

Minutes of the Local Governing Board of Winifred Holtby Academy

Tuesday 22 April 2025, 17:00

in the Winifred Holtby Academy Conference Room

PRESENT:

Mr S Berry (Interim Chair, SB), Mrs K Farmer (Headteacher, KF), Mr B Horsley (BH), Mrs A Hoy (AH), Mr D Ord (via Teams, DO), Mr V Tennison (VT)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Craxton (Clerk to the LGB, LC), Mr I Fernie (Deputy Headteacher, IF), Mrs L Foster (DSL, LF), Mrs C Marshall (Guest, CM), Mr S McKelvie (Assistant Headteacher, SM), Mr R Pindar (Assistant Headteacher, RP), Mr P Stallard (Assistant Headteacher, PS), Mr K Ziebeck (Deputy Headteacher, KZ)

Throughout these minutes a question is indicated by Q followed by the initials of the questioner and a comment is marked by C.

49 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SB welcomed all to the meeting

CM joined the LGB as a guest and will be fully on board as Trust-Appointed once DBS checks have been completed

VT noted this would be his last meeting and SB would be interim Chair for the rest of the academic year

All present thanked VT for his time and commitment to the WHA LGB and wished him well for the future

50 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mrs D Worrall

Resolved: That consent be given to the above-named governor

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared for this meeting



Signed by the Chair:

Interim

Date: 24/6/25

52 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (04 February 2025)

After a slight amend was agreed, the minutes of the meeting held on 04 February 2025 were declared a true record and are to be signed by the Chair (04 Feb), VT

53 MATTERS ARISING

48a ACTION: Dates to be added to all RAG columns in the SDP **Completed**

54 HEADTEACHERS REPORT

General

- Staffing positive for September
- One open vacancy for DT Teacher, shortlisting underway
- Current number show September 2025 Year 7 intake will be 22 over PAN
- The Big Day Out was a huge success with over 800 students enjoying various trips
- Student lanyards issued
- Sign up to easter revision sessions was good

Risk

- The biggest risk remains failure to secure academic outcomes
- Attendance and AP capacity at Risk 2 and 3 respectively

Health and Safety

- Ongoing issues with Robertsons, no site manager in position – VT to raise at the next Trust Board meeting and SB to raise with the Trust Senior Facilities Manager
- Issues with vermin continue
- Swimming pool still not open to students

C: (VT) It's good to see WHA is the school of choice in the wider community

KF: We have seen the highest number in a long time for first choice applicants and we have a waiting list of 30 for Year 7

C: (SB) It's fantastic to read over 800 students earned their place on the Big Day Out!

C: (KZ) We are building on our own AP provision and had a few boys attend a taster day at Fast Forward Vocational Training. It's good that we can offer the flexibility of being in school but also attending a provision

Q: (VT) Is safeguarding in place?

LF: We quality assure all alternative providers and carry out risk assessments

C: (IF) At KS3, 17-18 teaching periods are carved out at AP and our Forest School will be going ahead. It's the best approach for some to avoid further sanctions

Q: (SB) How is the Hub looking for next year, do you have capacity?

KF: Hub numbers are lower and we are better prepared. We have met with Whitehouse and are adapting now, ready for September

ACTION: SB to raise the current safety of the building under Robertsons with the Trust Senior Facilities Manager

55 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

- 1 issue with snus
- Blackout/choking challenge and misogyny being dealt with as per policies
- 43 students open to Early Help

- 4 Early Help referrals made
- 45 Children in Need
- 15 students on a Child Protection Plan
- 15 abuse concerns recorded
- 13 Operation Encompass alerts received
- 54 Smoothwall incidents

C: (LF) *Misogyny is not a huge problem at the school*

Q: (VT) *How do you keep ahead on emerging trends?*

LF: *Our community police officer visits a lot and often comes in for the whole day*

Q: (DO) *Is completing PIFs (Police Partnership Information Form) adding to your workload, do you receive any feedback?*

LF: *PIFs are more efficient and haven't created work. In the past we would be on the phone for hours, reporting via PIF saves time and we always receive feedback*

C: (LF) *The lockdown drill was successful and the children did really well*

Q: (SB) *Have you had to address boys refusing to talk to female teachers for example?*

LF: *We don't single out boys, we address matters as a whole school and the White Ribbon campaign encourages boys to prevent violence towards women and girls. Misogynistic language is dealt with as soon as it is heard*

Q: (SB) *Have you had any training regarding the choking trend?*

LF: *Not as such. Our students are very good at telling us when something has happened, whatever it is, and we would always advise parents to get a medical opinion*

C: (SB) *I see there is an increase in fighting among girls*

C: (KF) *Social media is to blame*

C: (KZ) *It reflects in the suspension data*

C: (RP) *The local police officer was brought in and he addressed the matter immediately*

LF left the meeting at 17:50

56 GEOGRAPHY SUBJECT REPORT

- Geography currently below national average
- Significant number of students remain below Grade 4
- Gaps identified
- Paper 2 still weak area
- 41% experienced a drop in lesson attendance
- Interventions in place include
 - Year 11 revision focus underway
 - Easter revision sessions
 - Targeted drop-down sessions
- Increased curriculum time given for paper 2

C: (PS) *We have taken steps to address underperformance and additional support has been put in place for those missing one hour per week due to interventions in other subjects*

Q: (AH) *What is the issue with paper 2?*

PS: *There is not enough curriculum time, it's not timetabled to spend time on pre-released material but we have rectified that*

C: (PS) *Non-attendance for fieldwork is sometimes down to friendship groups, they refuse to go if their friends are not on the same trip. The weather also plays a big part*

C: (VT) *If the fieldwork is exciting, they will go*

C: (PS) *Anxiety is also a factor but we support wherever we can*

57 QUALITY ASSURANCE SUMMARY REPORT

Explaining and Modelling

- Strengths include
 - Effective modelling in PE, History and Science
 - Breaking down complex tasks in high performing subjects
 - Students are able to articulate their learning
- Areas for development include scaffolding in Maths and inconsistent use of learning resources
- CPD to address scaffolding in Maths one of the next steps

Questioning and Feedback

- Strengths include
 - Deep thinking encouraged in History, English and Science
 - Misconceptions addressed in Science, English and geography
- Areas for development include procedural questioning in Maths, class engagement in IT and performing Arts and consistency with interventions in Reading
- CPD sessions to strengthen open-ended questioning and plans to enhance independent learning just some of the recommendation and next steps

Effective Literacy

- Strengths include
 - Targeted vocabulary instruction
 - Reading for Pleasure
 - Support for struggling readers
- Areas for development include addressing literacy gaps for DA, professional development and diversity and challenge in text selection

Pupil Premium Progress

- 45.5% (green) have made good progress, 54.5% (amber) have made some progress
- Strongest performance seen in Science and Geography
- No red evaluations a key strength
- Areas for development include increasing targeted intervention and enhancing questioning strategies

C: (PS) I am leaving Maths alone for a couple of weeks to let them settle and work as a team. Some gaps have been left by the removal of the iPads and laptops and I have raised this with the Trust

C: (PS) Students' work ethic should be driven by themselves and a lot of informal conversations are taking place

Q: (VT) Do you feel the desired impact is seen?

PS: I come in every day and see students improving

Q: (VT) How are the staff?

PS: We have received positive feedback, they are out and about in classrooms and corridors more, not sat in their offices

IF left the meeting at 18:29

58 ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR REPORT

Attendance

- Attendance is currently 89.7%, 2.2% higher v last year
- Year 7 highest at 92.3%, Year 10 lowest at 87.7%
- Girls slightly higher than boys at 90% and 89.4% respectively
- SEND 86.3%, PP 86%
- Persistent Absence high at 31%
- Operation Momentum progressing well

Behaviour

- 179.5 days lost to suspensions in half term 3
- 37 boys (88.5 days lost), 32 girls (89 days lost)
- 1 permanent exclusion

C: (SM) *the message is getting out to the community and showing a positive impact*

Q: (VT) *How do you know?*

SM: *They are attending meetings and the coffee mornings in the North Point Shopping Centre are gaining traction*

C: (VT) *It's important to note the significant improvement on last year*

Q: (VT) *Are you expecting a downturn next year?*

SM: *We are working with year 10 now to get ahead*

Q: (SB) *Is there a whole school approach?*

SM: *Yes, everyone is on board*

Q: (VT) *Operation Momentum is a huge piece of work, is it hard to keep track?*

SM: *I have a large team of people fulfilling the actions and the document is still in draft form*

C: (SB) *It's good to see the enrichment activities offered to DA to get them back in*

C: (SM) *SLT stand at the gates every morning and welcome each student with a smile. RP and KZ also pop across to the shopping centre to round up students*

C: (KZ) *75% of all removes and suspensions are PP*

Q: (VT) *Are you not meeting their needs?*

KZ: *We are, there is a whole raft of strategies in place. 6 TAs have been trained up to ELSA level and trauma informed support is in place too*

Q: (VT) *Is the reduction in permanent exclusions due to a new approach?*

KZ: *There is a new team in place and we know where the issues are. We are currently dealing with a small group in Year 7*

59 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

- 11 complaints received in the Spring term

C: (VT) *Panel decisions and recommendations are sometimes not agreed to at school level and we need to be able to follow-up, the HT should keep the Chair informed. Saying that, all subsequent communication from the parents/carers should go through the school and not the Chair*

Q: (SB) *Do any of the complaints give rise to reputational risk or indicate systemic or persistent concerns?*

KF: *No*

60 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

60.1 GOVERNOR LINK VISITS

2 visits have taken place

DW conducted a Careers visit on 19 November 2024

No issues raised

DO conducted a Safeguarding visit on 17 January 2025

No issues raised

Once fully on board, CM will take on the role of link governor for the Quality of Teaching and Learning

60.2 GOVERNOR TRAINING

All governors have completed their mandatory training for this academic year

61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24 June 2025, 17:00. Pre-meet from 16:00

62 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

62.1 Permanent Exclusion Panels (SB)

SB informed the board that under the new guidance of August 2025, all permanent exclusion panels are to be in person unless suggested otherwise by the parent/carer

62.2 Outstanding Policies (SB)

SB asked if there were any policies due for review. KF confirmed all school-based policies were up to date and all Trust policies were overseen by the various committees

63 ACTION POINTS

63a ACTION: SB to raise the current safety of the building under Roberstons with the Trust Senior Facilities Manager (**minute 54**)

SB closed Part A of the meeting by thanking SLT and their teams for their continued hard work

Part A closed at 19:01 and IF, BH, AH, SM, RP and PS left the meeting