

Summary of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 23 February, 2018

1. The meeting began with a presentation to Trustees by Lisa Fathers, Director of Teaching School and Partnerships. Lisa highlighted the varied work undertaken by the teaching school alliance both within and beyond the Trust. The impact of the work in terms of school improvement was well evidenced
2. The presentation of the CEO's report updated Trustees on significant matters relating to the Trust, including the positive outcomes from three OfSTED inspections.
3. Trustees were updated on progress with a Trust-wide electronic data system and views were sought on the kinds of analysis that would be most helpful. Trustees welcomed the introduction of a system and recognized the challenges of presenting aggregated data in such a diverse Trust.
4. Regular financial monitoring reports were presented to the Board. The particular financial challenges associated with running Connell College and some of the difficulties with pupil numbers in Blackpool were highlighted.
5. Trustees were updated on progress with the possible re-brokerage of Connell College.
6. Detailed capital plans from Marton Primary were considered. Trustees approved Marton's plans subject to minor modifications. The detailed plans for Altrincham Grammar School for Girls would be presented at the next meeting.
7. A revised 'Local Governing Body Handbook' was presented for approval having been through a number of stages of drafting and consultation. This was further supported by the presentation of – and amendments to – a revised Delegation Framework detailing the respective responsibilities and accountabilities of the different levels of governance.
8. Trustees considered the Trust's report on the gender pay gap and specifically discussed some of the factors that might potentially impact on the pay gap. The national methodology is something of a 'blunt instrument'. Even so, Trustees are keen that we monitor our policies and practices to ensure that we are not inadvertently discriminating against groups of employees.
9. An update was provided on the business of the Audit and Risk Committee. The Committee had taken a 'deep dive' approach to risk looking at specific risks in depth rather than considering all more superficially.

ENDS