



Minutes of the Governors Meeting held in person on Thursday 26th September 2024 5:30pm-7:30pm

Present: Louise Melia (Chair), Kate Nester (Headteacher), Lucy Shakesby, Helen Clark, Sue Court (left at 19:48), Neil Howiantz, Linda Monaghan, Martin Lukins (joined at 18:42) and Ben Amos (joined at 18:32)

The meeting started late at 5.44pm due to the clerk's technical difficulties not allowing virtual attendance to the meeting.

01/2425 **Welcome and Apologies** – The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Michelle Heap due to work commitments.

02/2425 **Opportunity to declare Pecuniary Interests** – None declared. The annual declaration of interests form was circulated to governors, which is to be completed and returned to the clerk.

Action: Governors to return completed declaration of interests form to the clerk.

03/2425 **Subject Update – Sounds Write**

The Deputy Head gave a twenty-five minute presentation on the teaching of early reading scheme at school using the Sounds Write scheme. This summarised the Scarborough Reading Rope looking at the threads of language comprehension and word recognition weaving together through practice to develop reading skills. The school has been developing its teaching of reading over many years since the Rose report. By 2017 the phonics results weren't where they wanted to be, so the leadership team reviewing practice through learning walks, looked for good practice and identified inconsistencies. Sounds Write was chosen as an expertly structured synthetic phonics programme based on the science of reading, which is multisensory and code orientated. Staff have been fully trained and the Sounds Write Sales team have kept in touch for additional support after this.

Governors asked some questions about Sounds Write scheme presentation:

What is the English Hub for?

The English Hub provides funding and support where there is high levels of pupil premium or where the Ofsted category leads to support.

Are many schools reading levels negatively affected by COVID?

Children are less regulated and less learning than before COVID which could be seen as an impact of the pandemic.

Does the scheme start in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

Children's knowledge of sounds is built during pre-school but Sounds Write isn't taught until children are in school formally.

How are interventions done now?

Class Teaching Assistants are supporting interventions and classes also revisit learning in the afternoon as well as the mornings.

How is progress monitored throughout the year?

Progress is monitored through the assessment tracking grid and children that need extra support are picked up from this.

What provisions are in place for the more able?

There are lots of opportunity to extend learning through extra spellings and afterwards through their application in their writing.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Head for her presentation.

04/2425 Reappointment of Governor and election of the Chair of Governors

The Chair of Governors was reappointed as governor and re-elected as chair for the year. It was noted that the Vice Chair was appointed at the last meeting. Governors not at the last meeting abstain from voting.

For: 6 Against: 0 Abstention:1

05/2425 Minutes of the Last Meeting (25th June 2025) to be approved – the chair asked if everyone had seen these and agreed with they were voted on and approved.

For: 7 Against: 0

06/2425 Action points from previous meeting - All action points from the previous meeting have been completed.

07/2425 Any other urgent business – There was no other urgent business brought to this meeting.

08/2425 Governor roles and responsibilities

The Governors agreed to continue with their established roles and responsibilities:
Safeguarding, Effectiveness of Leadership and Management, and E-Safety – Louise Melia

SEND – Michelle Heap and Linda Monaghan

Pupil Premium – Martin Lukins

Finance – Louise Melia and Neil Howiantz

Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment – Michelle Heap and Neil Howiantz

Health and Safety/ Site Management – Martin Lukins and Helen Clark

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare – Ben Amos

Wellbeing – Michelle Heap

OPAL / Play – Sue Court

09/2425 **Ofsted update**

As Governors are aware, after the June 2023 inspection, Ofsted will be coming back to reinspect within a 12-18 month window, looking to move the grade up from Good to Outstanding. However, there have been changes to the Ofsted framework this Summer Holidays, after their consultation. They have removed the one word judgement and will no longer do deep dives as these were thought to be overwhelming for workload. There may be phase appropriate frameworks which would offer a more bespoke approach. The Head has contacted Amelia Walker the SW Ofsted Representative to see if the inspection would still go ahead when there will no longer be a single word judgement. The hopes of becoming an Outstanding School seem currently unachievable. There will be a report card but this will not be in place until September 2025. It is not clear how inspections will be carried out between now and September 2025. One clear change is that Ofsted will ring on a Monday, hopefully by lunchtime, if they plan to inspect. Inspections will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, reports will be written on Thursdays and Fridays will be for professional development for the inspectors. The hope is for a collaborative and supportive framework with room for self-reflection and independent strategic development. Whilst sharing information with stakeholders is important it should not be at the detriment of staff and leadership morale. There is a move to look at local data for area insights so there will be more contextual information for parents considering themes such as mobility, poverty and vulnerability.

A governor asked whether there was currently any contextual information in the Ofsted reports?

The inspections usually discuss cultural capital and where vulnerabilities are but the final reports do not.

Ben Amos arrived at 6:32pm

Martin Lukins arrived at 6.42pm.

Ofsted do consider poverty index indicators. If schools turn away SEND children they can be downgraded. There was a Year 2 child who was turned away from three schools. Only one came to see the child. They said they were not high tariff enough. Another child has had their place deferred for a year. Attendance is a concern. Safeguarding is also significant. Sadly, Ruth Perry's school was judged inadequate on Safeguarding grounds which failed the inspection after which she took her own

life. Now Ofsted will offer a three-month Safeguarding Fix where they come back in three months, if the rest of the inspection is ok, to see the improvements. This would be recorded as an incomplete inspection and parent would be asked to give permission for the Safeguarding Fix to go ahead.

Ofsted want their own academy to train their staff, allowing good practice to transform their inspections. There will be an insights library for exemplary practice. There will also be six national hubs. Inspection welfare will be essential facet of Ofsted's practice. Multi-academy Trusts will be inspected as well as the stand-alone inspections for schools within the trust.

There was an Ofsted Big Listen consultation earlier this year and unfortunately a quarter of 4349 parents and carers who responded said they disagreed that Ofsted could be trusted.

A governor asked whether parents and carers will learn to understand the new grades?

The new report card will still use one word judgements for the four strands below the old main judgement. Parents will get used to reading the new report cards. The Headteacher added that she has been a professional for thirty years and Ofsted has a place for accountability and monitoring school progress. It should also support schools with professional development and enable them to move forward, not just reporting schools to parents.

A governor noted that removing the overall judgement although arguably a step forward comes at an unfortunate time for Hindhayes.

The inspection will give an outcome on the four strands so if parents drill down into the report they should see the grades for each strand. The governors hope Ofsted will not be using the inspections before September 2025 for practice with the new framework. The Headteacher commented that she was facing the unknown and didn't know what the criteria would be.

The governors agreed that they would appreciate communications regarding Ofsted's plan and criteria, without which the school feels in limbo.

10/2425 Clerk's briefing

The clerk highlighted key aspects of the briefing for governors.

Action: The clerk will circulate the maintained schools compliance checklist.

11/2425 Policies to be approved.

The governors voted to approve the following policies without amendments:

Anti-bullying

For: 9 Against: 0

Concerns and Complaints policy and annex

For:9 Against: 0

Changing for PE and Forest School

For: 9 Against: 0

The Equality policy would be brought to the next meeting. The governors discussed whether a policy was needed for managing requests for time off for dependents.

A governor asked whether any advice had been sought regarding managing time off for dependents?

The Head said she had spoken to other schools locally and there wasn't an established policy for this issue. The governor responded by asking whether Unions had been contacted for a standard policy. Staff hadn't been spoken to regarding this issue.

12/2425 **Finance**

The Business Manager was not able to attend this meeting but provided a summary account of finances and would attend the next meeting with the month 6 report. The last finance report for Governors was 13th May when the Budget Plan was being finalised. That indicated a projected overall deficit of £176,299. The school has since completed a Month 3 Report (April to June 2024) and was successful in a bid for Growth Funding from the Local Authority which means that we will receive £51,913, to top up the budget. Building in this additional funding and some known other changes means that the revised deficit is indicating £112,532 (a significantly improved position). As the school knows, the majority of schools are in deficit because of falling pupil numbers and increased costs. We will shortly be working on a Month 6 Report (April to September 2024) which will be available by the end of October and will be a more accurate position (as we have more actual costs to build into the report).

There was a confidential discussion about future plans for the school.

Confidential minutes start and end here.

The governors voted to progress with the plans for the future of the school.

For: 9 Against: 0

The governors agreed to hold off on discussions about joining a Multi-academy trust (MAT) at this time.

The Chair of Governors thanked Mike Sales for managing the building project which has gone well. Boxing in for the heating system This boxing in will be Local Authority funded and they are expecting a third and final quote within days.

13/2425 **Governor strategy day**

This item was postponed to the next meeting due to time constraints.

14/2425 School Values – to be discussed at the next meeting

This item was postponed to the next meeting due to time constraints.

15/2425 Headteacher report (including Attendance)

The Headteacher shared a contextual document summarising attendance since 2015-2016. The school target is 95% but figures have been 92%-93% overall since 2020-2021. The school buildings weren't helpful before the refurbishment as they were cold and damp. The Local Authority officer is supporting through meetings.

16/2425 Safeguarding

No significant issues to be raised at the meeting

17/2425 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is Thursday 14th November at 5:30pm.

The meeting finished at 7.54pm.

Action Points

Agenda item	Action by	Agreed action	Update for next Mtg
02/2425	Gov	Return completed declarations of interest if not done already.	
10/2425	Clerk	Circulate compliance checklist from briefing paper	

L. Melia

Signed by Chair of Governors

Date: 14/11/2024