

**Minutes of Yeoman Park Academy / Redgate Primary Academy
Local Academy Committee Meeting
Wednesday 2 July 2025 at 10.00am
At Yeoman Park Academy**

Present:

Governor name	Initials	Governor type	A = Absence
Mr Pete Edwards	PE	Chair / Appointed AC governor	
Mrs Lynn Weeks	LW	Vice Chair / Appointed AC governor	
Mrs Zoe Clayton	ZC	Staff AC governor	A
Mrs Alison Pink	AP	Appointed AC governor	A
Mr Douglas Pink	DP	Appointed Parent AC governor	
Mr James Coope	JC	Appointed AC governor	
Mrs Rebecca Scully	SC	Appointed Parent AC governor	

In attendance:

Name	Initial	Role
Mrs Lucy Spacey	LS	Executive Principal
Mr Courtney Hoop	CH	Principal
Mrs Claire Gouthwaite	CG	Principal
Ms Lynsey Parker	LP	Governance Professional (Clerk)

Item no.	Item	Action / by whom / by when
RP/YPA/057/2425	<p>Welcome and Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their time and commitment.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received and agreed from Ms Clayton and Mrs Pink.</p>	
RP/YPA/058/2425	<p>Declarations of interest:</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest, either direct or indirect, for any items of business on the agenda.</p> <p>Governors confirmed that the declarations previously given were correct.</p> <p>Governors noted that they will need to complete a new declaration of interests for 2025/26 and that forms for completion will be shared following the meeting.</p>	
RP/YPA/059/2425	<p>Governance report:</p>	

Governors acknowledged receipt of the governance report, including link visit reports in respect of:

Behaviour and attendance
Careers
Leadership and management
Quality of education / curriculum

Governance housekeeping:

The Chair confirmed that following the last meeting, Mr Lyndon Stocks had resigned from the joint academy committee. The Governance Professional confirmed that process had been followed and Mr Stocks had been sent an exit questionnaire so that any feedback could be taken on board.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair:

The Chair explained that the Chair and Vice Chair roles were subject to annual re-election from members of the academy committee.

Both Mr Edwards and Ms Weeks have expressed an interest in continuing in the Chair and Vice Chair roles. The Chair asked if there were any other expressions of interest from the academy committee governors. There were no further expressions of interest.

Academy committee governors discussed and unanimously voted for Mr Edwards to be re-elected as Chair for another year with effect from the autumn term, and for Ms Weeks to be re-elected as Vice Chair with effect from the autumn term. The academy committee governors and Principals thanked Mr Edward and Ms Weeks for all their contributions to both academies.

Link roles:

The Chair explained that with the addition of four new governors to the academy committee plus a recent resignation it would be timely to review link governor roles in readiness for 2025/26.

Governors discussed and agreed the following link governor roles:

Safeguarding – Mr Edwards
SEND – Mrs Scully
Careers – Mr Coope
Quality of Education and curriculum – Ms Weeks
Behaviour and attendance (to link closely with Safeguarding) – Mr Edwards
Leadership and Management – Mr Edwards
Health and Safety – Mr Pink

It was unanimously agreed that rather than having link governors and separate visits into the academies in respect of Pupil Premium and parental/stakeholder engagement, these areas should be embedded within all visits, and senior and middle leaders questioned and challenged as appropriate.

	<p>The Chair advised that the slides are available from the recent Trust governor conference and encouraged all governors to review.</p> <p>Governors noted that one of the topics discussed at the governor conference was how academy committee governors can add more value to their roles, and have a greater focus on holding leaders to account for delivery of strategic priorities rather than routine matters.</p> <p>The Chair also noted that for the Yeoman Park and Redgate joint academy committee there was a need for governor training and development to continue to be localised to a special school context – previously the academy committee has received training on interoception, curriculum intent, Family Support Advisers, to understand the context in which the academies operate and staff deliver their duties, and it is important that this continues throughout 2025/26.</p> <p>Additional governor responsibilities were discussed in relation to training and development. It was agreed that the Governance Professional would invite new governors to attend admissions, complaints or discipline panels as and when these are convened, as observers to gain an insight and experience of these types of panels.</p>	LP
<p>RP/YPA/60 /2425</p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting dated 14th May 2025: (attached/agreed by Chair, Principal, Executive Principal and circulated)</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting, having been signed by the Chair, were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
<p>RP/YPA/61 /2425</p>	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>There were no actions or matters arising from the previous meeting.</p>	
<p>RP/YPA/62 /2425</p>	<p>Principal's report:</p> <p>The Chair advised that Redgate will be in the Ofsted inspection cycle from 2025/26, but that with detailed proposals on the new inspection framework due, no academies are expecting inspections during at least the autumn term 2025/26. The Chair asked for Ofsted readiness to be a standing agenda item at all forthcoming academy committee meetings so that governors can maintain an oversight and ensure that academy leaders are leading preparations as appropriate. Governors noted the update.</p> <p>Yeoman Park Academy: Governors acknowledged receipt of the ERM report for Yeoman Park Academy, circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Governors noted the update on attainment and asked if the approach to staff working together on joint curriculum planning and subsequent implementation has had an impact on attainment.</p>	LP

	<p>Mr Hoop explained that the approach has been to look at attainment and progress across all areas for each student and then focus on improving weaker areas for individual students. Teachers have been changing teaching styles, recognising learners' weaknesses, and putting strategies in place. Mr Hoop reported that staff confidence in sharing expertise and strategies to raise standards is increasing. Expressive communication and reading is a limiting factor that underpins all areas of the curriculum and this will continue to be an area of focus across both academies next year.</p> <p>In terms of next steps, Mr Hoop advised that collaborative working to support curriculum implementation across both academies will be taking place. It was explained that whilst the curriculum model may be different across the two academies, there will be a focus on teaching approaches within the classroom, which will lead to greater professional collaboration amongst teaching staff and potentially ease workloads, and improved outcomes for children.</p> <p>Attendance: The governors noted that there were small number of learners with severe absence and asked the Principal to comment on the plans for these students.</p> <p>The Principal advised that 3 children are affected and noted that the package on offer at the academy may not work for all children so the team work with the families to look at the best options. In these 3 cases, one child may be moving to EOTAS, one is dual access and only in school for half the year upon medical advice but LA advice is that the school place needs to remain open to the child all year. In all cases, work is ongoing with ICDS</p> <p>Curriculum and enrichment: Governors noted the extremely positive introduction of Friday theme days and asked if the academy needed any support to continue to develop this. Mr Hoop advised that this provides additional experiences for learners and encourages curriculum leaders to think outside of the box in terms of curriculum delivery and opportunities offered.</p> <p>Governors enquired if some external agencies engage more than others. The Principal confirmed that creative industries organisations and providers engage well but some areas such as STEM more challenging.</p> <p>Mr Edwards advised he would make contact with local religious organisations about religious and cultural visits in to the academies, to support our learners who may otherwise struggle to access such visits in the community</p> <p>Mr Coope advised he would make enquiries with his employer about potential cultural enrichment opportunities and visits in to the academies that they may be able to offer.</p> <p>Destinations of learners:</p>	<p>PE</p> <p>JC</p>
--	--	---------------------

	<p>Governors enquired about the destinations of learners from YPA post-16. The Principal advised that the academy continue to make links with a variety of organisations to explore options for learners and prepare them for adulthood, and consult heavily with parents and students about their preferred options. Following an earlier discussion, it was confirmed that Portland College remains a very popular choice, and the Principal asked governors to mindful that there are limited options for some learners and that Portland College does meet need.</p> <p>Staff CPD: Governors commented that a recent staff survey highlighted that the staff CPD needed is very specialist, with teaching staff frustrated that there is a limited offering nationally, and enquired if the best people to deliver and upskill staff are from within both academies. The Principals advised that being part of a wider SEND community, and teaming up with like-minded teachers with similar groups of learners from other organisations is beneficial for our special schools. It was also noted that joint working within the Trust and Association has improved and now both Principals are in a position to offer training to other academies across the Trust</p> <p>AIP: It was confirmed that the 2025/26 AIP would be shared with governors once finalised.</p> <p>Governors asked if there were any actions / recommendation from the ERM. The Principal advised that he was waiting for Executive Leader feedback, and that the final report would be shared with governors once it was available.</p> <p>Redgate Primary Academy: It was acknowledged that no Principal’s Report had been circulated in advance, as the academy was due to have its AIR the following day and so reporting timelines to governors had not been aligned on this occasion.</p> <p>The Principal advised that the final AIR report would be shared with governors as soon as it was available.</p> <p>Safeguarding: Governors acknowledged receipt of the safeguarding reports from both academies, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Governors asked the Principals to feedback on the recent safeguarding audit from the Trust strategic development lead for safeguarding. Ms Gouthwaite confirmed that a sample of all secure, confidential files relating to child protection, Child in Need or Looked after Children had been reviewed.</p> <p>Governors noted that 6 MASH referrals had been made since that last academy committee meeting and asked the Principal to comment on any areas of challenge.</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>CG</p>
--	--	---------------------

Principals advised that the Mansfield and Ashfield locality still use a previous referral process rather than the new process of speaking to a Social Worker direct to triage and receive advice on routes/pathways to provision. There are some issues experienced with the consistency and continuity of Social Workers, with them often asking schools what action and support they want for the families concerned. In addition, concerns from health teams often come to school to action and make onward referrals rather than these agencies making the referrals directly. Governors asked the Principals if there were any opportunities for feedback that they could support with and it was advised that issues are raised at the SEND strategic board made up of headteachers from local schools and the local authority.

Principals advised that EHAF referrals continue to be made and that many meet threshold for support however often generic parenting support/advice only is on offer and not specialist support regarding SEND for these families, and that there are not always the right people in the right places for families to access the support they need.

The academy committee discussed the forthcoming government SEND review and Green Paper and expressed frustration that discourse around inclusion has conflated long-term learning disability with, for example, learners in Alternative Provision who may need trauma-informed practice and provision, and with support may thrive in mainstream settings. It was noted that there may be opportunities to input into the consultation at a later date to ensure that differing needs are taken into account.

Parent governors feedback that they had already recognised some anxiety amongst parents with regards to the SEND reforms, and asked Principals to be mindful that this anxiety and uncertainty for their children may inadvertently filter through to home-school relationships

Mr Hoop suggested that the focus should not always be on bringing SEND children up to the same standards and outcomes as children in mainstream, and that both academies are committed to each individual child's personal development journey.

Health and Safety:

Governors confirmed receipt of the minutes of the health and safety committee meetings at both academies and asked the Principals to provide an update on any issues.

Mr Hoop confirmed that at YPA snagging of the new building and resolving any issues continues. He advised that if any damage occurs, because the building is under new build warranty, this has to go back to the original contractors for fixing rather than using our usual process, and that this could potentially cause some issues such as some rooms being put out of action if there are not quick enough turnaround times. Governors asked if all elements of the building were suitable for the learners. The Principal advised that the building has been built to and fully

	<p>complies with the DfE specification but that some lessons need to be learned regarding suitability of all elements of the specification for special schools.</p> <p>Ms Gouthwaite advised that at RPA the heatwave has caused an issue and is becoming more difficult to manage due to the nature and age of the building. The Principal advised that additional air con units have been used to maintain pupil and staff wellbeing. Governors asked if this can be fed back to the Trust via the report from the academy committee for a solution, as extreme temperatures will continue in the future.</p> <p>Ms Gouthwaite advised that a water leak has been identified at RPA which is affecting the car park at the front of the building and that contactors are visiting the site to investigate.</p> <p>Governors asked what the long term estates plan is for Redgate and it was confirmed that the academy is not on the DfE school building programme but that we need to keep working closely with the Estates team to keep improving and maintaining the site to make it the best possible space for our learners.</p> <p>Ms Weeks noted that from her extensive governor visits, she has observed that it is not the building, but what goes on inside it that is important, advising that children are happy; a good quality of education is provided; and staff are dedicated.</p> <p>Parent governors also feedback that staff at both academies make all the difference to the experience of parents/carers and their children, and asked the Principals to pass on their thanks to staff at both academies for their dedication and hard work.</p>	LP
	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Ms Weeks, on behalf of the whole committee and community, gave thanks and congratulations to Mr Edwards on his recent MBE recognition in the Kings birthday honours list, for his contributions and dedicated service to the local community.</p>	
<p>RP/YPA/06 3/2425</p>	<p>How has the Academy Committee held senior leaders to account:</p> <p>Governors have challenged the Principals throughout the meeting in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Attainment Attendance Safeguarding Stakeholders and partnership working Staff and pupil wellbeing Health and safety 	
<p>RP/YPA/06 4/2425</p>	<p>How have Vision, Mission and Values of Trust/Equality been upheld:</p> <p>The Trust vision, missions and values have been upheld through the agenda and discussions that have taken place.</p>	

	Equalities implications have been considered in all agenda items.	
RP/YPA/06 5/2425	Annual report Following discussion amongst the governors, the annual report from the local academy committee was completed and submitted to the Trust Head of Governance following the meeting.	
RP/YPA/06 6/2425	Determination of Confidentiality Academy committee governors considered whether anything discussed should be deemed confidential and it was resolved that there had been no confidential items discussed.	
RP/YPA/06 7/2425	Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 17 September at 10.00am	
<p>The meeting closed at 11.45am</p> <p>Signed: P. Edwards (Chair) Date: 23/7/25</p>		