chair
4	45 mins	Principal's report and questions	Papers attached separately - Principal
5	10 mins	Presentation: Suspension Reduction for SEND and PP	Oral item – AC
6	10 mins	Presentation: The Astrea Longsands Way	Oral item - SH
7	2 mins	Future agenda items and confirmation of forthcoming dates Date of next meeting 6 February 2025	Oral item - Chair

Any additional business to be notified to the Chair and the Clerk at least 48hrs in advance of the meeting.



Longsands Academy LGC
Minutes: (Meeting 1) 10th October 2024

Members Present: Mark Young (Chair); Lee Larcombe (Vice Chair); Catherine Cusick (Principal); Richard Slade; Robert Simonis.

Attending: Jo Myhill-Johnson, Karen Bromilow (Clerk)

ACTION SUMMARY

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20.06.24 4	Present the Astrea Longsands Way to the LGC	SH	
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10.10.24 4	Edit suspension data and recirculate Principal's Report.	CC	

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Summary	Responsible	Meeting
Presentation on suspension reduction for SEND and PP	A Corcoran	2
Presentation on attendance	J Milne	2

1: Annual Safeguarding Training (delivered by the Principal)

The Principal delivered a thorough and robust presentation on contextual safeguarding and delivered annual safeguarding training to the LGC (minute appendix 1). It was noted that supplementary training was available via the National College, should governors wish to access it.

2: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (including Chair's Update)

Following due process, Mark Young's appointment as Chair and Lee Larcombe's appointment as Vice Chair were ratified.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Referring to the latest update from the Chair of Trustees, Ben Brown: -

- The trust had a positive year in terms of Ofsted, with all but two schools in the trust being judged good.
- The positive improvement overall in primary results was acknowledged. Secondary headlines were mixed across the trust and trustees are now challenging plans to make sure that progress is being made and to ensure that all children leave with their best results.
- From a financial perspective the budget has been met despite the challenging year.

- Trustees are looking at increasing communications between the trust board and committees and steps have been put in place to improve engagement and response. An understanding of local challenges is important to trustees.
- Attendance continues to be a national issue. Progression has been seen and steps will continue to improve attendance and reduce suspensions.
- Trustees are working on a clear five-year strategy with areas of focus including education, finance, communities, estates, and several other areas in which the trustees plan to support and drive the trust forward.
- Trustees are considering what steps can be taken around community groups and making sure the school is central to communities. Trustees recognise that every community has different needs and priorities. External funding is being explored to support this area.
- Recruitment to local committees is a priority this year. The clerk will support in this area.
- South Yorkshire secondary schools will be piloting a step out provision at Astrea Academy Woodfields specifically for children with behaviour and inclusion needs

Referring to the recent communications from the governance team: -

- A range of resources and training are available including the [Local Committee Resources - Astrea Academy Trust](#)
- Several Astrea webinars on offer (members will receive an outlook invitation)
- A range of webinars accessible to members at [Better Governor Webinars - Governors for Schools](#)
- A reminder of the importance of carrying out termly school visits; these should be pre-agreed with the Principal and should be purposeful, for example in relation to a link role. Guidance and an exemplar report can be found at [Local Committee Resources - Astrea Academy Trust](#). Visit reports should be signed off by the Principal and then shared with the clerk.

Members agreed there were no matters to be shared with the Trust Board

3: Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any pecuniary interests relevant to this agenda. None were declared.

All members confirmed they had completed and returned their Annual Self Declaration to the clerk.

4: Minutes, Actions and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and adopted as a true and accurate record. The meeting noted that all actions agreed at the previous meeting had either been completed or were being progressed and the table of actions was updated accordingly.

5: Principal's Report

Taking the report and appendices as read, as they had been circulated in advance of this meeting, the Chair asked if there were any areas which the Principal would like to draw to the attention of the LGC, and invited questions.

Members acknowledged improvements seen following the launch of the It Stops Now Campaign. The Principal highlighted that the campaign is set to be relaunched in the Autumn Term. The Personal Development (PD) lead has met with the National PD Lead to put together the strategy for the year. **When asked if the It Stops Now Campaign had been successful across the trust,** Mrs Myhill-Johnson confirmed this to be the case. It was noted that the PD curriculum is reactive to the needs of scholars.

Noting that tackling racist comments features on the Academy Improvement Plan (AIP), the Principal highlighted that following a recent Black Student Voice, an increase in reported racist incidents is a clear indication that scholars feel confident to report incidents. **When asked if staff have been instructed around the use of racist slurs when teaching lessons that include the use of these words,** the Principal reported that very clear staff training has taken place around the use of racist slurs, particularly around the most emotive words, adding that it is not permitted for staff to use these words. The Principal highlighted that anti racist sessions have been delivered by outside agencies. It was noted that discussions are taking place between senior leaders around books covered in the English curriculum.

The Principal that no further actions are required following receipt of three Ofsted qualifying complaints.

Referring to Key Stage 4 (KS4) results, the Principal highlighted that initial progress 8 results are lower than anticipated. It was acknowledged that scholars failed to make sufficient rapid progress following the spring mocks despite extensive support,

masterclasses and high-quality teaching, adding attendance was the main contributing factor. Leaders have taken steps to improve progress rapidly this year including work around improved parental engagement and core routines.

The Principal highlighted that leaders and departmental heads are carrying out regular drop ins, with feedback being provided if requested or in the case of concerns being raised. Silence is being observed when independent work is taking place. It was noted that 250 senior leadership team (SLT) drop ins have taken place this term. The Principal shared her plans for SLT to drop in to every lesson. **When asked if there is capacity to complete this amount of drop ins**, the Principal confirmed this to be the case. **When asked if drop ins take place for cover lessons**, the Principal confirmed this to be the case.

The Principal reported that recent book looks in maths and English indicate that not enough independent work is taking place in some lessons, this has led to additional staff training on core routines.

Referring to the Key Stage 5 (KS5) outcomes, the Principal reported these to be lower than anticipated. **When asked who the Head of KS5 is**, the Principal reported that Mr Robinson took on the position after Easter 2024, adding that the previous head left at Christmas 2023 and that the position was temporarily covered between Christmas and Easter by another staff member.

Mrs Myhill-Johnson reported that Year 11 and Year 13 outcomes are a trust wide priority this year.

The Principal highlighted steps being taken to improve outcomes in KS4 and KS5 including exam review meetings with HODs, Weekly Year 11 raising achievement meetings, fortnightly Year 13 raising achievement meetings, weekly data reviews, regular parental newsletters, revision techniques videos, work on suspension reduction, a focus on attendance to school and work to encourage scholars to attend additional interventions.

Referring to the Principal's Report, when asked what actions have been taken by leaders to improve red highlighted areas of Teaching and Learning (T&L), the Principal reported that where required, staff are receiving additional support from senior leaders or in the case of concerns, HR processes are being adhered to.

When asked what had been identified as the cause of the dip in Y13 attendance, the Principal reported that scholars had chosen not to attend despite being told there was no study leave.

When asked a question about the correlation between attendance and achievement, the Principal reported that further analysis will take place, adding that data on attendance vs achievement may be useful to share with scholars to provide them with an understanding of how attendance impacts outcomes.

Noting the concerning underperformance of the pupil premium (PP) cohort, when asked what steps have been put in place to improve the attendance of this cohort, the Principal reported that leaders have produced additional PP data reports for leaders to allow them to easily identify and focus on the cohort during drop ins. Further conversations are taking place with leaders around additional steps to take.

The Principal highlighted that Astrea Reads and The Longsands Way had been successfully launched. The new desk layout and distribution of pencil cases have been well positively received by scholars.

The Principal highlighted that a reduction in the number of fixed term suspensions has been seen in the last two weeks following steps taken by leaders to reduce the number of reset base fails.

Members acknowledged that although SEND scholars focus in the Suspension Reduction Plan, PP scholars do not. Noting that the % of suspensions for PP scholars is disproportionately high, when asked what steps leaders are taking to reduce this, the Principal reported that leaders are reviewing data and plans are due to be put in place. The suspension reduction plan will be updated accordingly. The Principal highlighted that most suspensions were issued to a small minority of 15 children who are both PP and SEND.

It was agreed that Andrew is to be invited to the next meeting of the LGC to present on suspension reduction for SEND and PP.

It was noted that some erroneous data on suspensions had been shared in the Principal's Report. It was agreed that the report will be checked, edited and recirculated to members.

When asked if behaviour data is reviewed against department and individual staff, the Principal reported that daily and weekly behaviour reports are generated to enable hotspots and patterns to be identified.

The Principal highlighted that attendance for the academic year 2023-2024 was 89.1%. Steps are being taken to improve attendance this year in line with the attendance improvement plan, with improvements already being seen

It was agreed that Mr Milne is to be invited to the next meeting of the LGC to present on attendance.

Members acknowledged the Attendance Improvement Plan, SIF and AIP.

The recent Parents' Evening was acknowledged. Feedback from scholars was very positive.

The Principal highlighted that the new Year 7 intake had settled in well.

When asked how many scholars had secured places at Russell Group universities in the last 5 years, the Principal was not able to provide an exact figure as the data was not to hand although the number was reported to be above national.

When asked if consideration had been made to reintroducing face to face parents' evenings, the Principal reported that following feedback received from parents and staff, leaders had made the decision to continue with virtual parents' evenings except for Year 7, Year 9 options and Year 11.

6: Risk

No discussion took place on this item.

7: Future Meeting Dates

Mrs Myhill-Johnson proposed the following changes to meeting dates subject to the availability of the Clerk: -

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • 5 December 2024 | No change |
| • 6 February 2025 | No change |
| • 22 May 2025 | Reschedule to 27 th March |
| • 3 July 2025 | Reschedule to 10 th July |

A formal member visit is to be scheduled.

The above is agreed to be a true and fair record of the meeting.

Mr M Young, Chair of the Longsands Academy LGC