



Fountaindale School Academy Council Meeting
Thursday 19 March 2026 at 10:00am
Fountaindale School, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 5BA

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from GB.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted from GB.	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
2.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered The Academy Council formally noted the appointment of Ben Norman as the new Headteacher, commencing after Easter. BN has completed an induction day, met staff, engaged in improvement planning meetings and familiarised himself with Ofsted findings and ongoing targets. Action: Clerk to initiate and support recruitment process.	Action: Clerk 19/03/26
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	
4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting: The minutes of the Fountaindale Academy Council meeting held on 04 December 2026 were approved as a true record. A clarification regarding Michelle Carr's governor category remains unresolved and requires follow up. Action: Clerk to contact MC to confirm whether she wishes to continue as a Governor.	Action: Clerk 25/03/26 Completed
4.2. Review of Action Tracker The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated. Governors noted the delay in parent governor recruitment despite being previously marked complete. The beneficiary property action remains open due to high refurbishment cost and unresolved next steps.	
4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes. None.	
5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	

5.1 Headteacher Report

CA gave a brief overview of the Headteacher Report.

Post-16 Pupil Premium Eligibility

- Eligibility continues to be complex; documentation requirements present obstacles for families. This has now been embedded into annual review discussions with clearer guidance for parents.

Policy Updates

- Updated policies included the Single Equalities Policy (Trust-wide), EAL Policy (updated and ratified) and the Accessibility Plan (published).

Quality Assurance and Lesson Observations

- Observations postponed earlier due to workload have now been completed. Governors will receive full feedback once staff have been briefed. The incoming Headteacher will implement his existing QA model to ensure consistency and rigour across the school.

Assessment Framework Redesign

- A comprehensive overhaul of assessment now places pupils' EHC targets, multi-agency guidance, and curriculum progressions at the centre. Learning Profiles have been created for each pupil, detailing strengths, needs, teaching approaches and personalised targets. Governors queried the workload implications of increasing Seesaw evidence uploads from two to four per week once the system is fully established.

Autism Provision and Environment

- The school continues to face spatial challenges in meeting the needs of autistic pupils. Governors advised benchmarking with schools such as Kelford and Coppice. Proposed improvements include enhanced sensory regulation spaces, outdoor fenced access and additional specialist OT support.

Staffing, Recruitment and Capacity

- New staff have been appointed, including a Post-16 teacher and a teacher for Rabbits class. High staff absence has placed strain on operations, especially regarding medical and manual handling training. Trust HR is conducting deeper analysis into absence patterns across the school.

Attendance, Behaviour and Safeguarding

- Attendance remains broadly in line with national special school averages. A Fixed Penalty Notice was rejected by the LA due to lacking a second parental signature, causing administrative difficulty. Behaviour incidents remain low, although parental conduct concerns have arisen, leading SLT to explore a Home School Conduct Agreement.

5.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP

This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.

5.1.2 Appendix 2 – School SEF

This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.

5.2 Draft School Dashboard Summary

The following dashboard items were presented and discussed during the meeting. Full data tables and visuals to be appended at the next meeting:

- Attendance overview (current whole-school 86%)
- Behaviour summary – minimal incidents; one escalation linked to parental conduct
- Safeguarding overview – no new significant concerns beyond existing CAS cases
- Pupil Premium snapshot – cohort size, funding allocation, participation in interventions
- Assessment update – implementation status of new Learning Profiles
- Staffing dashboard – absence levels, long term sickness, and operational impact
- Enrichment participation – club attendance and PP tracking

5.3 Budget Report

This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.

5.4 School Calendar

INSET and academic calendar planning for 2026/27 remains under review pending input from the new Headteacher. Clarification is required regarding the return to school date due to inconsistencies in the county's published dates. **Action: CA to confirm the return to school date.**

**Action:
CA
09/07/26**

5.5 Pupil Premium

The strategy has been restructured with Trust support. Staff will now use a working document updated termly. Governors emphasised ensuring visible impact in line with Ofsted expectations. Registers for all extracurricular clubs now record Pupil Premium involvement to strengthen monitoring.

5.6 Cabinet Member & MPs' Feedback from Pupil Parliament

Cabinet members did not attend the meeting but will provide feedback of their impact in the summer term. **Action: Cabinet Members to provide feedback at the summer meeting.**

**Action:
Cabinet
Members
09/07/26**

5.7 Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment

Members were reminded to complete via GovernorHub, paper versions are available. Action: All members to complete their Skills Audit and return to Clerking Services.	Action: All Members 26/03/26
6. TRUST MATTERS	
6.1 Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues SS provided an update on Trust Matters. The Trust continues working on merger processes, national SEND policy engagement and developing more consistent support structures across Nexus schools.	
7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
7.1 To consider any other urgent business All transitions remain on track. Most students are progressing to Portland College, with some considering alternative specialist provision such as Landmarks. SEN casework and careers guidance remain strong. <u>Parental Conduct Issues</u> One case of persistent unreasonable parental behaviour was noted, requiring repeated intervention. Governors discussed the impact on staff wellbeing and the need for formalised expectations. <u>Closing Remarks</u> The Council thanked Charlotte for her leadership as Acting Headteacher during a challenging term.	
8. CONFIDENTIALITY	
8.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting None.	

9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	
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Friday 9 July 2026	10:00 – 12:00	Fountaindale Academy
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
Sacha Schofield		