



Fountaindale School Academy Council Meeting
Friday 28 March 2025 at 10:00am
Fountaindale School, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 5BA

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Gayle Bowmer	Deputy Safeguarding Lead Staff Governor (Support)	GB
Chris Evans	Headteacher	CE
Rachel Mendham	Parent Governor	RM
Sacha Schofield	Chair	Chair
Jacky Tattershall	Governor	JT
Also Present:		
Lyndsay Foster	Governance Clerk	LF
Apologies:		
Julie Bullock	Staff Governor - Teaching	JB
No Apologies		
Paula Williams	Officer	PW
Michelle Carr	Governor	MC
Nick Parr	Parent Governor	NP

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from JB.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted from JB.	
1.3 Confirmation of Vice Chair The academy council unanimously approved the confirmation of new the new Vice Chair – Jacky Tattersall	
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS	
2.1 Best We Can Be Awards To be removed of future meetings as do own Positive Pants. Action: Clerking Services to remove from future agendas.	ACTION: Clerking Services 28/03/25
3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
3.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered Action: Clerking Services to contact MC & NP to see if they still wish to be governors due to non-attendance. Action: CE to look to advertise for new Parent governors.	ACTION: Clerking Services 03/07/25 ACTION: CE 03/07/25
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda. None.	
5. FOUNTAINDALE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
5.1 To approve the minutes of the following meeting: The minutes of the Academy council meeting held on 5 December 2024 were approved as a true record.	
5.2 Review of Action Tracker The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.	
5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes. Amend JT from Office to Governor Action: Clerking Services to amend JT from Officer to Governor.	ACTION: Clerking Services 28/03/25

6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
<p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p>CE discussed the Headteacher report and clarified that although the staffing figure appears to have risen, the actual number of staff remains the same. The change is due to flexible working arrangements and part-time staff. CE also informed the group that there was a vacancy for the Deputy Headteacher position, with interviews scheduled for the following week.</p> <p>CE provided an update on the building project, stating that work is set to begin on the 7th of April. The construction compound will be located in the top area of the car park, which will be fenced off, and no access through the school will be required.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding sickness absence, with CE noting that levels have remained the same. Due to the specific training needs within the school, sourcing supply staff has been challenging. However, the Nexus bank of supply staff has been more beneficial as they have prior experience with the school and relevant training for the student cohort. CE also outlined the sickness absence protocols in place, explaining that when an absence reaches stage two, HR provides additional support.</p> <p>SSc asked whether Stage 2 has had an impact on sickness levels? CE expressed that he believes it has, as there are now many new staff members in the school who are aware of the protocols in place.</p> <p>JT asked about retention, noting the 75% figure and questioning why it wasn't 100% if no teachers had left? CE clarified that while no staff had left, two new members had joined due to the addition of an extra class. He also mentioned that some staff leave for hospital positions, as they offer higher salaries.</p> <p>CE discussed page 5 of the report regarding apprenticeships, mentioning that two apprentices are due to complete their training after Easter, while two others have another year remaining on their Level 3 qualifications. He also stated that he has been working with the Trust regarding the Level 5 apprenticeship program. Interviews for this program are scheduled for next month, with one position available.</p> <p>CE expressed that there will be fewer training days in the coming year due to no additional training days being allowed. As a result, they are planning to cover medical training during the school day or through staff meetings throughout the year, rather than conducting mass staff training sessions.</p> <p>He also shared that recent lesson observations have been completed, with overall very positive outcomes and noticeable improvements compared to the last round.</p> <p>JT asked if there is an overview for the Quality of Teaching to share with the AC governors? CE confirmed it will add to the next Headteacher report.</p> <p>Action: CE to add to next Headteacher report an overview of the Quality of teaching for the governors to view.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: CE 03/07/25</p>

SSc asked about the careers experience and whether the careers lead could collaborate with Portland, also enquired if they had a network in place?

CE explained that the school currently work with Portland, and in turn, they also utilise Fountaindale for work experience. Additionally, Beech also uses Fountaindale for experience opportunities.

GB added that there is a service called 'Lindley', run by Notts LA, which is used for work experience. It provides opportunities in a café and shop, as well as other fields depending on the student's area of interest, as it is a multi-centre.

CE stated that the Post 16 students have been running a lunch service for staff on Thursdays. Staff place their orders on Monday, and the students cook and deliver the meals on Thursday. All profits from the initiative go towards funding the school Prom.

CE discussed the Kingsmill Hospital link, noting that paediatricians now visit the school, and plans are in place to run eye clinics on-site to help reduce time students miss from school. SSc mentioned incorporating this initiative into the attendance strategy to support efforts in improving attendance figures.

Action: CE to add to Attendance Strategy the positive reduction by having extra Clinics in school like the new Eye Clinic.

**ACTION:
CE
03/07/25**

SSc asked if the changes to the curriculum in terms of Ofsted readiness?

CE confirmed that the actions align with the school's objectives and are progressing to meet the necessary standards for Ofsted readiness.

SSc discussed the pupil engagement safeguarding concerns with a particular pupil and confirmed there is a package in place.

GB asked about communication with SALT and whether it's Notts LA that will be looking at communication devices?

CE confirmed that it is the NHS that covers the devices and someone from the Speech and Language service provides training for the devices. The NHS also covers the staff training for these devices. CE mentioned that staff training on the devices has been requested through SALT. The training will also include support for all new staff, and they will work with class teachers to personalise the training for each class cohort. SSc suggested that it might be a good idea to explain to parents a timeline for when the devices will be used, once the training has been completed. This would help keep them informed and they could contact the school if they have any concerns.

Action: CE to provide an overview/flow chart for processes around the SALT team.

**ACTION:
CE
03/07/25**

CE informed Pupil Premium is now updated and is on the school website.

JT asked about the gap outcomes for Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium students?

CE stated that there isn't really a gap, as all students are treated as individuals due to the uniqueness of the cohort.

<p>CE discussed TeamTeach and the school now has two trainers. All staff are trained to level one in TeamTeach, and training has been covered during Wednesday training sessions.</p> <p>SSc asked about the mention of Sensory Footsteps in the report? CE explained that they reviewed sensory options and found Sensory Footsteps, for which they have received a quote for sessions after Easter. SSc suggested that it would be good to have feedback on this at the next AC meeting.</p> <p>Action: CE to provide feedback from the Sensory Footsteps when underway</p> <p>CE informed that they are conducting research around trauma and attachment, specifically medical trauma and its effects, in collaboration with Stafford University. They are also working with some families on this topic.</p> <p>CE discussed how removing medical appointments from the attendance record helps improve overall attendance.</p> <p>SSc asked about surgeries and whether pupils using electronic devices could participate in lessons. CE responded that they use Teams to stay connected and allow pupils to participate in classes where possible. SSc suggested adding this information to the attendance strategy. RM informed that two attendance panels have been held for students with poor attendance. When students hit a 20% absence trigger within a six-week period, the school works with the local authority, which may implement enforcement measures.</p> <p>A brief discussion on the Personal development was held.</p> <p>CE expressed that the photos in the report showed how positive the careers days were received by the students and all being involved.</p> <p>Action: CE to email SSc and PW of any special events that may take place at the school.</p>	<p>ACTION: CE 03/07/25</p> <p>ACTION: CE 07/04/25</p>
<p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 School SEF</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.2 School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.3 Budget Report</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.4 School Calendar</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p> <p>SS suggested that CE consider keeping the Governors in mind for any special events, in case they might want to attend.</p> <p>Action – CE to email SSc and PW of any special events that may take place at the school.</p> <p>6.5 Cabinet Member & MPs’ Feedback from Pupil Parliament</p>	<p>ACTION: CE 03/07/25</p>

<p>To bring minutes from Pupil Parliament meeting next time and any visuals to share with governors next time. CEO attended last Pupil Parliament meeting.</p> <p>6.6 Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment</p> <p>The Governors were reminded of the deadline to complete the Annual Skills Audit is 11th April. The form can be downloaded from Governor Hub but clerking services will be emailing and editable copy to the cohort. Action – Clerking Services to email Governors Annual Skills Audit.</p>	<p>ACTION: Clerking Services 28/03/25</p>
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trust verbal update on key issues</p> <p>Ssc gave an update on Trust matters.</p> <p>Ssc highlighted the launch of the Learning Enterprise Institute, where all schools can explore the learning opportunities available.</p> <p>A Trust-wide conference recently took place at Magna, with all schools in attendance. It was a highly valued day for all members of the schools.</p> <p>Ssc explained the addition of two new schools: Bents Green and Seven Hills. There is also potential for collaboration with HHELC, a Nottingham Hospital School, starting in September 2025.</p> <p>Ssc reported that Nexus recently won the MAT Association award for Specialist MAT of the Year.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>8.1 To consider any other urgent business</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK</p>	
<p>9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING</p>	

Thursday 3 July	10:00 – 12:00	Fountaindale Academy
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
Sacha Schofield		