

MEETING	<b>Academy Council: NINESTILES SCHOOL</b>
DATE	<b>Tuesday 27 September 2016</b>
VENUE	<b>Ninestiles School</b>
ATTENDEES	<b>Vrigu Dey, Sian Hartle, Sheila Huckfield-Powell, Sheran Kaur, Lesley Long, Christine Quinn, Joan Spencer, Khalida Qureshi</b>
IN ATTENDANCE	<b>Hilary Barber, Victoria Creedon, Jackie McGillicuddy</b>

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Vrigu welcomed Sian as the new Principal of Ninestiles and all other members present to the meeting. Apologies were received from Val Sunderland, Martyn Collin, Kevin Hartwell and Nadeen Proverbs.

### 2. Declarations of Business Interest - *All councillors are reminded that when receiving this agenda they must consider whether any items for discussion require them to declare a business interest, either personal or of a close family member.*

None were declared.

### 3. Chair's Actions

No actions were reported.

### 4. Appointment of Academy Councillors

The following appointments were agreed unanimously:

Vice Chair:	<b>Khalida Quershi</b>
Safeguarding lead Councillor	<b>Lesley Long</b>
Standards lead Councillors	<b>Lesley Long Jackie McGillicuddy</b>
SEN lead Councillor	<b>Khalida Qureshi</b>
Finance:	<b>Vrigu Dey</b>
Proposed:	<b>Lesley Long</b>
Seconded:	<b>Sheila Huckfield-Powell</b>

### 5. Principal's Report

#### **Sian Hartle – Overview**

Sian presented a report highlighting her observations since taking up post. She noted:

- a number of changes detailed in the report have been put into place in a short period of time
- the impact of the increased Pupil Admissions Number
- that a revised SIP reflecting changes will be presented to the next meeting
- that changes are being made on a day to day level and issues around infrastructure are being considered given the pressure of the increased numbers of students in and around school.
- results do not currently evidence an outstanding school; improvements are needed.

**Sheila asked if the changes in infrastructure being considered will involve new building work.** Sian referred to the plan already agreed for locating a new reception area for visitors and parents at the side of the school near to the car park which will go ahead in due course. Sian suggested that teaching spaces are adequate but expressed concern about the “domestic” spaces, eg the restaurant and kitchen. **Khalida commented on the negative restaurant experience of one of her sons.** Sian noted that despite these issues student behaviour is good; however school is not calm. **Vrigu asked about the progress of the outside work at the front of school** and Lesley explained that the contractors had let the school down. Lesley and the new Estates Manager, Steve Smith, are working hard to ensure that the work is completed quickly and to an acceptable standard. Sian commented on how useful it had been to tour the school with Steve during the week.

**Vrigu suggested that the priority for the academy council is to ensure that each student has the best environment and resources to support the best quality of teaching and learning. He agreed that the summer results evidence the need for further scrutiny.** Sian agreed that results for 2016 were not as had been hoped or expected but do need to be put into the context of the national figures. Progress 8 has dropped to -0.14; this represents a concern. There is a mixed picture in terms of attainment and progress. The school remains very good, however to remain outstanding there is a need to look at current practices and ensure a focus on quality first teaching. Sian reported on “Standards for All” which will be launched on Tuesday 01 November. This is a strategy to “reset the norms”. An Ofsted inspection could be imminent and it is important that the school can demonstrate that it can meet outstanding criteria. **Christine commented that it is not a matter of staff working harder, but that there is a need to reflect on practice corporately and take a whole school supportive decision to change. Christine recognised that there is not a lot of bad behaviour – however there is a lot of loud behaviour and school is not as calm as it should be. Students need to evidence “learning behaviour”.**

The strap line for Standards for All, to be adopted by all students and staff, is “Be safe, Be ready, Be respectful” and staff will be informed of the launch at tomorrow’s staff meeting.

**i. School Profile Update**

This was circulated with the agenda.

**ii. Attainment and Progress Outcomes**

This was circulated with the agenda.

**iii. School Improvement Plan Update**

Sian reported that she will bring an updated SIP and SEF to the next meeting.

**iv. Mathematics Review**

Vrigu referred to the report issued following the recent Maths review which was undertaken by Chris Stevens, Director of Education at the Fairfax Multi Academy Trust. Vrigu expressed concern that it had been commented that there was “little evidence of staff monitoring students’ workbooks” and asked how this could be the case. Vicky responded that the review had highlighted inconsistencies and this aspect of the report, along with issues on the quality of feedback and marking, will form part of a review by the new Academic Board. It was noted that middle leaders need to be scrutinising workbooks and conducting ongoing monitoring. This applies across all subjects and all years. Vicky noted that the assessment and feedback calendar is being rebranded. Sian recognised the danger that adherence to the marking policy was being monitored rather than checking its impact on students’ progress and Christine commented on

what an easy trap this is to fall into. **Khalida commented that when the workbooks and the marking policy were introduced it had seemed very positive but the review suggested that this had not proved to be the case. She asked what strategies could be put in place to ensure progress moving forward.** Christine responded that there was evidence of good practice but it was not consistent enough. She noted that staff follow policies in good faith but there needs to be monitoring on whether the impact is positive. It was suggested that Maths may need a specific policy to evidence progress.

Vrigu suggested that it is crucial that the basic structures of maths should be embedded during the early years of secondary school. Sian agreed and reported on the meeting held today with the Assistant Principal (Maths) and Deputy Curriculum Leader when this had been discussed. Sian commented that pupils are joining Ninestiles from primary school with a greater depth of knowledge from KS2 and this is being addressed in the new KS3 curriculum for Y7-9 across the trust. Expectations need to be high and it is crucial that learning is secure. Christine noted the national challenge of recruiting good quality maths teachers and Sian reported that currently the school is fortunate to have a team of experienced maths specialists.

**Khalida acknowledged the problems discussed but also wished to highlight the comment in the report which noted that students enjoy their maths lessons and said this was the experience of her own two boys in school.**

v. **Safeguarding Checklist**

In Kevin's absence Sian reported that all is in place.

**6. Feedback to Trustees**

Trustees will receive the Maths review from each of the secondary schools.

**7. Reports from Committees**

None were presented.

**8. Policy Updates and/or Approval**

None were presented.

**9. Pupil Advocacy**

Sheran updated councillors as follows:

- 8 new members have been elected to the Student Council and students were very engaged in the voting process.
- On Monday members of the council visited the Botanical Gardens for the trust UNICEF Rights Respecting event. The students bonded best with the pupils from the primary schools and Sheran noted the need to encourage them to get to know the student councillors from the other secondary schools. Students signed their contracts and received their badges. Sheran reported that feedback from the students about the event was very positive.
- A review will be organised for the end of the year.
- Projects for this year include a McMillan coffee morning in October and a toy collection nearer Christmas in connection with the UNICEF themes.
- SIG meet on a weekly basis and post a newsletter on line. They are getting to know each other and work as a team.
- Photos of the Student Council members will be displayed on the website and around school.

**10. The Rights Respecting Schools Award**

Please see update on Pupil Advocacy.

**11. Minutes and Matters Arising from July Meetings**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: **Christine Quinn**  
Seconded: **Sheila Huckfield-Powell**  
The minutes of the Directors' meeting were received.

## **12. Any other business**

Khalida welcomed Sian back to Ninestiles.

Vrigu noted that this would be Christine's last Ninestiles' academy council meeting and said this was both a sad and celebratory occasion. He commented that Christine has been an integral part of the school for many years and has brought a distinctive and unique leadership. He said her leadership of the trust as CEO had been "phenomenal".

Councillors thanked Christine warmly, agreeing that she will be missed and asked that she keep in touch. Christine responded with thanks for the comments and said she would also miss academy councillors but she was excited about her new role.

## **13. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>What?</b>	<b>By whom?</b>
16/12/07/02	Bring SC representatives to meet councillors in the new academic year.	<b>Sheran</b>
16/09/29/01	Present updated SIP and SEF to the next meeting	<b>Sian</b>