



**PART ONE MINUTES  
OF STUDENT LEARNING & WELLBEING COMMITTEE  
WHITBY HIGH SCHOOL**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 16:00</b>	
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Room S2, Whitby High School</b>	
<b>Present:</b>	<b>Angela Claydon Bryn Heeley Carole Hibbert Caroline Palmer Helen Chambers Peter Lewis</b>	<b>Co-opted Governor &amp; Committee Chair Headteacher Co-opted Governor Staff Governor Associate Governor Partnership Governor</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Gill Morris</b>	<b>Co-opted Governor</b>
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>In attendance:</b>	<b>Eric Barford Helen Hill Katie Cunliffe Steve Gray</b>	<b>Deputy Headteacher Assistant Headteacher Clerk Deputy Headteacher</b>

<b>AGENDA ITEM 1</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. The apologies of Gill Morris were received.	
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>RESOLVED: that the apologies of the above named Governor be accepted.</b>	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 2</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PERSONAL &amp; PECUNIARY INTEREST</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	No discussion took place.	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 3</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	A Claydon requested that in future, any other business requests are made to the meeting Chair.	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 4</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (7<sup>th</sup> July 2016)</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	Governors reviewed the minutes which were circulated prior to the meeting.	
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>RESOLVED: that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed.</b>	

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b>	
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<b>ITEM 5</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p><u>Item 5: EB to write to Year 10 parents explaining changes October 2016</u> No discussion took place.</p> <p><u>Item 7: Admissions and Leavers to be reviewed by the Student Learning &amp; Wellbeing (SL&amp;W) Committee at the Autumn meeting</u> Agenda item 11</p> <p><u>Item 8: re Children in Care – SG: HH will send out an annual report</u> No discussion took place.</p> <p><u>Item 10: Re School policies, to make agreed amendments to policies then upload to School website</u> No discussion took place.</p> <p><u>Item 12: Ongoing review of Special Educational Needs (SEN), especially categorisation (SG)</u> No discussion took place.</p> <p><u>Item 12: To consider contracting a new site manager to accelerate progress on the new build, and put in succession planning/continuity (BH)</u> No discussion took place.</p>

<b>AGENDA ITEM 6</b>	<b>CONFIRM TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	No objections were raised.

<b>AGENDA ITEM 7</b>	<b>2016 OUTCOMES - REVIEW</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>E Barford presented data circulated prior to the meeting. The main points are summarised below.</p> <p>Governor attention was drawn to English &amp; Maths performance (62%) – this is the best performance the School has ever achieved. There has been a large increase in the number of Pupil Premium (PP) students achieving five A-C grades. The proportion of students achieving English &amp; Maths at grade C or above was 63%, which is again the highest ever achieved. Differences between the performance of PP and non-PP students are in line with or better than the national average. The proportion of students achieving the EBacc was also the highest ever (30%), and was significantly higher than last year.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> H Chambers requested clarification regarding the green and red colour coding. <b>ANSWER:</b> These represent comparisons with last year's performance.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> A Claydon requested confirmation of the number of students, in order to contextualise the percentages provided. <b>ANSWER:</b> This is not currently included within the report, but will be added for circulation - <b>ACTION.</b></p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> H Chambers noted that one English category was showing that no students achieved A*-C grades and requested clarification. <b>ANSWER:</b> That line refers to a specific qualification undertaken by a very small number of students, so the report is correct.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> H Chambers asked whether English Language was the main English subject to</p>

consider.

ANSWER: Yes, English Language and English Literature are the most common English subjects undertaken, alongside smaller subjects such as English as a second language.

The Progress8 figure reported is an estimate based on 2015 figures, as the actual performance cannot be calculated until national figures are released. These national figures were received only yesterday, so E Barford reported verbally that 2016 performance is -0.29. E Barford noted that this was very disappointing for the School, but does mark an improvement on last year. The reason for lower than expected performance appears to be that the progress8 figure relies largely upon students taking certain subjects to fill the EBacc 'buckets'. At Whitby High School, a policy decision was taken not to force students into those subjects, instead prioritising student choice. It appears that the majority of schools nationally have not taken this route. Although discussions with other schools locally suggested that student choice was the priority within this area, this does not appear to be the case nationally.

**QUESTION:** H Chambers asked what the School proposes in response to this.

ANSWER: E Barford confirmed that there are three options, as follows:

1. The School sticks by its existing curriculum despite a poor Progress8 figure.
2. The School moves towards mandating EBacc subjects as a gradual process.
3. The School moves immediately to a mandate in the knowledge that parents and students may choose alternative schools offering greater choice.

A Claydon noted that this is a difficult issue, as it would affect not only students new to choosing pathways, but those already on certain subjects also.

B Heeley confirmed that he has already met with some staff, and will meet again soon, to discuss this matter. An initial action proposed is to delay the taking of options by a month, but consideration is also needed of the current year 10 and 11 students.

B Heeley further noted that in the longer term, if the Progress8 performance continues to fall, the School will be classed as coasting, which will set in motion a set of procedures from Regional Schools Commissioner. These procedures may result in forced academisation. This would be extremely disappointing, as the Progress8 score appears to reflect nothing more than the subjects a student has chosen.

E Barford explained that Progress8 is a competitive figure, by which a school can only achieve well if others do badly – there must be a loser for every winner. The Whitby High School policy decision has placed us within the 'losing' cohort, which appears to undermine the choices available to Headteachers in determining a School approach and its curriculum.

A Claydon proposed that the School leadership team prepare and present a report regarding the options to proceed at the November Committee meeting - **ACTION**.

**QUESTION:** C Hibbert asked if we know what other local schools are doing around this issue.

ANSWER: E Barford confirmed that comparisons would be able to be made, but it may not be most helpful as schools locally appear to have stuck together in being different.

E Barford noted that the Whitby High School is already heading towards an EBacc style curriculum, but the question remains as to whether changes are being made at a quick enough pace.

B Heeley noted that the national average is 2.8 of 3 EBacc buckets filled, so this suggests that almost every able student is filling all three.

H Chambers proposed that, in order to priorities the benefit of students, a slower introduction is preferred, in full acknowledgement of a Progress8 deficit.

A Claydon agreed, but expressed concerns regarding potential forced academisation.

**QUESTION:** H Chambers asked for a likely timescale if this was the consequence.  
**ANSWER:** B Heeley confirmed that it could be as soon as this year. The School would make a case that significant progress is being made, but this may not be a successful mitigation if the decision is made on Progress8 figures alone.

B Heeley expressed a view that if the School moves towards academisation, this should be done under its own control rather than forced.

**QUESTION:** H Chambers asked whether, in reality, every year 10 & 11 student might be moved to subjects they did not choose.  
**ANSWER:** B Heeley confirmed that this is a question to be answered. It would be the Schools preference, if this should happen, to do so while still supporting student choice. It is also important to recognise the impact – mandating increases in some subjects, may make other subjects unsustainable.

A Claydon proposed that this issue remain on the agenda for the next Committee – **ACTION.**

E Barford resumed a presentation of the data, with key points as follows:

AS results were very pleasing, with the majority of subjects showing increased performance on last year.

A2 results were less pleasing, as they have been similarly affected as GCSEs due to changes in performance measures. If a student signs up for year 12 but then leaves to pursue an apprenticeship as a planned and agreed best course of action, this counts against the School as shows as no achievement in year 13.

Value added has increased but not so much as expected, partly due to new methods of measurement. General, A-level results overall are pleasing.

<b>Action:</b>	<b>What:</b> Student numbers to be added to performance data before circulation to Governors	<b>Who:</b> E Barford	<b>By when:</b> Spring 2017
	Senior Leadership Team to prepare and present a presentation for the November Committee meeting, regarding Progress8 response options	BH	November 2016
	Progress8 response to next Committee agenda	Clerk	November 2016

<b>AGENDA ITEM 8</b>	<b>PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS 2016/17</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	Covered above in item 7.	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 9</b>	<b>SEND REPORT TO PARENTS &amp; GOVERNORS 2015/16</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	Part of this discussion was moved to Part 2 of the meeting – please see separate minutes.  E Barford circulated during the meeting an updated Special Educational Needs (SEN) & Disability Policy 2016-17.	

	<p>A Claydon directed Governors to read the updated policy outside of the meeting, and send any questions arising to her – <b>ACTION</b>. A Claydon will formally ratify the policy after that at Committee Chair.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> C Hibbert requested confirmation that all staff names had now been removed.  <b>ANSWER:</b> E Barford confirmed that this is the case; the policy now refers only to staff roles instead.</p>		
<b>Action:</b>	<b>What:</b> Governors to forward questions regarding the new SEN & Disability Policy to the Committee Chair	<b>Who:</b> Governors	<b>By when:</b> November 2016

<b>AGENDA ITEM 10</b>	<b>BEHAVIOUR &amp; ATTENDANCE UPDATE</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>S Gray presented data circulated prior to the meeting. Key points and discussions are summarised below.</p> <p>Attendance (95.1%) shows the School's best ever performance but as always, there is still work to do. Specifically, PP, free school meals eligible, and SEN support attendance still requires attention.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> A Claydon asked whether the School anticipates an increase in students absent due to holidays during term time, in light of the High Court Judgement.  <b>ANSWER:</b> E Barford confirmed that holiday requests are increasing, notably since the local media published the Cheshire West and Chester Council not to impose sanctions.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> P Lewis asked whether there was evidence that the risk of being fined had had an effect.  <b>ANSWER:</b> C Hibbert confirmed that local figures did improve significantly in some schools when this was introduced, which would suggest it was a deterrent for some families.</p> <p>S Gray confirmed that a letter went to all parents during the summer whose children showed lower than 95% attendance last year, except where legitimate circumstances were known of. Some parents raised objections to this, but overall, after a conversation, most were satisfied.</p> <p>S Gray further noted that raising threshold from 90% appears to have had an impact, as the bulk of students, including PP students, are now showing 90-100% attendance. This is a good demonstration of continual improvement within the School.</p> <p>The report regarding student exclusions was moved to part 2 of the meeting – please see separate minutes.</p>	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 11</b>	<b>ADMISSIONS</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>H Hill stated that the Admissions Policy had recently changed, as discussed during the last Committee meeting.</p> <p>B Heeley noted that there had been a number of in-year admissions.  H Hill confirmed that there had been many new starters this September, some with additional needs. A small number of students were also declined, where the School felt that it was not the right move for the student – the Panel supported these decisions.</p> <p>H Hill noted that Whitby High School has an extra step in its procedure whereby they meet the student and their parents, and talk to the previous school, in order to ensure that the</p>	

	<p>Whitby curriculum is suited to them, and whether the move would resolve the issue forming the reason for moving. This takes a bit longer, but the School believes this is the right thing to do.</p> <p>H Chambers noted that this appears to be more in line with an inclusive approach.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> A Claydon asked what facilities are in place for EAL students.  <b>QUESTION:</b> P Lewis asked for clarification of the acronym EAL.  <b>ANSWER:</b> A Claydon confirmed that EAL stands for English as an Additional Language.  <b>ANSWER:</b> H Hill noted that the School has experience of success with EAL students, and have had staff in place who can support communication. However, it is not a common need encountered and so advice is taken from specialist services as required.</p> <p>B Heeley noted that, in many schools, EAL sits within Learning Support, but it must be recognised that it does not reflect a disability.</p> <p>A Claydon agreed that Learning Support relates to a variety of additional needs, not just SEN or disabilities.</p>
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<b>AGENDA ITEM 12</b>	<b>POLICY REVIEW/APPROVAL</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	SEND Policy covered above.	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 13</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p><u>Meeting Schedule</u>  C Palmer raised the issue that this evenings meeting may have clashed with a School open evening, if business was not concluded so quickly.  A Claydon confirmed that the Committee meeting was scheduled before the Open Evening.  B Heeley confirmed that this evening's event was scheduled to work around other local School open evenings.</p> <p>B Heeley also invited Governors to attend the event.</p>	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 14</b>	<b>ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	No discussion took place.	

<b>AGENDA ITEM 15</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2016, 16:00	

**Please refer to the part two confidential minutes for Governors' attention only.**

**There being no further items for discussion the meeting closed at 16:55.**