

Meeting notes

<p>In attendance</p> <p>Sarah Nicholson – Hardwicke David Jennings – St John’s Tony Mason – Winchcombe Ian Wills – Whiteshill Bob Lloyd-Smith – St James Keith Withers – Lakefield David Minns – North Cerney John Coles - Clearwater Jackie Hall – Field Court Infants Stephen Draper – Minchinhampton Rachel Howie – CEO</p> <p><i>Red text denotes an action point</i></p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Charlotte Rawlings – Coaley Susan Holmes – St Lawrence Anna Hay – Winchcombe (<i>Tony Mason attending as representative</i>) Jo Grills – Clearwater (<i>John Coles attending as representative</i>) Mark Catt – Minchinhampton (<i>Stephen Draper attending as representative</i>) Neil Grecian (<i>Ofsted are at Dursley</i>)</p>
<p>I. DGAT central updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WE are DGAT – RH noted that she is currently visiting each governing body and one of the key messages that is being relayed is that, as 15 schools collectively, we are DGAT. The central team based at College Green is part of DGAT too. Some of the language used around the Trust seems to indicate that DGAT is an entity separate from each school. RH encouraged governors to support the message of one entity/family within their schools. - St Matthews CoFE Primary School has been judged to require Special Measures and is likely to be sponsored by the Trust in September 2019 - The Trust Board have not agreed to Newnham St Peters CofE Primary joining the Trust due to lack of central capacity. - RSC governance review – the DfE have decided not to conduct a governance review across the Trust and have agreed for Bibury CofE Primary School to join the Trust on 1 February 2019. - Clearwater CofE Primary – planning permission for the permanent build has now been granted following the Public Inquiry. The school will move to a new temporary location in September 2019 and then to the permanent building in September 2020 - Catering contract – the 11 schools who gave notice to the LA regarding their current catering contract have responded to the revised offer and central team are meeting with the LA on Thursday to discuss this. More detail will following this meeting. - Headteacher coaching and mentoring update – As part of the leadership course that HTs are receiving a 360 feedback activity is being undertaken. This is for HTs personal development only. HT have opted for either their CofG or Helen Springett to provide the feedback. - Finance officer (FO) visits – these are happening monthly and a note of visit is produced by the (FO). In response to requests <i>RH will add the CofG to the circulation list.</i> - Central staff restructure – <i>RH will circulate the structure and responsibilities in due course.</i> - Half termly newsletter – this will replace the monthly bulletin that has, thus far, gone to HT and SBMs. All staff and governors will receive a copy. - PS Assets – this software has been purchased centrally. It is a cloud based management information system for premises compliance and scheduling. It is being configured centrally and will be rolled out to school later this term - School Condition Allocation (previously CIF) – the amount of funding that will be received by the Trust will be released by the DfE in early Spring. Condition surveys have been commissioned and 	

are currently being undertaken in each school. Once complete a dashboard of priorities will be provided as an overview of the full estate. The prioritization of the spend will be based on this. In response to a request *RH will identify if and how CofG could have access to the dash board*. After discussion the meeting asked Trustees to consider carefully the condition of each building and the risk it poses. It was suggested that a condition survey be completed on any school wanting to join the Trust as part of the due diligence process. *RH to feed this back at the next Trust Board meeting. RH was asked to relay to the Board disappointment that there were no Trustees present at the meeting.*

- All staff have received a purple DGAT staff lanyard as a small way of developing a sense of together we are DGAT. *RH will source these for governors.*
- Wellbeing surveys – each schools has now received their survey results. They provide a snapshot of how staff are feeling. Some HTs were disappointed with the response rate and would like to rerun the survey. The Trust overall collated information will be sent out as soon as it is ready – this will provide a benchmark. National context should also be considered with regard to levels of stress and workload.

Trust board update

Questions/comments arising from the circulated Trust Board papers

- it was felt generally that the papers were helpful
- concern was raised that not all governing bodies yet have a Pupil Premium governor when PP is such a focus
- concern was raised about the decision made not to have a CofG on the Board. Some confusion was expressed about why there are governing body members on the board but a chair is not permitted. *Clarification will be sought.*

Schools Funding - this item was requested and led by KW

KW outlined the historic and current low funding in Gloucestershire and the importance of DGAT corporately and individual schools lobbying locally and nationally and also responding to consultations. It was agreed that *RH will keep CofG informed of School Forum updates.*

It was agreed to *have a regular finance item on the this meeting's agenda.*

It was suggested that when an academy governor representative position becomes vacant on the Forum that any interested DGAT governor could nominate themselves.

KW outlined some suggestions for the Board to consider – for example forward financial planning and modelling, central procurement, greater CofG involvement in strategic financial planning for the Trust. RH identified that the Board undertake strategic financial planning. In terms of central procurement this has not proved particularly easy as schools in the Trust are not always keen to leave their individual suppliers. It was agreed that more discussion around these and similar issues in this forum would be welcomed. Views could then be shared with the Board. RH reminded the group that the Trust Board is the decision making group for the Trust.

A question was raised by DJ regarding pensions. He queried the impact going forward of the increased contribution rate going forward – *this will be reported on at the next meeting.*

The New SIAMS schedule

A proforma was distributed to support governing bodies in identifying how the school vision impacts on decision making and the design of the curriculum (attached for those unable to attend). The school vision is central to the new SIAMS schedule.

Scheme of delegation

This is now finalised and RH will contact CofG individually with their scheme.

DGAT vision work

We are awaiting a date from Andy Wolfe for Day 2 of the visioning work.

AOB

None

Dates

Next Forum meeting – 30 April