Minutes – Bristol Metropolitan Academy

Meeting Date:	30 June 2026	
Location:	BMA	
Time:	5.00pm	
Members:	Laura Walder (LW)	Sponsor Councillor & Chair
	Fiona Burrow (FB)	Parent Councillor
	Chloe Aldam (CA)	Parent Councillor
	Jo Duffy (JD)	Sponsor Councillor & Vice Chair
	David Vince (DV)	Teacher Councillor
	Liam Sutter (LS)	Sponsor Councillor
In Attendance:	Kris Bridgeman (KB)	Principal
	Sue Burns (SB)	Clerk
	Sally Apps (SA)	Deputy CEO
Apologies:	Aysha Muzaffar (AM)	Support Staff Councillor
	Trish Tendai Njerekai (TTN)	Sponsor Councillor
Observing:	Lui Baker-Kwan (LB)	Observing *(joined at 5.35pm)*

Item	Description	Action
1	**Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**	
1.1	Laura Walder welcomed Fiona Burrows (new Parent AC) to the meeting.	
1.2	Absent with apologies: Trish Tendai Njerekai and Aysha Muzaffar.	
1.3	Lui Baker-Kwan is in the process of being appointed as a Sponsor Academy Councillor and observed the meeting.	
2	**Declarations of Interest**	
2.1	None declared.	
3	**Minutes of Previous Meeting**	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.	
4	**Actions and Matters Arising**	
4.1	None	
5	**Academy Council Membership and Chair's Update**	
5.1	There is one Sponsor Councillor vacancy.	
5.2	The CLF Central Team has reminded all Academy Councillors that they should only have the following link roles: Safeguarding, SEND, Disadvantaged and Careers.	
5.3	Link role training will take place in July.	
6	**Belonging - Jo Fisher (Assistant Principal)**	
6.1	We've being taking student voice from girls re gender equality, looking at our context but also social media and the wider world.	

6.2	We started with informal conversations with a group of approximately ten girls from each year group.	
6.3	We identified common themes across year groups which included normalisation of language, boundaries and consent, perceived double standards in sanctions, male-dominated environments, and peer and online influence.	
6.4	Moving forward we will collect boys' student voice.	
6.5	We've started working with Girlhood Reclaimed who worked with a small group of girls and also an assembly for Y9 and Y10 as part of our Safety Day which was well received.	
6.6	We would like to explore working with Girlhood Reclaimed again but it's a costed provision.	
6.7	Next year we will have a cultural reset so that staff are challenging misogynistic and gender bias language. We will hold an inset training session to support them with this.	
6.8	We are going to consider having student ambassadors, including boys, to champion the initiative.	
6.9	The PSHE curriculum is going to be updated with the new statutory guidance around misogyny, and we will ensure that our staff are consistently logging incidents. Anonymous reporting also needs to be explored.	
6.10	**Will you work separately with boys before you mix the groups?** Yes, because it's important for the boys to understand misogyny and how language can contribute to that.	
6.11	JD advised that in her professional experience anonymous reporting can be weaponised and can advise how to avoid that if the school would like to discuss it.	
6.12	**Is there a misogynist flag for behaviour?** Not within Bromcom, but there is on CPOMS.	
6.13	**How will you discuss this issue with boys sensitively?** The assemblies were factually based and avoided blame, but this is an area that we know we need to consider carefully.	
6.14	FB advised that she knows of an organisation who works with boys around these issues and can provide details.	
6.15	The Academy Council thanked Jo Price for her presentation and for raising the profile of misogyny in the school.	
	Mobile Phone Policy - John Price (Assistant Associate Principal & Behaviour Team)	
6.16	The government has mandated that phones should not be seen in schools at all, which is helpful in terms of enforcement.	
6.17	Our current Mobile Phone Policy helps students to avoid digital distraction, supports student wellbeing, provides clear boundaries and safeguards students.	
6.18	Currently students have to keep their phone in their bag or locker. If it's seen the student has to hand it over and if they refuse then a graduated response begins that results in the phone being confiscated and being asked to collect the phone after school.	
6.19	We have a phone safe that we can store confiscated phones in.	
6.20	Parental feedback was collected from over 60% of parents, 92% confirmed their child owned a smart phone and 81% bring them to school daily. Only a small number of students cited the phone was required for practical purposes.	
6.21	Parents indicated that they had high concerns about social media, struggled to enforce boundaries and were experiencing sleep issues.	
6.22	49% of the parents felt the policy was appropriate and 28% requested a more stringent policy. They also indicated that 43% of their children follow the rules. It also became apparent that some staff were not enforcing the policy consistently.	

6.23	A small number of parents cited tracking benefits or raised concerns about bus travel. We would also need to consider a very small number of student who may require a smart phone as a medical device.	
6.24	Some parents recommended lockers or pouches as a solution, both of which have cost implications.	
6.25	In terms of next steps this is what we are considering: Y7 to have no smartphones on site at all. Any Y7 students found in possession of a phone would have it confiscated for 24 hours. Parent/carers who needed to have contact with their child could have an exception by providing a brick phone. The policy would extend to Y7 and Y8 the following year.	
6.26	Y8-Y11 could place their phones in a lockable pouch, the cost of which could be passed to parents, or we could continue with our current policy but with a harsher confiscation sanction.	
6.27	**Will you re-issue the survey now that the government has released the guidance?** Yes, and we anticipate that they will be more supportive.	
6.28	**Have you considered surveying Y6 students?** No, but there is anecdotal evidence that parents and children feel under pressure to purchase a mobile phone. Conversely, if Y6 parents objected to the initiative we would not change what we are planning.	
6.29	FB: Bus companies can change their ticketing system which has taken place in other areas of the country. Parents can track their children via devices other than smart phones. Although the consequences for older year groups would be more stringent, there would still be a risk of misuse.	
6.30	**How will you manage residential trips when the children are away from parents?** We would consider using pouches or alternatively retaining a no-phone policy.	
6.31	**Sally, is there a CLF perspective on mobile phones?** Our Special Schools already have alternative arrangements like lockable boxes. We've not mandated a solution for our Secondary Schools because we are supporting them to pilot different options which we can then learn from. Pouches will not underpin the cultural shift that is required as a broader initiative.	
6.32	The Academy Council thanked John Price for his presentation.	
	OFTSED Visit Outcome	
6.33	[redacted]	
6.34	[redacted]	
6.35	[redacted]	
6.36	[redacted]	
6.37	[redacted]	
6.38	[redacted]	
	Attendance	

6.39	[redacted]	
6.40	Attendance has remained steady at approximately 88%. We are considering what we can do to support parents and children to make a strong start in September.	
6.41	All the students attended for their English GCSE which indicates that in general they can attend and therefore we need to be more robust about challenging absence. Therefore, we need to know the students well which will be a focus next year, but also ensure our absence processes are robust.	
6.42	**Do you record students who are late but are marked as absent?** We have data for who is present in lessons, but the statutory requirement for reporting attendance is based on their U code.	
6.43	**Can you communicate sickness absence expectations clearly to parents?** Yes, we can make it clear when a child needs to be absent (D&V) and when they can return.	
6.44	[redacted]	
6.45	**How much do you know about the new Y7 and their attendance?** We have collected that information as part of the transition, but we also need to be mindful about the LA placing students on roll who are not able to attend.	
6.46	**What are the numbers for Y7?** 220. So, we will have class sizes of approximately 31.	
6.47	**The Attendance Policy indicates that parents have to provide absence evidence within a certain timescale. Will that be reviewed?** The new Attendance Lead will review the Attendance Policy and how it is being implemented.	
6.48	The Academy Council discussed the challenges of summer born children not being able to secure work experience because they are under sixteen and that aligning placements with the other schools in Bristol would be helpful because a lot of companies offer the same week for work experience.	
6.49	The GCSE results will be circulated in August when they become available.	
6.50	**ACTION: KB to arrange for John Price to feedback at the first Academy Council meeting about how the Mobile Phone Policy has been implemented.**	**KB**
	Link Roles	
6.51	The following link role reports have been loaded onto Governorhub.	
6.52	Careers - Liam Sutter	
6.53	SEND – Jo Duffy	
6.54	Health & Safety – Chloe Aldam	
6.55	The Academy Councillors were requested to arrange their T1 Link Role meetings before the end of term.	
7	**Policies**	
7.1	**Policies to Approve** • Anti-Bullying *The Academy Council agreed that the Anti-Bullying Policy will be reviewed with comments provided from the Academy Councillors and will then ratify the policy via Governorhub.*	
8	**Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC**	
8.1	None.	

9	AOB	
9.1	Road safety has been raised as a concern because students are darting into the road. KB advised that there is signage that the road layout is going to be changed shortly.	
9.2	The Academy Council wished all the staff a restful summer break.	