



**Fountaindale School Academy Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 04 December 2025 at 10:00am**  
**Fountaindale School, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 5BA**

<b>Those Present:</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Charlotte Adu	Acting Headteacher	CA
Gayle Bowmer	Deputy Safeguarding Lead Staff Governor (Support)	GB
Julie Bullock	Staff Governor - Teaching	JB
Chris Evans	Headteacher	CE
Rachel Mendham	Parent Governor	RM
Sacha Schofield	Executive Regional Director - Chair	Chair
Jacky Tattershall	Governor	JT
Paula Williams	Executive Regional Director	PW
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Michelle Carr	Governor	MC
<b>No Apologies</b>		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence  Apologies were received from MC.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence  Apologies were accepted from MC.  1.3. Confirmation of Vice Chair  As discussed under Items of Urgent Business.	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
2.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered  <b>Membership Changes:</b> MC status as a parent governor is to be clarified to ensure her position aligns with governance requirements.  Recruitment of an additional parent governor is planned for January, with the aim of strengthening parental representation and ensuring a broad range of perspectives in decision-making.  <b>Vice Chair Role:</b>  Discussion highlighted the need to clarify whether members of Trust staff are eligible to hold the Vice Chair position. This is essential to ensure compliance with governance regulations and maintain the Council’s independence in oversight.  <b>Actions:</b> <b>Clerk to confirm governance rules regarding eligibility of Trust staff for the Vice Chair role.</b>  <b>Initiate recruitment process for a new parent governor to strengthen Council membership and representation.</b>  <b>Update school website and newsletter with current governor details</b>	<b>Actions:</b> <b>Clerk</b> <b>04/12/25</b>
2.2 Confirmation of Resignation of Nick Parr  The resignation of NP from the Council was formally noted. The Council thanked him for his contributions and commitment.	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
3.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda.  None.	
4. FOUNTAINDALE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	

<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the Fountaindale Academy Council meeting held on 10 July 2025 were approved as a true record.</p>	
<p>4.2. Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.</p>	
<p>4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes.</p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	
<p>5.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p><u>Pupil Numbers &amp; Admissions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current roll: 94 pupils; 3 new starters expected in Spring term (total 97).</li> <li>• High volume of consultations, many inappropriate (e.g., SEMH cases).</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: PW to raise consultation quality with Nottinghamshire LA.</b></p> <p><u>Leadership Transition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CE confirmed departure at end of term as Headteacher; Charlotte to assume Acting Head role.</li> <li>• Recruitment for substantive Headteacher underway: 9 candidates visited; interviews scheduled for late January.</li> </ul> <p><u>Estates &amp; Capital</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension completed and in use; official opening planned for Spring term with Paralympian Richard Whitehead invited.</li> <li>• Legacy gift: School named sole beneficiary of a property; sale proceeds to school fund.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Trust to support legal and financial aspects; confirm tax implications.</b></p> <p><u>Staffing &amp; Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two teacher resignations; one strong candidate identified for 4-day contract.</li> <li>• TA pursuing Level 5 qualification successfully leading a class.</li> <li>• Wellbeing initiatives ongoing; partnership with Hope School to share best practice.</li> </ul> <p><u>Quality of Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New assessment model aligned to EHCP targets introduced; reduces workload for formal pathway teachers.</li> <li>• External QA recommendations accepted: consolidate pathway offers, empower TAs, embed monitoring systems.</li> </ul> <p>Council endorsed assessment changes and pathway-lead structure. <b>Action: Provide sample learning profiles and pathway core offer summaries next meeting.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action: PW 19/03/26</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action: PW 19/03/26</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action: CA 19/03/26</b></p>

### Behaviour & Attendance

- Behaviour leadership transitioned to Amy (Assistant Head).
- Attendance strong at 88% overall, 92% excluding medical appointments.
- Two families issued penalty notices for repeated holidays.

**Action: CA to challenge Nottingham City on transport delays for relocated pupil.**

**Action:  
CA  
19/03/26**

### Personal Development & Community

- UNICEF Bronze and Silver achieved; Gold assessment scheduled for July.
- Dance enrichment programme praised for inclusivity; performance planned for Christmas show.
- Fundraising group raised £800 from wreath-making event; soft-play room project underway (target: February half-term).

**Action: Thank Student Council formally; confirm soft-play funding and timeline.**

**Action:  
CA  
19/03/26**

#### 5.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP

This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.

#### 5.1.2 Appendix 2 – Updated SEF

This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.

#### 5.2 Draft School Dashboard Summary

The members reviewed current priorities and progress. RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings were noted to indicate status and inform next steps.

#### 5.3 Budget Report

#### **Financial Position:**

CE reported a strong financial position despite recent staffing changes.

#### **Capital Projects:**

- **Extension:** Completed and now fully operational.
- **Soft-Play Room:** Project development is progressing, with an estimated total cost of £30,000. Funding will be met through a combination of school reserves, external grants, and fundraising efforts.

Key risks currently monitored include:

- Staffing pressures.
- Transport challenges for out-of-area pupils.
- Potential disruptions from flu outbreaks affecting attendance and operational capacity.

#### **Compliance:**

Health & Safety checks remain ongoing; no major concerns have been identified.

#### 5.4 Teaching Staff Appraisal Outcome Report

This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.		
<b>6. TRUST MATTERS</b>		
6.1 Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues		
<p>The Trust confirmed it is updating its reporting templates in line with the new Ofsted framework.</p> <p>The members approved the adoption of the revised Headteacher report and Dashboard, effective from the next reporting cycle.</p>		
<b>7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</b>		
7.1 To consider any other urgent business		
<p>The school continues to strengthen inclusive practice across the curriculum and enrichment programme. Recent developments include adapting dance club activities to support wheelchair users and ensuring wider participation.</p> <p><b>Future Plans:</b>                  The school will conduct a full review and refresh of its EDI objectives to ensure alignment with the Trust-wide strategy. The Accessibility Plan will also be updated to reflect the new building developments and associated provision.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b>  <b>Acting Headteacher to update EDI objectives and share them with the Council.</b>  <b>Revised Accessibility Plan to be finalised and published on the school website.</b></p> <p>The parent engagement strategy was discussed. It was agreed that the school newsletter will include governor contact details to enhance communication and transparency.</p>		<p><b>Action:</b>  <b>CA</b>  <b>19/03/26</b></p>
<b>8. CONFIDENTIALITY</b>		
8.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting		
None.		

<b>9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING</b>
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Friday 19 March 2026	10:00 – 12:00	Fountainsdale Academy
Friday 9 July 2026	10:00 – 12:00	Fountainsdale Academy

**Minutes approved**

<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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Sacha Schofield		
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