



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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25/09/2024

Minutes

Learning, Standards & Safeguarding Committee Autumn 2024 Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 9.30am at central office/hybrid

1. Welcome and Apologies/Trust Identity Reminder

Present: Margaret Savage, Gill Shippesides, Graeme Barriball, Will Hermon, Claire Paul

Present on line: Steve Tavener

In Attendance: Jo Callow (Ex Officio), Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

The Directors reviewed the trust identity slides. MS noted the word 'dignity' is repeated throughout and the significance of this word. The committee discussed this.

2. Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests relevant to this Agenda

None declared.

3. Governance Code of Conduct

Directors present signed the register agreeing to abide by Code of Conduct (the newly reviewed Code of Conduct 2024).

4. Elect Committee Chair

This is to be done every 2 years and was last done in 2022. MS agreed to continue being the Chair. All committee members voted for MS to be Chair for the next 2 years.

5. Confirm minutes of previous LSS Spring (7th February 2024) and matters arising

Discuss survey feedback (parental, staff & pupil) for new schools (WH) – *see item 11*.

There were no confidential minutes. Committee agreed the minutes and the Chair signed a copy. **An update was requested for PAN figures for next year.** WH explained that there has been some adjustment in a positive direction but the figures have yet to be confirmed. Intake numbers this year are lower nationally.

6. Confidential Agenda Items

No matters.

7. Transfer Matters

Nothing relevant for this committee.

All items below are responsibility of this committee and can be discussed by exception

8. Data

Data provided to the committee. The new ISDR will have no progress data, it will only contain achievement data. However, no data is published if the cohort is less than 10; so some of our

schools will have very little published about them. This will be for the next year or two. The Trust has internal progress data for our use but Ofsted cannot use this data, so the only data available to them is limited to attainment data. **This can have a downside though, as a pupil may make good progress for them but still not achieve the desired attainment, and this will not be reflected.** This was discussed in more detail. PPG funding and data were discussed. It was noted that EYFS PPG numbers are much lower than historically as not every pupil is likely to be identified yet. It was noted that PPG children and sometimes also SEND, possibly on EHCP. SC, WHA, SSCA & PT figures are good, Cal needs improvement but may be due to additional needs. The remaining schools have no children registered currently. Year 1 phonics data is generally positive. KS1 data looks ok given that the numbers of children in some school means it is statistically unreliable data and if we remove SEND data, the figures would be improved. Most of the KS2 results are based on single pupils so statistically unreliable, less for Cal, WHA and SSCA. WHA is a concern and this is being investigated and addressed. SSCA show strong results. **It seems strange for Cal that the GPS figures are lower than reading?** WH noted that this is being looked at to ascertain reasons for this. **If we can't have statistically reliable progress and attainment data for the smaller schools, how do we as a trust board ensure that the provision is working for the pupils in small schools?** It was noted that the trust improvement team look at this, exceptions reports can be considered and the progress data can be scrutinised. WH noted a number of other areas such as evidence, books and external reports. **We need to be sure that the direction of travel for the children in these small schools is positive.** WH explained the process and the committee discussed in detail. **Do we have a robust tracking system in place?** This was discussed.

Action: Although data is included on the LGB agenda, it is stipulated that this term, they specifically look at the PPG figures in detail in the smaller cohort – not just saying that the numbers are statistically small but seeking reassurance that the individual children are making progress so they are not lost in the 'figures' (TM will liaise with Chairs & AC, WH will discuss with Chairs at their one on one meeting)

9. Improvement

WH explained the plans briefly and the Chair reiterated that there is a trust plan for the board to monitor, and the schools plans are monitored by the LGBs. The process is consistent across the trust but WH did note that the AIPs and trust improvement plan are still quite long as it is difficult to summarise and still be meaningful. Data has been removed as Ofsted do not look at this. WH explained the funding allocated for the improvement plans. The committee were content with the plan and noted that it is very comprehensive. **Have we drawn down on TCAF funding yet?** We can draw on it half-way through and at the end, the first claim has been submitted.

Noting the action point in St Stephens Ofsted and the comments about Lewannick's and Boyton's curriculum in the LSS minutes 8th May 2024 point 5 (Transfer matters), with regard to the Trust SEF Summary - are we confident that the RAG rating for curriculum is a secure green? SSCA had some observations in the areas of art and RE; but overall it was good. Lewannick and Boyton have made much headway in the curriculum provision and there is now confidence that the curriculums are closer to being ofsted ready; both schools are now tipping into good which is a great improvement from when they joined the trust. JC updated on the school improvement officer reports at the end of last term. It was noted that the government have announced that the national curriculum will be reviewed later this year.

Trust Improvement Plan page 17 Point 2A - should column 3 include a more comprehensive set of actions eg actions to strengthen School Improvement Team and Trust Subject Leaders (who are listed in column one, but no "achieving capacity" actions included in column 3)? As an example, what about accredited training? JC demonstrated evidence of this training and work

but it hasn't all been included in detail in the actual improvement plan for fear of it being too lengthy.

WH updated on the Ninety Day Plan and the committee were content with this.

The Chair noted that despite the improvement plan being lengthy, it was very clear and targeted, and very clear on what needs to be done. The committee was content with the draft.

GB left the meeting due to work commitments.

10. Curriculum & Learning

a. **MAT Vision & Ethos (including Christian ethos)**

WH updated the committee on the new vision boards that will go up in each school.

Governance in a Christian Manner document was highlighted and analysed by the foundation director, including the lived experience in the schools and the 6 Ms. It was agreed that this is a useful document and useful for reflection. The committee discussed the Flourishing Schools Programme and WH highlighted some of the detail across the trust and the schools.

b. **MAT EYFS Statutory Framework (including policies & procedures)**

No changes.

c. **Visible Learning**

Continuing and working well.

d. **Christian character and distinctiveness/RE & Collective Worship Compliance**

Discussed at 10a.

11. Parents, Pupils & Staff

a. **Discuss survey feedback (parental, staff & pupil) for new schools**

The new schools survey is now out of date as it is from when they were Duchy Trust schools, so we need to do another survey later to see where we are at once the schools have bedded into the trust; perhaps December time? No issues reported from our original schools. **When the external school improvement review was done, MS noted that more feedback needs to be obtained going forward.** This was discussed but not considered to be an issue and feedback is obtained across the board regularly.

b. **Discipline, Exclusions & Behaviour**

Discipline and behaviour no issues and reported positively by Ofsted. Exclusions low and for good reason only. This was discussed by the committee. **What happens with mobile phones?** In our schools, children hand them in and don't have access during the school day.

c. **MAT Pupil attendance**

It was noted that the number of unauthorised absence days has halved to 10. There was some discussion about whether the processes are actually going to improve attendance.

d. **MAT Best Endeavours**

Nothing to report.

e. **MAT Best Endeavours**

Nothing to report.

12. Learning Related Staff CPD/Training/Qualifications

WH updated the committee on ongoing training. JP has almost completed his executive head training. JC continues with the CEO training and has visited various trusts to learn from their processes. **What is the main thing you have learned about leadership?** JC discussed this. The committee discussed the employment of teachers going forward and changes that may come in future.

13. Safeguarding

a. Latest KCSiE and re-assurance that it is being applied across the MAT

Short update received. Not major changes, just a few minor ones this year but there may be some more changes next year following a review. The committee confirmed they have seen these changes. CP noted the ongoing staff training. It was noted that safeguarding on all Ofsted reports has been reported as Good. Even on the RI schools that have joined the trust, the safeguarding section on previous Ofsted was good. **The committee sought reassurance that all safeguarding systems are in place and if there was a reportable incident, what is the mechanism of this committee being informed?** The processes were discussed.

b. Safeguarding guidance and policy changes (dependent on when LA policy is issued)

Updated policy from CAPH which will be approved and distributed across the trust.

c. MAT Single Central Record compliance

In order, nothing further to report.

14. Safety

Food allergy incident on residential visit - it is certainly reassuring that the HSE did not find negligence or failure. It is also very reassuring that the child has made a full recovery. Are all our policies and processes in place and robust? Do our staff feel that we provide sufficient training to help them prevent and deal with matters such as these? This was discussed in detail and the committee was content that controls are robust. Staff are appropriately trained and briefed.

There are a number of other safety issues which are concerning in the exceptions report: consideration of electrical heaters as a short-term solution to a boiler; drains; fencing; kitchen flooring; stone chippings. Acknowledging the lack of resources and the necessary prioritisation set out in the report, what is the CIF situation will be resolved and if there are any other resources we can access to help get work done? WH explained some detail behind some of the work and what might end up being a CIF bid. It was noted that there are lots of 'little bits and pieces' that will need doing, with little funding but they don't really qualify for a CIF bid either. The main safety issues will be the focus. A summary is:

- Lew Trenchard boiler – CIF bid will be placed, expected result easter 2025.
- Lew Trenchard drains – monitor, if required remove asbestos tiles for further investigation & action.
- Callington fencing – via CIF bid.
- Lewannick kitchen flooring – option of flooring only or refurbishment of kitchen.
- Callington stone chippings – replace with bark chippings.

It was noted that CIF bids will not be considered unless the situation is dire. Also the bids are now expected to have designs and tenders which usually cost thousands before the bid is submitted.

WH highlighted the health and safety related training ongoing this year.

15. Compliance

a. Cyber Security

WH updated on this matter; all schools have processes in place and new schools are being brought online. Training completed by new staff.

b. GDPR

No issues to report. Annual training is completed by staff, next due in Spring term. However, the type of training will be looked at going forward by CP to make it efficient.

c. Website Compliance of MAT schools

NS completes reviews on rotation around the schools and new DfE direction now needs to be followed.

16. Policy Review

a. Allegations of Abuse made against staff (WH) – minor changes, approved.

b. Child Protection & Safeguarding (CP) – changes noted, approved.

c. PPG (LH) – no changes, approved.

d. Feedback (WH) – no changes, approved.

e. Child on Child Abuse (CP) – changes noted, approved.

17. AOB

The letter from the Secretary of State for Education was received from the committee.

18. DONM

Date of next meeting will be Weds 26th February 2025 (*after the admissions determination*)

Meeting closed at 11.40

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

W. Hermon – CEO Director M. Savage – Director (Chair) C. Paul – Director (Committee Vice) S. Tavener – Director (Board Chair)	G. Barriball – Director G. Shippides - Director J. Callow – Ex-Officio
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