



Minutes of the Academy Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 4.30pm at Samuel Barlow Primary Academy

Governor name	Initials	Governor category	A = absence
Mr Peter Edwards	PE	Chair of Academy Committee	
Mr Kevin Stokes	KS	Vice Chair of Academy Committee	
Mr Thomas Reid	TR	Appointed LAC governor	R
Mrs Donna Bennett	DB	Appointed Staff AC governor	А
Mr Andy Pullin	AP	Appointed LAC governor	Left at 6.13pm
Mrs Alison Tate	AT	Appointed LAC governor	Left at 6.13pm
Vacancy x 2		Parent LAC governor	

In attendance:

Mrs Lucy Spacey	LSp	Executive Principal - WPA	А
Mr Gareth Letton	GL	Executive Principal - SBPA	
Mr Jon Chapman	JCh	Principal WPA	
Mrs Sarah Kahler	SKa	Principal SBPA	
Mrs Emma Taylor	ET	Governor Candidate/observer	
Mrs Emma Paine	EP	Governance Professional (Clerk)	
Quorum	2/3	Governors Present	4

Governor concerns, challenge and support: Responses are provided next to the highlighted area

ltem No	Item	Action/ by who/when
SBPA/WPA/ 016/23/24	The meeting was taken out of order to enable the training to take place at the start of the meeting.	
	TrainingTrust Central Training Session on Attendance presented byMr P Knight - Trust Strategic LeadA recorded training session was projected on screen and had beenshared with Academy Committee governors prior to the meeting forreview and to establish any challenge to take place in the meeting.Academy Committee governors reviewed the Trust training providedwhich included details of the strategic objectives.Information would be reported in the training session in respect of:	







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 National Context and the differences between persistent absenteeism in pupil premium and non-pupil premium groups. Trust indicators and gaps identified that governors should focus on. Questions for governor assurance. The Vice Chair acknowledged the severity of the situation nationally regarding attendance.	
The Chair acknowledged there had been issues at the academies with absence in the autumn term as a result of a sickness bug and Covid. The Chair acknowledged governors would offer support regarding issues arising with attendance where acceptable.	
The Chair acknowledged the OFSTED outcomes were good and the offer available for both SEN (Special Educational Needs) and non-SEN pupils.	
The Chair acknowledged the steps and strategies put in place in mainstream schools for pupils with SEN. The Chair acknowledged a review of what is on offer would take place at the next SEND link visit.	
The Vice Chair asked whether this was similar at other schools. The Chair acknowledged this.	
Academy Committee governors asked whether training takes place. The Chair acknowledged training takes place.	
Discussions took place around challenges that ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) can present and steps and strategies in place regarding the curriculum to support pupils identified. Academy Committee governors acknowledged the challenges that come under ADHD and the importance of the right offer being made available in the curriculum to support those pupils. The Chair acknowledged the curriculum plan in place and figures of pupils who are in the SEN group. The Principals acknowledged information would be shared around curriculum and what is available to support pupils with SEN at the January meeting as part of the local training session.	JC/SK 24/01/24
Academy Committee governors asked how staff wellbeing was and what was available to support this.	
Mrs Kahler explained the team ethos that was in place with staff in the academy and the support this offered. It was reported focused CPD (Continued Professional Development) is offered to staff, in	







addition to a review of staff workload that had previously taken place to support with this locally. Discussions around the steps put in place to reduce workload for staff at Samuel Barlow Primary Academy and across the Trust took place. **The Chair acknowledged** staff wellbeing formed part of the agenda. The Chair requested governors ensure questions around mental health and wellbeing of staff are being asked during Link visits. Mr Letton explained that both academies were good at identifying barriers for attendance and a family support worker was in place at both academies, which is working well in breaking down barriers to attendance with families. The Chair acknowledged the high levels of EAL (English as Additional Language) pupils at WPA and the steps put in place regarding tracking of pupil absence by staff. The Chair praised staff for going above and beyond to support with difficulties identified and support offered in efforts to improve attendance figures. Mr Chapman confirmed good relationships were established with families, pupils and staff to support with this. Mrs Kahler reported similar processes in respect of pupil absence tracking are in place at Samuel Barlow Primary Academy and details of how this is approached with parents was provided. Academy Committee governors suggested it was about the value of what attendance brings and the steps being put in place. Academy **Committee governors** made suggestions on how this could be addressed with parents. Discussions took place around the steps that are in place. Academy Committee governors acknowledged the importance of communicating to parents the impact of lost learning and building awareness of the value of attendance. The Chair asked whether strategies in place are fully inclusive. Mr Chapman reported systems had been changed across the Trust to ensure reporting to parents in respect of attendance, was based around days lost learning and no longer with the use of percentages, to prevent misconceptions with families. Mrs Kahler reported information is shared with parents via WEDUC. Mrs Kahler further reported parents are invited into the academy to take part in learning together with pupils. Details of this was provided.







	Mrs Kahler left the meeting at 5.10pm and returned at 5.15pm.	
SBPA/WPA/ 014/23/24	Welcome Executive Principal Welcome The Chair welcomed Mr Letton to the meeting as Executive Principal for Samuel Barlow Primary Academy. Mr Letton provided details of changes made with the Executive Principals (Mr Letton and Mrs Spacey) and where support was being offered in the Trust as a result of the changes.	
	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Bennett due to personal reasons. Apologies had been received from Mrs Spacey due to work commitments. Academy Committee governors accepted the apologies for absence that were presented.	
	Resignation Received The Chair reported a resignation had been received from Mr Reid as a result of additional work commitments. The Chair explained Mr Reid had praised the Academy Committee for the improvements made and contributions that he had made whilst being part of the committee. Mr Reid thanked the Academy Committee for the opportunity to be part of the joint committee. The Academy Committee acknowledged the resignation provided. The Chair requested a letter was forwarded to Mr Reid acknowledging resignation. The Chair thanked Mr Reid for the contributions he had made in supporting the academies during his time as Academy Committee governor on the joint committee.	Clerk Actioned
SBPA/WPA/	Declarations of Interest 2023/2024 and any changes to the start of	
015/23/24	the academic year There were no declarations of interest, either direct or indirect, for any items of business on the agenda. The Chair asked if anyone had any declarations to update. Academy Committee governors confirmed that the declarations given at the beginning of the academic year were correct.	
	The Governance Professional advised Mrs Taylor was to complete these after election.	ET 24/01/24
SBPA/WPA/ 016/23/24	Governance Strategy Academy Committee governors acknowledged a review of the strategy had taken place prior to the meeting.	
	Mr Letton acknowledged the document had been shared with the Academy Committee governors and acknowledged changes had been highlighted in red. It was further reported that the document remained the same as previously reviewed and already known to	







	Academy Committee governors. Mr Letton encouraged Academy Committee governors to review the updated document.	Govs 24/01/24
	The Chair reported the work being completed with Trustees and the Head of Governance regarding the strategy and any issues arising would be reviewed at the Chair and Trustees meeting on the 27 th November 2023.	
	Governor Training completed/Link Governor Training attendances The Chair acknowledged a review of the Link governor training for SEND and Safeguarding had now been actioned.	
	The Chair offered details of what the training had offered and what should be monitored in Link visits and during Local Academy Committee meetings.	
	Mrs Kahler asked whether there was a training plan for governors in respect of Trust training to take place. The Governance Professional advised a calendar had been prepared for governors based on the training being offered in respect of link governor visits, to ensure awareness of dates to prevent training being missed due to the low numbers of governors previously attending. The Governance Professional reported the Trust training plan had been requested from the Head of Governance and this would be followed up.	Clerk Actioned
	The Chair asked whether all governors were up to date with training. The Governance Professional advised Mrs Tate had completed all mandatory training required as a new governor. Mrs Tate reported completion of the EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) modules available in NGA (National Governance Association) would be completed and the Governance Professional would be informed.	AT 21/12/2023
	Mr Pullin confirmed mandatory training had been updated and EDI training had been completed via employment.	ET 24/01/24
	The Governance Professional advised mandatory training was required to be completed by Mrs Taylor after election.	
SBPA/WPA/ 017/23/24	Governor Candidate Election Mrs E Taylor	
	Mrs Taylor left the meeting at 5.24pm.	
	The Chair reported that Mrs Taylor had previously attended two Academy Committee meetings and had suggested link roles she was interested in during her discussion with the Chair regarding the role.	







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	The Governance Professional reported satisfactory references had	
	been received and a clear DBS had been received.	
	The Academy Committee were in agreement to elect Mrs Taylor to the committee as an Appointed Governor for a four year term of office.	ET
	Mrs Taylor returned to the meeting at 5.25pm.	24/01/24
	The Chair welcomed Mrs Taylor to the committee and reported information would be forwarded by the Governance Professional for completion prior to the January meeting.	
SBPA/WPA/ 018/23/24	Minutes of the meeting dated 27 th September 2023 The minutes of the meeting, having previously been received were previously agreed by the Executive Principal and Principals and subsequently agreed and signed by the chair.	
SBPA/WPA/ 019/23/24	Matters Arising: 002/23/24: Code of Conduction (DB) The Governance Professional acknowledged the Code of Conduct had been returned by Mrs Bennett. The Governance Professional advised the Code of Conduct would require completion by Mrs Taylor.	ET 24/01/24
	005/23/24: Induction Meeting The Governance Professional confirmed an induction meeting had taken place with Mrs Tate and would be arranged with Mrs Taylor.	Clerk/ET 24/01/24
	005/23/24: Governors to confirm KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) Mrs Tate and Mr Pullin confirmed they had read and understood the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 document.	
	005/23/24: Mandatory Training completion Mrs Tate confirmed mandatory training requested had been completed. The Governance Professional confirmed records had been updated to reflect this.	
	005/23/24: Link Visits from Summer Term SEND/PP Mr Pullin confirmed link visits had now taken place for the autumn term and Link Reports had been added to governor sharepoint for review.	
	The Chair acknowledged a visit had been arranged and a review of the Local Authority Safeguarding Audit would take place at both academies.	
	The Vice Chair acknowledged a visit had been arranged.	







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	hair explained support would be offered for new governors ding link visits.	
to be The C	3/24: EDI(Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) training modules completed by governors hair acknowledged the training required completing by Mrs and Mrs Taylor.	AT/ET 24/01/24
The Cl evenir Wainv report Chair gover Chapn	3/24: Governor Table at Parents evenings hair acknowledged attendance at the Samuel Barlow parents ng. The Chair asked whether any governors had attended the wright Primary Academy parents evening. Mr Chapman ted governors had not attended parents evening at WPA. The acknowledged steps were to be put in place to ensure nors were present at both academies for parents evenings. Mr nan confirmed the next parents evenings were to take place in a 2024.	
Samue Chair e	hair acknowledged the fund-raising taking place for pupils at el Barlow Primary Academy to attend the Young Voices. The offered details of some links that may be beneficial regarding ng that may be available. Mrs Kahler noted the information ed.	
Discus	3/24: Governors award for presentation ssions took place on how this could be facilitated and who I support presentation.	
The G	3/24: Review of Governance Action Plan sovernance Professional advised a review of the Action Plan I form part of the January meeting agenda.	Clerk 24/01/24
	Chair requested this was updated by the Governance ssional and circulated prior to the meeting.	
Skills /	hair asked whether Mrs Tate and Mrs Taylor had completed a Audit. The Governance Professional confirmed this would be ated as part of the induction process.	Clerk/AT/ET 24/01/24
-	3/24: Dates to be forwarded by CoG (Chair of Governors) for eetings	
The Cl meeti	hair acknowledged meeting dates would be offered to ensure ngs could be arranged. The Chair suggested these would be ated by the Governance Professional for response by governors.	PE/Clerk Actioned Govs ASAP
The G	3/24: 1:1 Questions/information overnance Professional suggested these would be circulated dates had been provided.	Clerk Actioned Govs ASAP







	006/23/24: CoG name change required to Emergency Plan Mrs Kahler acknowledged changes had been made and a review at the Health and Safety Committee would take place of the emergency plans.	
SBPA/WPA/ 020/23/24	Principals Report The Chair acknowledged receipt of the reports. Academy Committee governors reported issues with accessing links on the reports. The Governance Professional advised information relating to the links had been added to the share point folder for review. The Chair acknowledged the documents had been reviewed. The Governance Professional suggested issues were due to permission access when sharing files by the Principals. Discussions took place around the steps taken to prevent this, without success. The Governance Professional advised support from the IT (Information Technology) Department should be sought in efforts to resolve the issues arising.	JC/SK/Clerk 24/01/24
	Samuel Barlow Primary Academy The Chair invited questions from the Academy Committee governors regarding areas that had been highlighted in the Principals Report that had been previously circulated with governors.	
	• Safeguarding Compliance & Culture Academy Committee governors acknowledged the LAC Safeguarding Checklist and additional safeguarding information had been received and reviewed.	
	The following discussion was confidential and recorded separately regarding safeguarding for staff and pupils.	
	The Chair acknowledged attendance was good and broadly in line with national average. The Principal reported further improvements had been identified.	
	The following discussion was confidential and recorded separately regarding persistent absenteeism and support mechanisms for families.	
	 NCC NSCP SiE Audit completion/return The Chair acknowledged meetings had been arranged to review the document at both academies to support return of the document before the deadline of the 21st December 2023. Pupil Premium Plan Review, evidence of impact on outcomes and review of strategy for 2023/24 Academy Committee governors acknowledged a review of the information received had taken place. 	







Academy Committee governors asked what the proportion in Early Years and Years 1 to 6 and the difference in numbers of pupils.	
Mrs Kahler explained the reasons for the differences was due to parental awareness of additional entitlements that can be applied for by some families if claiming FSM (Free School Meals). Mr Letton reported the difficulties arising due to a lack of awareness of the additional entitlements, with families that can be applied for and the steps required to be put in place to ensure families are made aware. The Principal explained strategies were being put in place to develop parents as partners in efforts to resolve issues.	
Academy Committee governors asked requested figures of families applying for pupil premium funding. Mrs Kahler acknowledged figures would be available for the January meeting. Mr Letton reported funding received was lagged.	SK 24/01/24
Mr Letton left the meeting at 5.51pm and returned at 5.54pm	
The discussions regarding behaviour and Higher Level Needs funding was confidential and recorded separately.	
Behaviour (FPS(Fixed Period Suspension/P/Ex(Permanent Exclusion)) update The following discussion regarding behaviour was confidential and recorded separately.	
The Chair asked what the admission figures for Early Years were. Mrs Kahler acknowledged there had been receipt of 40 applications. It was explained there will be 26 pupils attending from January 2024 in the morning session.	
Mrs Kahler suggested governors attended at open evening events to support the academy with admission numbers.	Govs 24/01/24
• Risk Matrix and identified risks The Chair acknowledged receipt of the risk register and acknowledged a couple with higher numbers and concern was raised around this. Mrs Kahler reported further information will be made available at the January meeting.	SK 24/01/24
• Stakeholder Engagement The Chair acknowledged the parent governor nomination process was currently live for applications. The Governance Professional	







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 Sports Premium and any additional funding premium and outcome 	
Mr Chapman acknowledged the amount of Sports Premium funding received and reported what this was used for at after school clubs. Mr Chapman offered examples of after school clubs that took place including indoor curling, dodge ball, football (this was included as Tournaments are attended). It was reported any subjects that were not core PE subjects were offered as after school clubs. Mr Chapman reported surplus funds were applied to staff CPD (Continued Professional Development).	
The Vice Chair asked whether Nottingham Forest continued to support the enrichment offer. Mr Chapman confirmed this and provided details of the wider personal development and mental health benefits that the package offered for staff, in addition to the good value for money being achieved.	
 The Chair acknowledged school swimming continued to take place. Mr Chapman explained the funding arrangements for swimming and explained how swimming was implemented from year 6 downwards and the use of funding to support any Year 6 pupils requiring additional support with swimming. The Chair asked whether there had been any impact through pool closures that had been experienced. Mr Chapman reported a recovery swimming plan was in place to. Mrs Kahler reported the same process was taking place at Samuel Barlow academy. Mr Chapman explained the time allocations made in the curriculum to ensure the correct time allocations were available for PE in line with government guidance. 	
The Chair acknowledged that swimming had deteriorated in some schools in the country after the covid pandemic and suggested there may be some additional funding that is available. The Principals noted this.	
Attendance Discussions regarding persistent absence were confidential and recorded separately.	
Mr Pullin acknowledged a review of attendance would take place as part of the next Pupil Premium visit in the Spring Term. The Chair requested a review of Sports Premium funding and Pupil Premium	







	funding should take place at the next Pu	ipil Premium visit in addition.		
	This was acknowledged by Mr Pullin.			
	 2023/24 Trip calendar and rev 			
	both academies			
	Mr Chapman reported a trip to London			
	supported cultural capital and science.			
	Academy Committee governors ackn			
	been reviewed. Discussions took place of			
	Discussions took place regarding the			
	alternative to an adventure based resid	lential trip.		
	Academy Committee governors asked v	whether the trip was cheaper.		
	Mr Chapman reported the reasons for t	he trip which offered a good		
	enrichment experience for pupils in addi	ition to costing being cheaper		
	in efforts to support families and the cos	t of living crisis. Mr Chapman		
	reported an adventure based visit had	taken place for the Year 6		
	pupils when in Year 5.			
	Trust Policy Updates			
	Academy Committee governors had be	en advised of the changes to		
	the Trust policies in respect of; Privacy			
	Managing People, Pay and Reward, Saf	er Recruitment, Disciplinary,		
	Staff Grievance			
	 Local Policy Appendix: 			
	Early Years and Foundation Stage Academy Committee governors acknowledged the content of the			
	policy was good. Academy Committee g			
	the information contained and ratified			
SBPA/WPA/	Link Governor Areas			
021/23/24	 Review of Link Areas (to includ 	-		
	Mrs Tate suggested she would prefer	r a link which included EDI		
	(Equality Diversity and Inclusion).			
	The Chair acknowledged he would supp	ort Mrs Taylor at the first link	CoG/Clerk 24/01/24	
	The Chair acknowledged he would support Mrs Taylor at the first link visit meeting and would forward previous Link Reports that had taken			
	place with Mr Reid for information purp			
	The following link visit areas were agree			
	SEND Emma Taylor			
	Pupil Premium (including sports Andy Pullin			
	premium) Safeguarding Peter Edwards			
	H&S & GDPR (Data Privacy)	Kevin Stokes		
	Leadership & Management	Peter Edwards and Kevin		
		Stokes		







	Stakeholder Engagement (including	Alison Tate	
	Complaints & Whistleblowing	Alison Tate	
	The Vice Chair acknowledged he would link visit meeting to be arranged for the		
	The Chair acknowledged one visit shous subject area.		
	The Governance Professional advise circulated regarding Link Visits for the b any training that may be beneficial for t		
	• Actions from Governor Link Vis Link Visits had been discussed earlier Committee governors acknowledged th arising.		
	Mrs Tate, Mr Pullin and Mrs Kahler left		
	Mrs Kahler returned at 6.15pm		
SBPA/WPA/ 022/23/24	 How has the Academy Committee held Senior Leaders to Account Challenge had taken place throughout the meeting in respect of: Pupil Premium and sports premium including value for money Attendance and behaviour Risk Register 		
	Safeguarding		
SBPA/WPA/	How have Vision, Mission and Values of Trust/Equality been upheld		
023/23/24	Academy Committee governors were s		
	and Values and Equality had been uph during discussions and information g		
	reports.		
SBPA/WPA/	Consider information to be advised to t		
024/23/24	the report (Committee Report)		
	Discussions took place and the docu information required as discussed durir		
	The document was subsequently r	0	
	Governance.		
SBPA/WPA/	Determination of confidentiality of business		
025/23/24	Nolan Principles		
	It was Resolved:		
	 Confidential discussions had taken pla 020/23/24. 	ice in agenda item	





	- Attendees were content that all decisions made adhere to the seven Nolan principle	
SBPA/WPA 026/23/24	Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 24 th January 2024 Training Meeting: 4.30pm Main Meeting 5.00pm-6.30pm The Meeting was to take place at Wainwright Primary Academy dependent on weather.	
	The meeting closed at 6.33pm Signed: P Edwards (Chair) Date: Agreed at LAC 24 th January 2024	