



MINUTES OF THE LGB CATMOSE COLLEGE MEETING

Thursday 5 December 2024, 4pm
The Gallery

PRESENT

Andrew Cross, Emma Gautrey (Vice Chair), Thomas Heath, Andrew Holt (Chair), Gary Marsh, Alex Mould, Clive Norgaard Morton, Peter Onslow, Briege Slattery, Stuart Williams (Principal).

IN ATTENDANCE

Alex Emmerson (Vice Principal), Claire Pugh (Vice Principal), Alice Beckwith (Vice Principal), Chris Wilson (Chief Finance Officer), Cath Thomas (Client Services Advisor), 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 Rosemary Dodson.

2. Declarations of Personal Interest and Pecuniary Interest

There were none declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 October 2024.

These were signed as a true and accurate record. Minutes from the Safeguarding Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday 7 November 2024 were also signed to be a true and accurate record along with notes taken from the governors' day on the same date.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. Governance Professional

The Declaration of Interests Guidance form and Register of Business Interests form was distributed to governors to complete for this academic year.

6. Peer Mentors

Cath Thomas from the Client Services team and a group of students were welcomed to the meeting to talk about their roles as peer mentors. The group has been running for 3 years and students from Key Stage 4 are given the opportunity to apply to become a peer mentor and undertake training. There are now over 42 trained mentors, the group meets each week and some students work on a one-to-one basis, whilst others work in small groups. Students are also able to use this work for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteering section. Mentors are seen as positive role models and they talk with younger students about anything in College that may be a concern.

At the end of the term, tutors are asked if they would like to refer any of their tutees to the programme, students can also self-refer, students are then allocated to the most appropriate mentor.

Question: What is the most common issue for students?

Students replied that it is nervousness to explore what is going on in College and having the confidence to try new things, sometimes they also need help with prep. Mentors use a range of questioning techniques and playing cards to open up conversations. Their training has covered open and closed questions.

Question: What have you gained from being a mentor?

Students recognised that the training has helped them to start conversations with anyone more easily, it had also improved their confidence with using different types of language skills.

Question: How do you measure success of the programme?

The high number of students involved in the scheme is positive, either as mentors or mentees.

Mrs Thomas and the students were thanked for their presentation and governors were extremely complimentary about the scheme and the positive impact this is having on students in the College.

7. Principal's Update

Stuart Williams reported that the GCSE results for 2024 had recently been published: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/136530/catmose-college/secondary> The College had received a progress 8 score of 0.5 which is classed as well above average, with Free School Meals children also achieving above average. These are a commendable set of results.

The College has experienced a busy but rewarding term, which began with a visit from Bryony Page, (gymnast) and an Olympic gold medallist. (The visit was in conjunction with Oakham School, Catmose Primary and Harington School). Presentation Evening was another superb event with well prepared and thought-provoking speeches from teachers. The College held the annual Act of Remembrance service with students playing The Last Post, the Reveille, and one student singing the White Cliffs of Dover. Students were encouraged to wear their cadet, scout, or guide uniforms to College for the day. Trips during the term included welcoming German Exchange students and the Sicily residential.

What3words

Over the course of the term staff were encouraged to think about what 3 words would help to reinforce ethos and expectations. The finalised words were:

- Prepare
 - to be punctual
 - with the right equipment
 - by completing prep

- Respect
 - Yourself
 - Others
 - Property

- Contribute
 - during a lesson
 - by joining a team
 - by taking a part in a play
 - to your team on an expedition

The words will be used when having restorative conversations with students about conduct to support them to correct their behaviour. The Behaviour Policy will be updated to reflect these changes, which governors were in support of.

Admissions Scorecard

Applications for Year 7 September 2025 (first preference) totalled 271. The in-year admissions applications tend to be from students who are at local secondary schools or, have previously been home educated.

8. Update from Resources

- Approximately 75% of income is spent on staffing.
- The finance team have been working on changing the nominal codes in line with the Department for Education's codes.
- The Trust is aiming for the budget to be balanced, which is currently on track, but need to work through staff pay awards and keep a close eye on aspects such as catering and busing costs.
- The next meeting will give a clearer picture but reassuring so far.

9. Scorecards

Attendance

- Attendance at 95.3% is strong vs National and this is an improvement on last year.
- Gender gap very small.
- FSM low.
- Highest in Year 7, lowest in Year 11, perhaps indicating a positive trend going forward.
- Small number of persistent non-attenders distort an overall very strong picture.

Behaviour Scorecard

98% of students have fewer than 5 behaviour entries. Approximately 800 students were awarded a small bag of sweets for being noticed as 'zero for heroes'. Governors noted on the scorecard that racial incidents seemed high, at the next meeting this will be explored in further detail.

Outcomes Year 8 and Year 10

Attainment for these year groups is as expected at this point in the academic year. FSM student attainment remains low; however, this is expected to rise.

10. Safeguarding Update

Overall numbers remain too small (<10) to draw any conclusions without naming children. There had been an increase in child protection cases. The local authority have reinstated the Mapping Exercise to ensure contextual issues within the community are mapped across agencies, for example, county lines/drugs, concerns in relation to young people and the travelling community, and anti-social behaviour in the community.

A safeguarding scrutiny panel was held on Thursday 7 November where governors discussed topics such as inter-agency collaboration and wider contextual safeguarding and how this is delivered to students through assemblies and newsletters.

Emma Gautrey, the named safeguarding governor visited the College and went through the safeguarding compliance checklist. It was confirmed that safeguarding in the College remains effective. Governors were given access to the full report and minutes from the scrutiny panel.

11. Policies

The below policies were shared with governors prior to the meeting with details of the amends. These were ratified.

- Admissions Policy 2026
- PSHE and Relationships and Sex Education
- Curriculum
- More Able
- Assessment and Reporting

12. A.O.B

The Federation Transformation Plan had been ratified by trustees and was also shared with College governors which reflects the work undertaken by the support teams, e.g. finance, admin, catering, IT and HR. A summary of the targets for the academic year 2024-2025 has also been added to the governors' portal. <https://www.rutlandfederation.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/RDSF-TP-2024-2025.pdf>

Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday 6 February 2025, 4pm
- Christmas Concert – Wednesday 18 December 2024, 6.30pm, All Saints' Church, Oakham