



MINUTES OF THE LGB CATMOSE COLLEGE MEETING

Thursday 4 July 2024, 5pm
John Clare

Present

Andrew Cross, Rosemary Dodson, Jane Evans, Emma Gautrey, Thomas Heath, Andrew Holt (Chair), Gary Marsh, Clive Norgaard Morton, Stuart Williams (Principal).

In Attendance

Alice Beckwith (Vice Principal), Claire Pugh (Vice Principal, from 5.30pm), Chris Wilson (Chief Finance Officer), Sheryl Wilson (Governance Professional).

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

Andrew Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Alex Mould, Briege Slattery and Martyn Rhowbotham.

2. Declarations of Personal Interest and Pecuniary Interest

There were none declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2024

There was an amendment relating to the Year 7 offers made as opposed to applications. These were signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Clerk's business

The dates for the governing body meetings were shared for the new academic year along with the latest edition of NGA Governance Matters.

6. Principal's Update

Stuart Williams reported that it had been another busy term with trips and visits. The head students for the new academic year had been appointed and they will attend the next governing body meeting. A PowerPoint slide of what students had said was great about Catmose was shared which included items such as food, musicals, freedom at lunch and break, trips and visits and extracurricular activities.

Next year's priorities

Continued focus will be on disadvantaged students and those who are eligible for free school meals to help improve attendance, behaviour and outcomes.

The trend of less engagement in physical activity with others alongside increased time spent on social media continues. This is leading to less resilient and more anxious girls. In boys we are seeing more aggressive and often misogynistic behaviour connected

with their unfettered access to pornography and violent online games. Children are spending a lot of time at home, often in their rooms, physically safe but able to access content that is often highly addictive and on occasion damaging.

7. Admissions update

240 offers were made for the Year 7 intake in September 2024, with 68 on the waiting list. A new admissions scorecard will be created for governors next year.

8. Scorecards

Attendance

Overall attendance is at 93%. There is almost 1.5% difference between girls' attendance and boys, with poorer attendance seen in girls. Compared to the national figure, the College is in a good place. Work has been undertaken on students arriving late to school with the most improved increase for Year 7 students. A close eye will be kept on the Year 9 group where not as much improvement was seen.

Behaviour

There have been 4 permanent exclusions this year and 47 suspensions to date. Patterns are emerging between girls and boys, their use of social media and gaming and the reasons for suspensions. Additional support has been put into the Client Services team, which includes another attendance officer and an SEMH specialist.

An updated pastoral support plan has been created with clear escalation lines for students not attending lessons.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is in a good place; the content of the scorecard will be reviewed next year and a scrutiny panel meeting will be held early in the new academic year.

Teaching

There are very few issues with all teachers having had at least one observation during the year.

9. Policies

The priorities for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy were shared with governors and approved.

10. A.O.B.

A new Designated Special Provision Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the College and the local authority had been updated to reflect an increase in the number of DSP places from 25 to 30. Governors ratified the MOU.

Andrew Holt congratulated all staff for completing another successful year.