

Minutes of the Local Academy Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024
Training at 4pm. Main Meeting: 4.30pm – 6pm
Via Microsoft Teams

Governor name	Initials	Governor category	A = absence
Mr Peter Edwards	PE	Chair of Academy Committee	
Mrs Lynn Weeks	LW	Vice Chair of Academy Committee	
Mr Lyndon Stocks	LSt	Appointed AC governor	
Mrs Zoe Clayton	ZCI	Staff Appointed AC governor	
Vacancy x 2		Parent AC governor	
Vacancy		Appointed AC governor	

In attendance:

Staff name	Initials	Role	
Mrs Lucy Spacey	LS	Executive Principal – RPA + YPA	
Mr Courtney Hoop	CH	Principal - YPA	
Mrs Claire Gouthwaite	CG	Principal - RPA	
Mrs Lorraine Robinson	LR	Assistant Principal	
Mrs Rhianne Chambers	RC	Governance Professional (Clerk)	
Quorum Required	2	Governors Present	4

Governor support, questions and challenge: Responses

Item No	Item	Action/ by who/when
RPA/YPA/013/2425	Welcome and apologies for absence The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
RPA/YPA/014/2425	Declarations of interest 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.	
RPA/YPA/015/2425	Training In advance of the meeting, governors received and watched a training session on the changes to Ofsted. The committee discussed the content	

	<p>of the session including the removal of the overall judgement and deep dives for ungraded inspections.</p> <p>Mrs Spacey added that the Section 5 and Section 8 inspections are now called graded or ungraded and the academies will continue to receive the phone call on a Monday for inspections on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday and Fridays are then used for unannounced visits for example, where there are significant safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>The governors agreed that it was good that there is now a 3-month deadline to come back and look at safeguarding and to keep it separate from the rest of the gradings.</p> <p>The governors asked what gaming and off-rolling means. Mrs Spacey advised that some academies play the game to manipulate the data by taking children off roll in the lead up to exam periods or for challenging students. These changes prevent this from happening.</p> <p>The governors noted that it was mentioned that Ofsted are keen to ensure that there is high quality of education for all pupils before asking who checks this is happening. Mrs Spacey explained that there is a huge increase in numbers of people choosing to home educate which tends to be where there is unmet need, significant SEND, a fall out in terms of behaviour or where there are exclusions due to a child struggling to cope in the school setting, so parents choose to pull them out as a last resort. It has also been known for parents choosing to home educate where there is a significant spotlight from a safeguarding point of view and MASH referrals, so they have done it to keep under the radar. The governors questioned if home schooling is becoming more common to which it was confirmed that when completing consultations for Yeoman Park's new build and there are a high proportion of the learners who aren't currently in a school setting. They do have tutors for 1 or 2 hours a week but the expectations of parent's home schooling the remainder of the time is often not being met due to having their own needs.</p> <p>Mr Edwards confirmed he attended the safeguarding link governor training with Patrick Knight. He updated the committee on the content of the training session and the updates for the future that will impact the academies including the Local Authority safeguarding audit and policies only needing appendices if something is different or to name contacts within the academy. Mrs Gouthwaite added that Cheryl</p>	
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	<p>Stollery from Notts CC is working with MATs to find out what each MAT is doing internally to audit safeguarding instead of completing the LA audit.</p> <p>Retrospectively, Ms Weeks confirmed she attended the careers link governor training event which was useful.</p>	
<p>RPA/YPA/016/2425</p>	<p>Governance report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local response following central training <p>It was confirmed that all governors' statutory training is up to date and that all governors had watched the Ofsted training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link governor visits and reports <p>Ms Weeks has conducted 2 link visits, and the reports will be shared with the committee for the next meeting. It was added that the visits focussed on the quality of education and the breadth and depth of education as well as what the academies feel their strengths are. Ms Weeks commented how well both academies know their students and how the curriculum is geared towards each individual student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local training established from governance self-evaluation and focus on priority aspect of school improvement <p>The plan for the training at the January meeting will be on Redgate Primary Academy's curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P Edwards re-election – 4-year term of office <p>It was advised that Mr Edwards' term of office was due for re-election, The committee voted unanimously for Mr Edwards to remain on the committee so therefore Mr Edwards' term of office was re-confirmed for a four-year term of office with effect 19.11.24.</p>	<p>LW</p>
<p>RP/YPA/017/2425</p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting dated 18 September 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting, having previously been received and agreed by the Executive Principal, Principal, and Chair were subsequently agreed by the Local Academy Committee and signed electronically by the chair.</p>	

RP/YPA/018/2425	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>RP/YP/003/2425 – To note the link governor document in SharePoint has been updated.</p> <p>RP/YP/003/2425 – To note Mr Stocks has completed the EDI training.</p> <p>RP/YP/006/2425 – This is to remain as a matter arising so that the AIP can be added to the spring term 1 meeting.</p>	<p>GP</p>
RP/YPA/019/2425	<p>ERM Report</p> <p>The governors asked if the curriculum update is for specific subjects and if it includes competitive sports. Mr Hoop advised that the requirements of the sports premium funding is to look at competitive sports. It was acknowledged that Yeoman Park do struggle to find outside activities but are getting involved where possible. Mr Edwards added that he had attended a meeting to look at inclusive sports across the county and ensuring it is on the agenda to be looked at to ensure SEND children are being represented. Mrs Gouthwaite noted that Mrs Robinson is working with Premier Education to see what other events can be tapped into. Redgate Primary do struggle to find external competitions do not tend to be aimed at primary school aged children. Mr Edwards suggested about getting a Paralympian into the academies to which Mrs Spacey agreed that both academies are looking to ensure the learners have access to things that are aspirational whilst still realistic.</p> <p>The governors acknowledged that Redgate Primary is working with the Maths Lead for the trust, Sarah Kahler, and English Lead for the trust, Pat Evans, as well as more collaborative work with Yeoman Park Academy.</p> <p>The governors praised Redgate for the attendance levels which is above national average for Special schools. The governors then asked if there is anything else that can be done for the persistently absent children to attend more. Mrs Gouthwaite explained that the children who are currently persistently absent are due to illnesses and holidays. In a recent placement monitoring meeting with the Local Authority meeting, they were not concerned and are happy for the next meeting to be in April to allow the children to increase their attendance.</p>	

	<p>The governors asked the same question for Yeoman Park to which Mr Hoop explained that the academy has a historical non-attender with 0% attendance for this academic year. The academy has conducted home visits, and it has been advised that the academy will no longer meet the needs, so alternatives are being investigated with the local authority. The governors further noted that within YPA's ERM it notes that further unpicking of attendance concerns is underway before questioning what this means. Mr Hoop explained that this is part of the due diligence and rigor from the trust especially when it comes to more vulnerable learners. Mrs Spacey added that with attendance, academies can always do better and whilst it is acknowledged both Yeoman Park and Redgate are doing a great job with attendance especially around holidays in term time. The academies are currently reviewing these and tightening up on these as well as the length of time children are off following illnesses.</p> <p>The governors questioned why Redgate are looking to reduce their student numbers back to 56 from 57. Mrs Gouthwaite advised that the academy has a PAN of 56 but there are currently 57 due to having to accept an additional student. The Local Authority has been advised the academy will be going back to 56 children with the next group of leavers and intake.</p> <p>The governors queried if Voice 21 is usable for Redgate to which Mrs Gouthwaite confirmed that some elements will be, but the academy is unable to embrace the entire project like other academies have.</p> <p>The governors requested an overview on the new Yeoman Park curriculum. Mrs Clayton advised that following the last Ofsted, the academy have been developing their own curriculum. To start the project, the academy conducted a lot of research including working alongside Redgate and other special schools. Due to the nature of special schools, the academy did not find a curriculum that was right for Yeoman Park and the children of the academy, therefore, the academy created their own curriculum but using assessment systems and frameworks that are already out there to support with the curriculum development. There are 2 compartments within the curriculum. Part one is the long-term plans focusing more on the curriculum content. The academy has used the national curriculum framework to give breadth and depth for the content coverage which</p>	
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	<p>was also backed up by pupil voice. The curriculum has been created on a 4-year topic cycle to ensure the learners revisit the learning and to ensure the children are developing the skills. The second part of the curriculum is the waypoints for the curriculum areas. These are based on progressional skills and objectives to support teacher planning and provide sequential steps for a pupil's learning journey.</p> <p>The committee were made aware that the focus moving forward is on the learning, intent and what the children are learning from that lesson. It was added that if a learner exceeds through the curriculum and is ready for the national curriculum then the academy would look for placements to support the learner in their future. The academy is honest with parents that they do not offer GCSE's but will fully support any learners that may be ready for that. Governors were advised that the new curriculum gives the subject leaders the ownership to do their own quality assurance and monitoring to ensure they are aware of the quality of teaching across the curriculum. The governors commented that the work gone into the curriculum is phenomenal and it is empowering for all staff to know it was solely built towards them and they can all do it. Mrs Clayton added that whilst the learners do have a high level of complex needs, the children are also entitled to an amazing curriculum. It was acknowledged that the move to the new build will be tricky period for the learners with expected regressions, however with a stable curriculum in place, there will be a strong expectation for lessons to resume. The governors and academy SLT thanked Mrs Clayton for her hard work on the monumental amount of work which has gone into the piece of work.</p> <p>Safeguarding - Compliance and culture The governors agreed that all the information received within the safeguarding reports was gratefully received and that there were no questions for either academy.</p> <p>Stakeholders The governors noted that there are no Cat C visits planned for Redgate to which Mrs Gouthwaite confirmed that Mrs Robinson is going to visit Lea Green Learning and Development Centre to see if will suit the Y6 cohort. Whilst it would not be for a residential it would be opportunity to take the class out to be able to have different experiences. If not, the academy does have a provisional booking at The Mill Adventure</p>	
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	<p>Base in May. At the end of November, all children are going to see the Aladdin pantomime. The governors asked the same question to Yeoman Park. Mr Hoop explained that they are looking at Cat C activities later in the year through Portland Adventure but that these will be brought to the governors once planned a little more.</p> <p>Health & Safety Committee minutes The academy has held a recent Health and Safety committee meeting, but the minutes were not received by the meeting. These will be shared at the next committee meeting.</p> <p>Data Protection (any breaches/SARs/FOIA/Police requests), The governors had no questions on data protection for either academy.</p> <p>Complaints, claims (No's/overview) The governors acknowledged there were no complaints for either academy.</p>	GP
RP/YPA/ 020/2425	<p>How has the Academy Committee held senior leaders to account Challenge had taken place throughout the meeting in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to Ofsted framework • Attendance • Curriculum • Trips 	
RP/YPA/ 021/2425	<p>How have Vision, Mission and Values of Trust/Equity been upheld Academy Committee governors were satisfied that vision mission and values had been reviewed as part of the agenda and discussions taking place during the meeting.</p>	
RP/YPA/ 022/2425	<p>Consider information to be advised to the Trust Board and complete the annual report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report was completed within the meeting and submitted to the Trust board. 	
RP/YPA/ 023/2425	<p>Determination of confidentiality of business Academy Committee governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was Resolved:</p>	

	- That confidential information was discussed within agenda items 019/2425 should remain confidential to the meeting's attendees	
RP/YPA/ 023/2425	Date and time of next meeting Tuesday 21 January 2025 Training Meeting: 4pm Main Meeting 4.30pm-6pm Location – Redgate Primary Academy	
	The meeting closed at 17.30pm Signed.....by the chair via email.....(chair) Date.....20.11.24....	