



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday 6th October 2025
Time: 5.00pm
Venue: Didsbury High School

Clerk: K Warhurst
Present: A Clayton, R Watts, M Abadi, J Game, T Theobold, H El-Jarn, M Hill, S Wane, D Woolley and K Houghton

Attending D Brown for part of the meeting

Action	Initials
Governors to inform the Clerk of any changes to their Register of Business interests	All
Governor recruitment and term of office renewal	KH
Update of actions taken regarding the focus on attendance	KH / AC
Governors are asked to complete the mandatory training	All
Clerk to contact Governors regarding their learning plans	KW
Clerk to circulate meeting invite for Annual Governance Conference and remaining Academy Committee meetings	KW

Agenda – Part 1			
Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	GDC training and KCSIE updates	<p>A Clayton provided an update on KCSIE, confirming there had been minimal changes but they expect substantial changes in September 2026.</p> <p>AC informed the Academy Committee of changes to certain sections, such as abusive relationships and online safety now includes fake news and conspiracy theories. AC also went through wording changes made including the subject of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>The Academy Committee were advised about changes to schools use of alternative provision for students. Along with completing a quality assurance visit, school must now have evidence of the safer recruitment checks completed by the provision.</p> <p>Q – Will this result in changes to the Safeguarding policy?</p> <p>A – Yes, this will come through in due course and will include a table at the front of the changes.</p>	
	Governance Arrangements		

		<p>D Brown attended to present to Governors on the role of a GDC, confirming the committee is made up of 3 Governors/Academy Committee members or Trustees. The role of a GDC is to meet to consider the decision made by a Head of School to permanently exclude a student.</p> <p>DB confirmed what a permanent exclusion was and when this decision would be made, stating this is usually the last resort after school have tried a wide range of other strategies without success, with the exception of a one-off serious incident.</p> <p>The Head of School's power to exclude and the process the HOS has to follow was explained to the Academy Committee.</p> <p>The role of a Governor is to test and challenge the decision in light of the relevant guidance and legislation. They will be provided with a full and detailed pack to review prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The structure of the meeting was explained and the areas of consideration that should be completed prior to the GDC making a decision. DB emphasised the GDC should take their time in the meeting to ensure they have all the information they require and all questions have been answered in order to reach their decision.</p> <p>DB was thanked for the presentation and left the meeting at this point.</p>	
	Apologies	Apologies were received from G McGrory	
	AOB items	None	
	Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations of interest made in any of the agenda items.	
	Annual Declaration form	All Governors completed the annual declaration form.	
	Register of Business Interests	The Register of Business Interests was circulated by the Clerk and Governors are asked to record any changes to their record.	All
	Code of Conduct	All Governors agreed to adhere to the Code of Conduct.	

		Part 1 Minutes	Governors <u>approved</u> the minutes of the meeting held 12 th May 2025 as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising and all actions had been completed.	
		Membership: Recruitment Update/Succession Planning	The Academy Committee were advised G McGrory had stepped down as a Governor due to relocation. K Houghton confirmed she would liaise with LW regarding recruiting a new Governor. S Wane term of office is due to end in December 2025 and it was discussed as to whether he would continue in this role or step down to allow another member of staff the opportunity. It was agreed KH and SW would meet to discuss this.	KH/SW
		Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to note to the Scheme of Delegation.	
		Trust Board update	Governors reviewed the report from the May and July 2025 meetings and had no further questions.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Review Head of School report including:	<p>Governors reviewed the Head of School Report with the key areas of focus being pupil outcomes, attendance and behaviour.</p> <p>KH provided an update on the GCSE results.</p> <p>These results place the school top in Manchester in some measures and the 2nd top non-selective school for all important 5+ English and Maths measures.</p> <p>Q – Why is there a different spread of results?</p> <p>A – The KS2 data for this cohort showed a broad spectrum of prior attainment. There was no Progress 8 data for this cohort due to Covid and not completing KS2 SATs therefore school completed internal assessments.</p> <p>Governors were pleased with the year 11 outcomes.</p> <p>The first set of A-level results sets the school in good stead for future years and is ranked 2nd in the city for key measures. It was noted the current Year 13 show great potential.</p> <p>Q – What were the destinations of students after their A-level?</p> <p>A- There were various destinations such as York, Newcastle, St Andrew, Liverpool and MMU. The latter proved very popular at the last minute.</p> <p>T Theobald informed the Academy Committee that the Sixth form now has 83 students and the target was 80.</p> <p>Moving forward for this year, particular focus will be on attendance, KS5 outcomes and destinations, parental engagement and the behaviour curriculum.</p>	
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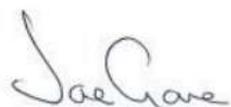
		Confirm school curricula and assessment is in line with the statutory requirements and Trust approach	It was confirmed school curricula and assessment is in line with the statutory requirements and Trust approach	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update including pupil numbers, bench marking and value for money	Governors reviewed the Management Accounts to 31 st July 2025.	
		Ensure curriculum policies (eg Religious Education and Relationships, Sex Education) Behaviour and Welfare policies are in line with statutory guidance	DW confirmed all curriculum policies, Behaviour and Welfare policies are in line with statutory guidance.	
		Policies – undertake school level reviews and note phase/Trust level policies	Governors <u>approved</u> the attendance policy. The Governors requested information is provided at the next meeting as to what the school is doing regarding attendance.	KH/AC

		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	<p>M Abadi provided a verbal update on his initial visit to the school as Safeguarding Link Governor which took place prior to the summer break. He was shown the relevant systems, documentation and procedures used. The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 8th October.</p> <p>As SEND Link Governor, R Watts provided a verbal update after he met with H Brumfit, Director of Inclusion. The school have a good reputation and is well regarded for their work with SEND students. There are challenges with funding linked to SEND students along with the process for obtaining an EHCP as this is not suitable for all students. School offer coffee mornings which provides parents with an opportunity to meet and talk to other parents in a similar position and they can learn from each other.</p>	
4	Governor Development	Review Trust Training Plan	<p>Governors were reminded as to how to access the online training courses and were asked to complete the 4 mandatory training modules. They were also made aware of additional courses available for new Governors.</p> <p>The clerk will email Governors individually regarding their training plans.</p>	All KW
		Minute any training undertaken by Governors since the last meeting	Governors were asked to notify the Clerk of any training undertaken and provide certificates.	
		Academy Trust Handbook	DW provided the Academy Committee with a summary of the 9 key updates to the Academy Trust Handbook.	
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	<p>KH advised the Academy Committee that building work was underway on the school extension and they have obtained permission to allow people to use the turf and MUGA at weekends.</p> <p>Q – When will the additional classrooms be completed?</p> <p>A – Hopefully by the end of January but work has fallen a bit behind schedule.</p>	

6	AOB	To note	<p>Laurus Trust Annual Governor & Trustee Conference 10th December 2025 from 9am to 10.30am.</p> <p>Clerk will circulate a meeting invite</p> <p>H El-Jarn mentioned the large number of trip risk assessments coming through for her to review and whether someone else would be available as a backup if she is not available.</p> <p>DW reassured HEJ that once she has completed one cycle, they are all very similar which will speed up her review process.</p>	KW
7	Meeting Dates:	To note	<p>Monday 9th February 2026 at 5.00pm Monday 11th May 2026 at 5.00pm</p> <p>Clerk will circulate meeting invites.</p>	KW

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
DB delivered a training session on GDC	
Governors received an update on KCSIE	
Governors reviewed the Trust Board updates	
Head of School report was reviewed, including Attendance, Behaviour, Sixth Form and Outcomes.	
Management Accounts were reviewed	
Governors approved the Attendance Policy	
Governors received verbal updates from the SEND and Safeguarding Link Governors	

Meeting closed at 7.00pm



J Game
Chair of Academy Committee
09.02.2026