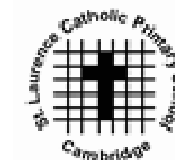


Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Meeting Date & Time: Thursday 27 September 2018, 3.45 pm – 6 pm

Attendance & Apologies:								
Foundation Governors:			Parent Governors:			Staff Governor:		
Mary Jane O'Sullivan (Chair)	MJOS	P	Monica McDonald	MM	P	Phyllis Maynard	PM	P
Claire Southgate (Vice Chair)	CS	P	vacancy					
Harry Roberts	HR	Ap				Clare Clark (Headteacher)	CC	P
Janet Scally	JS	P	Local Authority Governor:					
Terry Taylor-Crush	TTC	P	Sonali Kumarakulasinghe	SK	P	Associate Members:		
Chioma Ubajaka	CU	P				Lizzy Bennett (Deputy Head)	LB	P
Dr Charlotte Woodford	CW	P	Co-opted Governor:			Veronica Harvey (Deputy Head)	VH	P
vacancy			Shauna DeWolf	SdW	Ap	Rebecca Imhagwe	RI	A

(key: P = present, Ap = apologies received and accepted, ApN = apologies received but not accepted, A = absent)

In Attendance: Mark Dowling (Clerk), Father Simon Blakesley (Parish Priest). Additionally, for Item3: Julie O'Connor (Director of Schools Service, Diocese of East Anglia), Teresa Selvey (CEO, Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT), John Tuttle (Chair of the Board of Directors, Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT)

	Notes	Actions/Dates/ Person responsible
0	Governors met school staff before the meeting. Fr Simon Blakesley was welcomed in an observing capacity as the new parish priest and led an opening prayer. All Governors and Associate members present completed the annual declaration of other Governorships and pecuniary interests	
1.	Pecuniary interests and declaration of interests relating to items on this agenda None, though it was explained that because of his membership of the OLWMAT Board of Directors Fr Blakesley declared a potential conflict of interest and would withdraw before Item 12.	

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2.	<p>Reminder of key school improvement priorities for 2018/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to raise standards in all curriculum areas to improve end of year outcomes for all children • Narrow gaps in attainment and progress for identified vulnerable groups (Pupil Premium and SEND) • Support high levels of attainment in writing, including presentation 	
3.	<p>Discussion of the plan to join Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT with representatives of the Diocese and OLWMAT</p> <p>The following points were made by the Directors or raised in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MAT was founded on primary education, not a top-down approach from secondary level. • The model of leadership was one of servant leadership, with everyone's priority being the children. • The addition of three or four schools a year to the MAT (which currently had three schools) was felt to be manageable; if the progress towards the intended total of 11 schools were slower, there would be too much of a rush at the end. • Teaching and Learning Networks within the MAT had already started to be set up. • An induction pack for joining schools existed in draft. • The long-term leadership structure of the MAT envisaged its including three clusters of primary schools, each with an Executive Head reporting to the CEO of the MAT. Both secondary schools would retain a substantive headteacher. • It would, however, take a long time to reach the final staffing structure, as there was no intention to lose the leadership experience that the schools already had through redundancies or restructuring of roles within schools. • The structure of mutual support would be uniquely and definitely Catholic, unlike that provided by a traditional Local Education Authority. <p>Governors asked for clarification on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial implications of the modelling figures provided by Teresa Selvey in advance • Whether the school's contribution to central MAT costs would always be 5% of its funding • Whether the liability for pensions would change with the transition to academy status • Whether the savings in back-office staff shown in the financial modelling perhaps entailed some double counting with savings shown elsewhere on functions to be assumed by the Trust (e.g. in the area of facilities management) but currently provided in-house by St Laurence office staff 	

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- Whether a school's financial surplus was still owned by that school when it entered the MAT
- Whether it would still be acceptable for an individual school to initiate measures in furtherance of school improvement
- The current financial position of the MAT

The following further points were made by the MAT Directors:

- The MAT would be as lean as possible at the centre so that money available really did go on the children. It was envisaged that schools' 5% contribution to central MAT costs would either remain at 5% or, if agreed, increased slightly in return for an increase in services provided by the MAT.
- It was intended to develop 'trades' among non-teaching staff, e.g. the size of the MAT would make it feasible to have a full-time electrician or a plasterer so that these services would not have to be bought in and the aim of developing all staff would be fulfilled.
- The MAT was currently in quite a strong financial position.
- The MAT would assume liability for the pensions debt, but would not have any duty to attend to the deficit by paying more into the pot.
- Two of the MAT's existing Directors brought extensive experience of finance and human resources, partly from significant roles in the NHS.
- There would be no redundancies: staff savings would be achieved in due course by natural wastage.
- Any financial surplus that a school had when it entered the MAT would initially still belong to it but would be held centrally. Once within the MAT individual schools might be asked to contribute to others' needs from any individual reserve fund. It was not thought desirable for schools to accumulate large surpluses, since funds available should be used for the benefit of the pupils currently in the school.
- The MAT hoped that the great St Laurence school leaders would be able to do some work across the Trust as some schools might need it.
- There would not be a common uniform across the MAT, nor a common school timetable.
- The Diocese valued the individuality of its schools, which were very different from one another.
- The MAT was adopting PiXL as a system to track children's progress, and the gap analysis it provided would be used as a tool across the MAT.
- It was up to each local [individual school] governing body to decide whether to have committees of Governors.
- The Diocesan Director of Education explained that a recent change in the administration of the LCVAP scheme, whereby funding would be allocated to the Diocese rather than the region, meant that the Diocese could feel more confident that St Laurence could obtain some additional capital funding in 2018-19, though probably not enough to complete the work to provide a group room unless it also received

	funding in 2019-20. This would require St Laurence still to be a voluntary aided school at the start of that school year. In order to be eligible for that funding it was unlikely that school would now consider joining the MAT until after January 2020 at the earliest.	
4.	The minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting held on 12 July 2018 were approved.	
5.	Significant matters arising from minutes of previous meeting None	
6.	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p>The Headteacher reported orally, referring to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of standards 2017/18, including the excellent results for attainment and progress in Year 6 ,great improvements in Year 2 and the narrowing of the gap in Pupil Premium results for Year 6 • Draft attainment and progress targets & predictions for 2018/19, some of which were ambitious (but this year on the initiative of the teachers rather than the Advisor). If achieved, these targets would put St. Laurence in the top 5-10% of schools nationally in terms of KS2 results. ➤Governors agreed these targets. • RAP (updated Sep 2018) • School Improvement Plan 2018/19, which had been communicated to all staff and reflected the school's top three priorities as re-stated in Item 2 of this meeting. • The Before and After School wrap around care, which had started on the first day of term, was proving popular with parents and would generate a small regular income for school funds. <p>Fr Blakesley left at this point.</p>	
7.	Chair's Business None	
8.	Safeguarding: Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
9.	Learning & Achievement Committee Report: Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
10.	Finance & Personnel Committee Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
11.	Premises, Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
12.	<p>Confirmation of date for St Laurence Catholic Primary School to join Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust</p> <p>There was some further discussion. Governors concluded that they were not yet able to make a resolution to set a date for St Laurence to join the MAT, and would return to the matter at the next FGB meeting on 11 October.</p>	

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13.	Annual review and adoption of Governing Body Code of Practice Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
14.	Policies Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
15.	Governing Body Membership, Training and Development Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
16.	Standing Orders: To review the Governing Body's standing orders. Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
17.	Other matters proposed by the Local Authority: Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
18.	Parish Report Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
19.	PTA Report Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
20.	Governor Contact List Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
21.	Any Other Business Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
22.	Embedded Risk Management Held over to meeting of 11 October.	
23.	<p>Dates of future meetings: All 4-6pm unless otherwise stated</p> <p>11 October 2018 15 November 2018 24 January 2019 14 March 2019: (The Chair requested prior to the meeting that this date be changed to 21 March 2019; to be decided at meeting of 11 October.) 2 May 2019 11 July 2019 (3.45 pm to receive presentation from School Council; date to be confirmed during Spring Term in view of poor attendance on 12 July 2018)</p>	

Abbreviations:

CEO	Chief Executive Officer	LCVAP	Local Authority Co-ordinated
KIT	Keeping in Touch visit		Voluntary Aided Programme
MAT	Multi-Academy Trust	SEF	Self Evaluation Form,
OLWMAT	Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust	SIP	School Improvement Plan
RAP	Raising Achievement Plan		

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