

Minutes of the Local Governing Board of Winifred Holtby Academy

Tuesday 24 March 2026, 17:00

in the Winifred Holtby Academy Conference Room

PRESENT:

Mr S Berry (Chair, SB), Mrs E Fairclough (EF), Mrs K Farmer (Headteacher, KF), Mr B Horsley (BH), Mrs A Hoy (AH), Mrs C Marshall (CM), Mr D Ord (DO)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Craxton (Clerk to the LGB, LC), Mr I Fernie (Deputy Headteacher, IF), Mrs L Foster (DSL, LF), Mr D Garton (Via Teams, MIS and Reporting Manager, DG), Mrs Y Jackson (SENDCo, YJ), Mr S McKelvie (Assistant Headteacher, SM), Mr J Nassau (Assistant Headteacher, JN), Mr R Pindar (Assistant Headteacher, RP), Mr D Waterson (Executive Director of Education, DW), Mrs E Wilkie (Director of Learning Support, EW), 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.

45 POWER BI INTRODUCTION

DG joined the meeting via Teams to give governors a brief overview of how they will use Power Bi going forward

Full written reports for attendance and behaviour will no longer be provided as governors will have access to all attendance and behaviour data in real time

Governors agreed they would still like a 'snapshot in time' document to be presented at meetings

46 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SB welcomed all to the meeting

47 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from S Mills

Resolved: That consent be given for the absence of the above-named governor

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All previously declared

49 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (03 February 2026)

A slight amend was noted on pages 5 and 6

After the above amends were agreed, the minutes of the meeting held on 03 February 2026 were declared a true record and are to be signed by the Chair, SB

50 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

- 33 Operation Encompass alerts received
- 39 Smoothwall incidents
- 44 children open to Early Help
- 40 Children in Need
- 19 children on a Child Protection Plan
- All new site and cleaning staff receive SG training as and when they join the Academy

C: (LF) New links in CPOMS will make it easier to identify multiple student entries

Q: (CM) Will the curriculum still be flexible as some are now aligned?

LF: It will have to be. We all have different contextual issues in our Trust schools and we need to address those issues proactively

Q: (DO) Concerns are on the rise – is this a pattern across all Trust schools?

LF: No, it's not the same in the other secondaries

Q: (SB) How do you deal with the day-to-day issues on top of complex matters?

LF: Through prioritising. Supervision also gives me time to plan and be calm. I am very much supported by all staff

Q: (SB) Can you give us an example of the support you give the students?

LF: It can vary. Sometimes it's as simple as a breakfast bar in the mornings or a hot chocolate, we tailor the support

C: (RP) The behaviour team work closely with the safeguarding team

C: (SB) It's important to note the positive relationships students have with the staff

C: (LF) They know where to go

Q: (KF) Do you receive support from the Virtual School?

LF: Not always

51 HEADTEACHER REPORT

General update

- Continued improvements seen in line with the Academy Development Plan
- Mixed-ability teaching is having a positive impact across a range of subjects
- Curriculum alignment underway
- 2 Assistant Headteachers recruited
- CPD: SEND briefings, relational practice and teaching and learning sessions have all taken place
- 2026 Y7 intake full at 270
- S McKelvie and P Stallard have secured Deputy Headteacher roles within the Trust (Cottingham High School and Howden School) – all present wished them both well

Q: (CM) You've mentioned science as an area of concern, why is this?

KF: We are losing 2 strong leaders in the department. Outcomes have also declined year on year. We've looked at the redistribution of the teaching and learning responsibility and the new talent coming in will bring fresh ideas and strengthen an already good team

Q: (CM) Have the changes come at a cost?

KF: They have been identified in the budget

Q: (CM) Are there any further refinements to the attendance processes?

KF: Flexible working requests have helped up to redefine the team, we are losing SM

Q: (CM) Years 7 and 8 look challenging, do you receive enough information and support from the feeder schools?

KF: No. There is a Hull agreement but what we get is extremely variable. The more information we get allows us to go and sit, observe and meet them in their primary schools. The timetables of the Deputy and Assistant Headteachers has been reduced to allow them more time in the primaries

Q: (SB) Are you using more experienced teachers for KS3?

KF: We need to readdress the balance as, historically, they are assigned to KS4

C: (SB) Supply staff are a concern along with staff absence

C: (KF) There is a plan in place to address that. Our children do better with our teachers in front of them but at the end of the day, we need teachers in. We have a General Teacher starting after Easter to reduce cover

Q: (CM) What is the cause of the absence?

KF: Some are leavers who have created a vacancy, some is general absence and we are applying the policy

Q: (SB) Which areas have we seen the best progress?

KF: Maths is one of the areas where improvements have been made, punctuality to lessons is another

C: (SB) It's good to see the school's response to the recommendations and observations made by Steve Shaw (ex-HMI)

C: (IF) He left us with a really clear remit

Q: (SB) Was there any inconsistency with his observations and the curriculum alignment?

IF: No

Q: (SB) Is there a handwriting intervention?

IF: It's back on the agenda

C: (KF) It's in the budget for a lead on reading and writing

Q: (SB) How are the attendance team dealing with EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance)?

SM: The EWO's (Education Welfare Officers) are talking to parents, the open dialogue is helping

Q: (EF) Do you feel welcomed by the students when you conduct home visits? Are they and their families open to talking to you?

SM: It depends on the student and the situation. It takes a long time to break down the barriers

C: (SB) I echo KF's sentiment and wish SM and P Stallard all the best for the future

C (SM) I am leaving with a heavy heart but excited for what is ahead

52 PERFORMANCE DATA

Basics

School	Basics 4+			Basics 5+			Basics 7+		
	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target
Winifred Holtby Academy	25	37.1	62	8	18.6	41	0	0.9	11

Attainment 8

School	Attainment 8		
	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target
Winifred Holtby Academy	28	31.87	45

English and Maths headlines:

English Literature

- 42 increased at grade 1
- 85 dropped at least 1 grade
- Paper 2 is a more challenging paper

English Language

- 60 increased at 1 grade
- 54 dropped at least 1 grade
- Results have increased by 3.5% v last year

Maths

- 119 increased at 1 grade
- 2 dropped at least 1 grade
- Easter revision sessions to take place
- Y7 assessments now have more rigour

Q: (SB) Are they assessed under exam conditions?

JN: Yes, all teachers conducted them under exam conditions and the papers go through moderation

C: (JN) There are a number on grade 3, if they converted they figures would be much higher

Q: (SB) What do the red blocks indicate on your data sheet?

KF: That we overpredicted last year

C: (JN) We have used a mathematical formula this year and they are much more accurate

C: (IF) We started at a low starting point and we are doing well; we have had to work much harder

Q: (DW) What is your prediction for Basics 4+ English and maths?

JN: A minimum 62% will achieve

Q: (DW) What about the cohort make up, DA and non-DA?

JN: The gap will be narrower

C: (JN) Y10 are ahead of the curve compared to current Y11 at same the point

53 SEND REPORT

- 53 students in receipt of an EHCP
- 277 receiving SEN support
- Greatest need remains speech, language and communication needs followed by social, emotional and mental health
- New Ofsted framework places a greater emphasis on inclusion
- WHA will continue to strengthen the provision

C: (SB) There seems to be a high percentage of SEN in the school

C: (EW) There is and those we are monitoring are not included in the figures

C: (SB) This highlights the need for all staff to be trained

C: (EW) They are and whole school CPD addresses the approach

Q: (SB) Will the new government White Paper affect resources and funding? Are there any key risks?

EW: We will see a huge rise in EHCP requests but the restructure of our Hubs will allow us to help more children

Q: (SB) How is the SEND Champion Scheme working?

YJ: It's going well. Check-ins and phone calls have taken place

C: (EW) The scheme makes it easier for us to check provisions are in place

Q: (SB) What are your SEN numbers like compared to other Trust schools?

DW: WHA has more SEN K than the others

54 ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

Attendance

- Attendance currently 89.07%
- Weeks 16-24 show drops in Y7 (91.74% - 90.74%) and Y10 (86.91% - 85.89%)
- Y8, Y9 and Y11 remain stable (91.47% - 91.12%, 89.90% - 89.68% and 89.63% - 89.51%)

Behaviour

- 7 permanent exclusions
- 107 suspensions totalling 513.5 days lost
- Boys 59, girls 49 (279 and 234.5 days lost respectively)
- Y8 highest with 27, Y11 lowest with 13

C: (SM) Support for PA has been taken from best practice of similar Hull schools. The headline figures are not good but there is a lot of work going on

Q: (DO) What is happening with Y10?

SM: There are several non-attenders, the EWOs are working closely with them

C: (DW) That's a valid point, half the cohort are PA. it would be good for the LGB to keep an eye on them

Q: (SB) Is the poor attendance down to cultural behaviour – holidays for example?

SM: Holidays are responsible for 5.7% of absence. The lower price of a term time holiday far outweighs the fine

Q: (SB) Does the current behaviour framework allow for self-regulation?

KZ: A number of them do have the chance to self-regulate through movement, walks and time with their trusted adult. Operation Glasshouse is to launch after Easter and the aim is to build on positive relationships. We have identified 3 key areas – tutor time, after break and after lunch

C: (RP) The focus is getting them back into the lesson

C: (KF) We have a number who can and do self-regulate and they carry a card so staff are aware

C: (KZ) As the weeks go on, we'll get a real sense of their problems

C: (EF) It must be quite daunting for some of them to walk back into the classroom and all eyes turn to look at them

C: (KZ) I've walked children in, we'll always support them

C: (BH) The teachers welcome them back too

Q: (SB) Are the sanctions consistent?

KZ: Yes. We have moved detentions and made phone calls home. We analyse patterns across all subjects and used internal behaviour logs

C: (KZ) We encourage them to talk to us

Q: (EF) They might struggle with what they want to say. What happens if they don't turn up for the next-day detention?

KZ: We escalate it and address it with the parents even if the parents are the ones opposing it

Q: (SB) When EHE has failed, do they come straight back into school?

*KZ: They would come back on a phased return, sometimes through the Reflection Room
C: (KF) We never advocate it but some parents are at the end of their tether. We'd rather have them in part-time than EHE*

55 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

55.1 Governor Link Visits

No link visit reports have been received for this term although visits have been made for T&L and SEND and SB shadowed Steve Shaw during his recent visit. Outstanding reports are to be forwarded to LC as soon as possible

Governors were urged to book their next visits early in the Summer term

55.2 Governor Training

All governors have completed mandatory training

56 POLICY REVIEW

56.1 Social Media Policy

The Social Media Policy was tabled for approval

A line covering staff to staff inappropriate online content was requested

Resolved: After the above addition had been agreed, the Social Media Policy was approved

57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16 June 2026, 17:00. Pre-meet from 16:00

58 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

Part A closed at 19:09 and IF, BH, AH, YJ, SM, JN, RP DW, EW and KZ left the meeting