

**The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead**

**Minutes of the Virtual School Governing Board
Virtual Meeting held: Wednesday 15 March 2023, 9.30 am**

Constitution, Membership and Attendance

Director for Education Services, Kingston and Richmond	Charis Penfold (Chair)
Director of Children's Social Care, Kingston and Richmond	Alison Twynam
Executive Headteacher and Associate Director of Education Standards in Care	Suzanne Parrott
Head of Governor Support	Angela Langford
Kingston Headteacher (RBK)	Esther White
Richmond Headteacher (LBR)	Vacancy
Secondary Headteacher (RBK)	Vacancy
Secondary Headteacher (RBWM)	Walter Boyle
Foster Carer	Ruth Sinclair
Kingston and Richmond ICB	Debbie Clark (currently on MAT leave) Ene- Ojama Ode covering
Associate Director for Corporate Parenting (RBWM)	Marie Bell

Apologies (in bold)

In attendance:: Francis Markall (Deputy Headteacher, Virtual School - Richmond)
Ruth Gusterson (Assistant Headteacher, Extended Duties)
Karen Bridgman (Clerk)

	Discussion/Actions	Action
1.	<u>Welcome</u>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
1.2	The Chair reported that Julia Hunt has now left AfC. She thanked her for all her work and support as Clerk in establishing the governing body meetings which was greatly appreciated.	

<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p>	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 were approved.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p><u>Membership of the Governing Board</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification was needed on whether Walter Boyle wanted to continue to represent RBWM Headteachers. • There is still a vacancy for a Richmond primary headteacher. • There continues to be a lack of health representation. • Consideration may need to be given to Alison Danks, AFC Associate Director of Health Services, being invited to join the governing board. <p>There was a discussion on the focus of the governing board and the need to ensure that it added value and impact. The governing board needs to provide educational scrutiny, review key indicators and provide a quality assurance overview.</p> <p><u>ACTION: It was agreed that the Chair, Head of Governor Support and Executive Director would review the role of the governing board of a virtual school and what information is presented at the meetings.</u></p> <p><u>PPG Funding</u></p> <p><u>ACTION: It was agreed that an update on PPG funding and how this is being used will be discussed at the next meeting on 4 July 2023.</u></p>	<p>CP/AL/SP</p> <p>Clerk/SP</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Headteacher Report</u></p> <p><u>Extended Duties Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi agency attendance board has been established across AfC • Data is shared with social workers on attendance on a weekly basis. • A new Assistant Headteacher and teacher have been appointed. • There is a new Silver Attachment Award and next year the gold award will be launched. • 70 schools are going for the bronze and silver awards • The transition hub is providing a lot of support. • Social workers have found the coaching sessions very helpful. <p>Q: When will the governing board be able to see the impact of the work being undertaken on attendance?</p> <p>A: The DfE has stated that it will take three years for this work to have an impact.</p>	

<p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There continues to be a rise in mental health issues for children and young people who are looked after which impacts on attendance and school refusal (ERSA) • A lot of work is being carried out with social workers on understanding the ERSA toolkit. • Deep dives are being completed with the Data Manager to ensure the PEPs have a multi agency approach. • The next step is to review the attendance targets for each individual student in Child Protection Plans. • Transport is a real issue especially if it is a dual placement and impacts on attendance. • There are worries about persistent absence in Richmond and case studies are being completed on each student. • There is a list of 20-25 children and work is being done with their schools and social workers on providing targeted support. • There are 14 cases which are linked to the ROME Panel which gives a strategic view. Communication with social workers is key. • It is also positive that schools are also accessing this support about young people they are worried about. <p>There was a discussion on the problems with transport. It was noted that some students struggle to get out of bed in the mornings and the taxi driver will not wait for them. Some students with very complex needs are expected to get on the AfC's minibus which they are unable to do and need 1-1 transport. It was recognised that every case was different in respect of the transport issues. There are also issues about who will pay for the transport.</p> <p>Q: In early years there is no accountability in respect of attendance as the children cannot bring themselves to nursery and transport is not a statutory requirement for under 5s.</p> <p>A: The Virtual School only tracks attendance from reception. There is an increasing focus on early years but there is no measure to compare attendance nationally for pre school children.</p> <p>The Chair felt that due to the extended duties remit, the Virtual School can now work with social workers on what support is available to support early years children especially with attending nursery.</p> <p><u>ACTION: The Assistant Headteacher (Extended Duties) agreed to provide percentage numbers in her report especially in respect of the national averages.</u></p>	<p>RG</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>Update on Summer 22 Outcomes and Post 16 Destinations (Francis Markall)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33% achieved the gold standard in Year 6 SATs. This was a drop compared to precovid as 75% achieved this. This was in line with LAC outcomes in 2019 and there was a dip nationally. • 25% SEND pupils achieved the gold standard which was a slight dip but was higher than 2019. 	<p>RG</p>

6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data includes all three authorities. • There was a drop in maths. • Boys slightly outperformed girls. • Children placed out of a borough performed better than those attending local schools. • It is predicted that 75% of pupils will meet the gold standard in KS2 SATs. • Progress 8 score was -1.11 which was above the national average. • The Virtual Schools results easily exceed national results and are better or in line with national averages. • The majority of the current Year 11 students are on target to achieve a Grade 4 in English and Maths. • There are eight students with EHC Plans who will not achieve a Grade 4 in English and Maths due to their high SEN needs. 	
6.3	<p><u>Post 16 Destinations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is always attendance at the Year 11 PEP meeting to oversee transition. • Young people are given support with their college applications 	
6.4	<p>Q: Is there data which compares whether children's achievements are impacted by their placements?</p> <p>A: It is nationally known that young people do better in foster carers but there have been no recent comparisons. Placement information is included on the live trackers which could be reviewed to see if there are any trends or patterns.</p> <p><u>ACTION: The Executive Headteacher agreed to share her headline slides on placement data at the next meeting on 4 July 2023.</u></p> <p>Q: Are the 2023 summer predicted outcomes benchmarked against expected progress and KS1 and KS2 outcomes rather than just attainment?</p> <p>A The predicted outcomes are based on KS1 and KS2 outcomes and also cross reference against the information given by the school at the PEP.</p>	SP
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 4 July 2023 at 9.30 am</p>	

The meeting ended at 11 am.

Signed by the Chair _____

Date _____

Summary of Actions

3.2	The Chair, Head of Governor Support and Executive Headteacher to review the role of the governing body of a virtual school and what information is presented at the meetings.	CP/AL/SP
3.3	An update on PPG funding and how this is being used to be discussed at the next meeting on 4 July 2023	Clerk/SP
5.5	The Assistant Headteacher (Extended Duties) agreed to provide percentage numbers in her report to governors, especially in respect of the national averages.	RG
6.3	The Executive Headteacher agreed to share her headline slides on placement data at the next meeting on 4 July 2023.	SP