

# Priestley College - Curriculum and Standards Committee

## Minutes of the Meeting Held on 23.6.2016

**Present:** Bev Scott-Herron (Chair), Dr. Mike Hartill, Kath Hope, Liam Horrigan, Yousuf Shaikh, George Contos

**Apologies:** Holly Roach, Kelly Simcock

**Absent without Apologies:** Ben Jackson-Spruce

**In Attendance:** Andrea Marron (part), Fran Evans, Richard Chapman

### Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone, particularly Andrea Marron and Fran Evans, who were due to present items in the meeting, and Richard Chapman, who will take over as equality and diversity lead upon Andrea Marron's retirement.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of personal or pecuniary interest in the matters to be discussed were made.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28.4.2016 were **agreed** as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### Matters Arising

None.

### Single Equality Scheme

Mrs. Marron presented the Single Equality Scheme, which had been updated since the last meeting, including the reporting on social deprivation. There is currently no regional comparison data for free school meals available. She informed governors that the equality objectives will be reviewed further in the new academic year. Mr. Chapman will take the lead in this undertaking.

**Governors** commended the quality of the document and **asked** how the Single Equality Scheme will be shared with staff and stakeholders. Mrs. Marron answered that staff will be consulted when developing the new equality objectives, that the scheme will be submitted to governors for review and scrutiny, and that it will be published on the website.

Governors **adopted** the Single Equality scheme, pending a review of the equality objectives in the autumn term.

*Andrea Marron and Richard Chapman left the meeting at 4.38 pm.*

### Safeguarding Policy

Fran Evans had reviewed the Safeguarding Policy in the light of the Keeping Children Safe in

Education 2016 guidance document and made reference to the following points and changes she had made in response to the latest guidance: -

- Reference to the Safeguarding Manager has been replaced with reference to the Designated Senior Lead (DSL).
- The governors with special responsibility for safeguarding are George Hill and John Monaghan.
- Staff are trained in safeguarding annually.
- A mandatory duty for all individuals to report female genital mutilation has been introduced.

**Governors asked** the following questions: -

- Do the named governors attend regular briefings? - Answer: Mr. Hill did last year.
- How involved are the governors in safeguarding? - Answer: They do not attend regular meetings at the moment, but Mr. Monaghan was closely involved in dealing with a safeguarding incident last year.
- Is the latest guidance reflected in the policy? - Answer: It will be updated further if necessary.
- What are the safeguarding responsibilities for the governing board? - Answer: The governing board is represented by Mr. Hill and Mr. Monaghan in relation to its safeguarding duties; in addition, governors have received Prevent training.
- Is Priestley represented on the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board? - Answer: Yes, Fran Evans and her deputy attend the board.

Governors **adopted** the Safeguarding Policy, also taking account the information received in the meeting.

## **Safeguarding Report**

Governors noted the Safeguarding report with thanks. Fran Evans highlighted the following points: -

- In line with national priorities, the college promotes the Prevent duty and has shown the Run, Hide and Tell video to staff and students. Staff have been encouraged to complete Channel training, and WRAP training sessions for all staff have been held, led by Nigel Lunt. The college recognises the importance of these activities and promotes them, whilst being careful not to displace other safeguarding activities.
- British values have been looked at in-depth, also building on work done previously under the banner of active citizenship, and work is in progress to embed them further throughout the curriculum.
- Staff have been trained in recognising and responding to cases of female genital mutilation.
- There has been one incident of hate crime. The college only became aware of it when the affected student made a disclosure. The key in cases like this is to establish and maintain a dialogue.

- The college is buying into Rufus, the drug sniffer dog. The police come on-site with the dog periodically and also talk to students. The subscription to this service will continue into the next academic year.
- There has not been a significant rise in referrals to the safeguarding team or social care.
- One student is working with the Youth Offending Team.
- The college is working to support Children in Care, especially to ensure good progress.
- Housing continues to be an issue for some students, but there are only limited resources and capacity to resolve the issue; this particularly applies to space at The Verve.
- There has been a slight decrease in bullying and harassment. The college seeks to tackle such incidents and encourages reporting.
- A case of sexting for blackmail purposes was directly addressed and resolved. Generally, sexting appears to take place a lot but remains largely unreported.
- The college is exploring the deployment of filtering software to monitor the use of particular defined internet searches and staff or students accessing certain material. If necessary, training and intervention needs can be identified by this route and implemented accordingly.
- The college will introduce ID badges for all students. These badges will need to be worn at all times. They will give differentiated access to certain parts of the college and will be colour-coded for year groups to ease recognition of old and invalid passes.
- Two members of staff have been trained to administer exam concessions.

**Governors asked** the following questions: -

- Are there any instances of bullying or harassment related to LGBT? - Answer: There are no cases related to LGBT. The college is working to raise awareness and is also considering the introduction of an open blog.
- Should the case of sexting be classed as sexual abuse? - Answer: It appeared to be more akin to revenge porn.
- Is the introduction of filtering software a response to incidents in the college? - Answer: No, but it is regarded good practice.
- How is the introduction of filtering software communicated to students? - Answer: They will be informed.
- How will the college avoid falling for hoaxes when using the filtering software? - Answer: It will review the frequency and nature of incidents when determining its response.
- Has the introduction of ID badges been discussed with the students? - Answer: Yes, it has been discussed with the student council, and many students have actually requested them. The police also recommends their introduction.

*Fran Evans left the meeting at 5.15 pm.*

## **College Improvement Plan**

Governors noted the latest updated version of the College Improvement Plan. Mr. Contos introduced the document, highlighting the following points: -

- Retention at AS level is 2% higher than at the same time last year, but has dropped slightly since April.
- The curriculum areas are conducting self-assessments with a view to integration of British values and employability. If necessary, specific plans will be introduced next year.
- 85 observations have been undertaken.
- Steve Nixon has been promoted to Head of Maths. He is leading a core maths project.
- Staff and students have received training at Carmel College to support exam preparation and resilience. **Governors asked** if the college works with the Kooth service to promote mental health by giving students access to this confidential service, which pupils in other schools find useful.

**Action 1:** *Investigate subscription to the Kooth service.*

- Transition work takes place in co-operation with Bridgewater and Penketh High Schools.
- Attendance has improved since Period 4; work to promote it continues.
- ILT training will take place in the coming week.
- A mock EU referendum and debate was held as part of the work to promote British values. In response to a **governor question** about the outcome, Mr. Contos clarified that 62% backed Remain before the date. Following the debate, there was still a majority in favour of remain, albeit with more students in favour of Leave or feeling unsure how to vote.
- WRAP training has been completed for staff.
- Seven out of 10 curriculum areas that had been identified to improve their retention rates, have actually managed to do so.
- Retention on Level 3 extended project courses has fallen since last year.
- Retention rates are similar for male and female students.

**Governors asked** the following questions about British values: -

- Do students understand what British values are? - Answer: They appear to.
- Do they cover all subjects? - Answer: They are currently delivered in those subjects that serve as pilot subjects, as well as in all pastoral activities. Work is under way to roll British values out across the curriculum.
- What are students' views about the introduction of British values in the curriculum?

**Action 2:** *Put students' views about the introduction of British values in the curriculum on the agenda of the next meeting.*

## Retention and Attendance

Governors noted a detailed breakdown of attendance and retention figures by student group, as tabled by Mr. Contos. Mr. Contos highlighted the following points: -

- Overall retention has increased since last year, especially at AS level, whereas retention at A2 has decreased.
- There is very little gender difference.
- Retention of students eligible for free school meals and students with bursaries has increased, and the gap is closing.

- Attendance has improved since Period 4, as a result of measures to boost it. It is standing at 89.32% now. Attendance is expected to rise above 90% in due course; figures look even higher when taking out enrichment activities.

## Recruitment Update

The number of applications and acceptances has increased further since the last meeting and stands at 2013 levels again.

**Governors asked** the following questions: -

- What are reasons for the improved recruitment figures? - Answer: The open evenings have been held earlier, also following a different format with more prominence given to student speakers and more dialogue with parents. There has also been more advertising, with increased use of social media.
- Have surveys been held after the open evenings? - Answer: This will need to be established.
- Has the number applications from Future Tech increased or decreased? - Answer: They have increased significantly.

**Action 3:** Establish if parent surveys have been held after the open evenings and what they indicate.

**Action 4:** Email application figures from Future Tech to governors.

## Any Other Business

None.

## Date and Time of the Next Meeting

13.10.2016, 4.30 pm.

*The meeting was closed at 5.50 pm.*

## Action Log – June 2016

No.	Description	Responsible
1	<i>Investigate subscription to the Kooth service.</i>	Mr. Contos
2	<i>Put students' views about the introduction of British values in the curriculum on the agenda of the next meeting.</i>	Dr. Kressel
3	<i>Establish if parent surveys have been held after the open evenings and what they indicate.</i>	Mr. Contos
4	<i>Email application figures from Future Tech to governors.</i>	Mr. Contos