



## ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Time: 4.45pm

Venue: Priestnall School

Clerk: N Burgess

Present: S Jhanji, L Burridge, E Cookson, T Gilbert, M Farrar, J Ledger, T Clary, R Howarth, L Knowles and D Brown for part of the meeting.

Action	Initials
BeWell data to be an agenda item for the next meeting	RH
Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their register of business interests	All
Governors are reminded to arrange their link visits to school	All
Educational neglect to be included in the Head of School report	RH
To confirm if review of staff absence is possible	RH
To report on Safeguarding and SEND link visits	MF/LB
To send training reminders	NB
To send completed training certificates to the Clerk for retention	NB

### Agenda – Part 1-

Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	<p>D Brown attended to present PDC training to Governors.</p> <p>Following a permanent exclusion Governors will be asked to a member of a panel for a Pupil Disciplinary Committee (PDC) which will meet to consider the exclusion. The PDC must take place within 15 school days of the permanent exclusion being issued.</p> <p>Permanent exclusions are always a last resort, and are a very difficult decision for a Head of School to make.</p> <p>Parents/carers, the student and the Head of School are also invited to the meeting to make representations.</p> <p>Governor's role is to ensure the permanent exclusion was lawful, rational, reasonable, fair and proportionate. They must also consider the Equality Act 2010 in relation to SEND.</p>	

			<p>Governors should read all documentation in advance of the meeting, and be prepared to ask any questions they may have relating to the exclusion.</p> <p>Following representations from all parties the Governors will adjourn to consider their response. Governors can direct reinstatement or can uphold the exclusion. The Clerk will communicate the outcome to parents/carers and the school following the meeting.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions and thanked DB for the presentation.</p>	
		KCSiE updates	<p>E Cookson presented to Governors Safeguarding at Priestnall School, including KCSiE updates.</p> <p>A safeguarding audit is completed in school which Governors, in particular Safeguarding Governor, should be aware of.</p> <p>Stockport LA operates using Thrive, which is being extensively rolled out across the UK. Green level is for signposting, blue is for focussed input, purple is to involve partners agencies for additional support, and orange is managing the risk, issues can commence at this level, or can work up to as the situation is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Q – As Governors what level of detail to we need?</b>  A – You need to be familiar with the Thrive Framework and have an understanding of the Early Help process. This training covers the information Governors need to be aware of.</p> <p>Early Help looks at the whole family and also the practitioner. The process can feel intrusive to some families, but it is vital that it is supportive and family friendly. We look at what the family would like to achieve and empower them to see where they need support.</p> <p>Stockport Family Hubs is an app available to families to be able to access help and support, including finance.</p> <p>Governors reviewed the Stockport Safeguarding priorities as part of the presentation.</p> <p>MASSH referrals can be made by phone or online, and anyone can make a referral.</p> <p>Governors also reviewed the list of policies in place for Safeguarding. It was noted that Trustees ratify all Trust</p>	

		<p>level policies, and that this AC are responsible for approval of school specific policies, for example Safeguarding, Behaviour, Uniform and Mobile Technology.</p> <p>Governors reviewed the recording of behaviour incidents. The school have been on a journey and are addressing the issues ongoing, some can be down to friendship issues. The breakdown is used to inform the Personal Development curriculum, and this can be done year group specific.</p> <p><b>Q – In terms of the data, have you seen a reduction over time?</b></p> <p>A – Yes, when the school joined the Trust bullying was the main issue reported by parents/carers. We put a significant amount of work and time into the issue and this has paid off. We do deal with any incidents swiftly.</p> <p><b>Q – Could BeWell be brought to Governors?</b></p> <p>A – This is done every year around October/November. If the data is available, we could possibly present at AC2 meeting in March.</p> <p><b>Q - Are there any trends where you can see a change?</b></p> <p>A – The general trend is that all are decreasing, but we do have spikes, for example if there was a fight. We address all issues ongoing and reactively. There are no specific areas of concern for us.</p> <p>In the past there was an issue of behaviour in the community and we had anti-social behaviour reports from residents. We feel we have been able to make improvements in this area.</p> <p>SJ commented that staff training has been useful to staff to be able to challenge the behaviour. There is a very consistent approach from all staff.</p> <p><b>Q – Could the data reflect one student with multiple incidents?</b></p> <p>A – Yes. It is difficult to analyse against other schools as here everything is recorded, and other schools don't always record as much.</p> <p>EC was thanked for the presentation and there were no further questions.</p>		RH
	Apologies		There were no apologies received for this meeting.	

	AOB items	There were no other items of business which were not included in the agenda for this meeting.	
	Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations of interest in any of the agenda items.	
	Register on Business Interests	Governors are asked to check their record of business interests and inform the Clerk of any changes.	All
	Code of Conduct	Governors had reviewed the code of conduct and agreed to adhere to.	
	Minutes of previous meeting	Minutes of the meeting held 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 were <u>approved</u> as an accurate record of the meeting.  There were no actions outstanding. A Parent Governor election is currently in process. There have been 5 applications received. There will now be a ballot with a closing date of 10 <sup>th</sup> October.	
	Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	The appointed Parent Governor will join the Academy Committee from the next meeting.	
	Link Governor roles	The following Link Governor roles were confirmed at the last meeting and there were no changes:  Safeguarding – M Farrar SEND – L Burridge Pupil Premium – L Knowles Academic Aspiration – Whole Academy Committee Culture Creativity and Rhetoric – J Ledger Competition and Physical Endeavour – T Gilbert Leadership and Service – to be appointed  Governors are reminded to contact their links to arrange their visits to school.	All
	Scheme of Delegation	There were no changes to note to the Scheme of Delegation. Governors are asked to review to ensure they are aware of the remit and responsibilities of the Academy Committee.	
	Trust Board updates	Governors reviewed the Trust Board report from their May and July 2025 meetings and had no further	

		<p>questions.</p> <p>The focus of the Governor and Trustee conference on will be the revised Ofsted Framework. The conference will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 9.00am to 10.30am. All Governors are invited to attend.</p> <p><b>Q – Has a new SEF been done based on the new framework?</b></p> <p>A – Yes, this is an item for later in the meeting.</p>	
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2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School report	<p>Governors reviewed the Head of School report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Pupil Outcomes</u> There has been an increase in the grade boundaries for Maths and the re-marks are now in.</p> <p>It was noted there is a need to consider interventions in the future.</p> <p><b>Q – Are the predictions done as individuals or as a team?</b> A – They are actually done in different ways in different departments. There is work to be done on this with our staff. Class teachers divide up the papers and mark all one question each, so every teacher marks the same question on all papers.</p> <p>Colleagues were also disappointed with some of the outcomes and have the best interests for the students. We are looking at how the children respond and looking at projections against their final outcomes. Work is being done by SLT and Subject Leaders.</p> <p>In context, although the results are good, they are still not exactly where we would wish them to be. The school has still ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Stockport and 12<sup>th</sup> in Manchester. We know there are still things we need to do. In the last 4 weeks we have met with all Subject Leaders to review the outcomes for their subject. The focus for the school in the first two years was behaviour, and it is now behaviour for learning.</p> <p><b>Q – Is there a homework policy, there seems to be a big difference between year groups?</b> A – We do not have a homework policy. At the recent Y7 Parent Information evening we looked at transition and getting into good habits, and getting it right in terms of PP&amp;R. At present in year 7 students will be receiving homework in English and Maths. We will be looking at what are the barriers to homework, and once established we will then bring in MFL homework.</p> <p>We are also resetting with years 8 and 9. In year 9 from March homework in other subjects is reduced to allow students to focus on their MFL GCSE. It was noted that homework should be meaningful and should add value.</p> <p>Governors reviewed the outcomes by subject. It was noted that in some subjects the students had opted to study these and should therefore be motivated. The legacy of 4 option choices was discussed. Students now</p>
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			<p>select 3 option choices which allows for more curriculum time in their subject choices.</p> <p>Governors noted that this was the last year of Sociology as an option, and that Business Studies classes had been reduced from 4 to 2. Fewer classes means the students have opted to take the subject, and therefore work harder.</p> <p>Governors noted that there was no Progress 8 figure this year due to there being no KS2 data as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>It was noted the Class of 2024 had the best results ever in school. The results overall were good, and there are areas to celebrate, but better is always possible.</p> <p>The Disadvantaged and SEND basics at 4+ including English and Maths was the highest the school had ever had. The gap is wider than predicted, but better for outcomes and higher attainment for the students. There were some real success stories on an individual level.</p> <p><b>Q – How confident are you the changes you put in place will help?</b></p> <p>A – The Class of 2026 are a strong cohort, including behaviour. The culture is they are very focussed, engaged and hard working. The last cohort required more intervention and support.</p> <p>The students learn a lot from sitting their MFL GCSE in year 9 and this helps to build the culture.</p> <p><b>Q – Does the lower outcomes this year mirror a national trend?</b></p> <p>A – It is unique to our cohort, but is still considerably higher than national figures.</p> <p><b>Q – Is this an issue in other Trust schools?</b></p> <p>A – It is difficult to know, CHHS outcomes are amazing, and the others are new schools.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions on the Head of School report.</p>	
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		Confirm school curricula and assessment	RH, as Head of School, confirmed that the school curricula and assessment is in line with statutory requirements and the Trust approach.	
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	SEND Attendance tracking 2024-2025	<p>Attendance is a big priority for the school. It is not where leaders would wish it to have been at the end of the year.</p> <p>The gap in attendance is within the SEND group of students, and can be a result of anxiety-based school avoidance.</p> <p>The graph circulated prior to the meeting showed the breakdown of attendance for the year groups. Governors were pleased to note the attendance had risen for all year groups as the academic year had progressed.</p> <p>Governors were informed of the plans to address attendance for this group of students, and that early intervention is key. Governors also noted the significant number of SEND students within the school.</p> <p>In terms of whole school attendance EC informed Governors that at the start of this academic year attendance is higher than previous in all year groups. Leader's focus is for students whose attendance is below 90%. Calls home is made every day and the data is reviewed by the Attendance Team in school every 2 weeks.</p> <p>Pastoral staff in school are receiving additional training to be able to provide support but also still be able to challenge when necessary. Governors noted that each case is dealt with individually. The school carries out regular home visits, as part of Safeguarding, to ensure that no child is missing in education.</p> <p>Leaders wish to create a culture where students feel a sense of belonging and connectedness to school, and that the students will not wish to miss school.</p> <p><b>Q – Does attendance trigger an Early Help assessment?</b>  A – Yes it can do, we analyse the data and work with parent/carers to complete an attendance plan and see if there are any issues which we need to refer. We try to remove any barriers and help where we possibly can.</p> <p>Educational neglect was discussed and it was agreed that this would be included in the Head of School report moving forward.</p>	RH
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		Review School Development Plan priorities	<p>The SDP is now a 3 year plan which has been reviewed and RAG rated.</p> <p>Key priorities from the SDP will be reviewed over the 3 AC meetings each academic year.</p> <p>We would look to secure a strong Ofsted judgement and would look at how to evidence this. We always consider what is the right thing for our young people.</p> <p>Under the new framework there are 5 new judgements, which do not align to previous judgements.</p> <p><u>Academic Aspiration</u> This is the same for all our young people, for all disadvantaged students, including Young Carers, SEND and Vulnerable.</p> <p>Attendance is a big priority and there is work to be done.</p> <p>Links in the community is also a priority for the coming months.</p> <p><b>Q – How do Ofsted communicate to the general public?</b> A – We are unsure as the grading wording is different. We do know the Inspectors will always ring a Virtual Head as part of the inspection.</p> <p>The SDP is work ongoing. We are rewriting our SEF and SIP in line with the changes to the framework. We also have our Thematic Goal.</p>	
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3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, benchmarking and value for money	<p>Governors reviewed the Management Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and questions were invited.</p> <p>It was noted that agency costs were reduced on a day-to-day basis. There is a long-term absence which will have to be covered by a supply member of staff.</p> <p>The school has 3 Cover Managers and 2 Cover Supervisors who are utilised to minimise the need for agency staff where possible. It was noted that there should always be the minimum impact to students where possible.</p> <p>Governors asked if it was possible to review staff absence figures, RH agreed to check with Director of HR if this was possible.</p> <p>Governors commented they found the additional notes on the management accounts useful to aid their understanding.</p>	RH
		Policies – undertake school level reviews	There were no policies for approval at this meeting.	
		Ensure curriculum policies are in line with statutory guidance	RH, as Head of School, confirmed the school curriculum policies are in place in line with statutory guidance.	
		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	<p><u>Safeguarding</u> MF will be arranging a safeguarding link visit to school in the second half of the Autumn term.</p> <p><u>SEND</u> LB will be arranging a SEND link visit to school in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Updates will be given at the next meeting.</p>	MF/LB
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors are reminded that there are four mandatory training modules for completion annually:</p> <p>Cyber Security, GDPR, Safeguarding and Prevent.</p> <p>The Clerk will circulate individual training reminders to all.</p>	NB

		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	There was no training to record for this meeting. Governors are asked to send their completed certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All
		Academy Trust Handbook	The link to the Academy Trust Handbook was circulated for Governors information.	
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	There were no updates for this meeting.	
6	AOB		Governors are reminded of the Governor and Trustee conference which will be held on Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December from 9.00 – 10.30am at CHHS.  Governors are also invited to visit the school on Open Evening on Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October from 5.00 – 7.00pm	
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026 at 4.45pm Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 4.45pm	

#### Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

Governors received PDC training

KCSiE and Safeguarding presentation was received

Link Governor roles and responsibilities were reviewed and confirmed

Pupil outcomes were reviewed as part of the Head of School report

Governors reviewed attendance including SEND cohort

SDP was reviewed

Governors reviewed the management accounts

Meeting closed at 6.30pm



M Farrar  
Chair of Academy Committee  
02.03.2026