

**Notes and Action Record of the Yeoman Park Academy / Redgate Primary Academy
Joint Local Academy Committee Autumn 2 meeting
Held on Wednesday 12th November at 10.00am at Yeoman Park**

Membership	Initials	Governor category	Absence
Pete Edwards MBE (Chair of Governors)	PE	Appointed AC governor	
Lynn Weeks (Vice Chair of Governors)	LW	Appointed AC governor	
Zoe Clayton	ZC	Staff AC governor	
Ali Pink	AP	Appointed AC governor	A
Douglas Pink	DP	Appointed Parent AC governor	
James Coope	JC	Appointed AC governor	A
Rebecca Scully	RS	Appointed Parent AC governor	

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Lucy Spacey	LS	Executive Principal	A
Courtney Hoop	CH	Principal - YPA	
Claire Gouthwaite	CG	Principal – RPA	
Lynsey Parker	LP	Governance Professional / Clerk to Governors	

Quorum required	4	Governors present	6
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Action Record:

Agenda item	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Complete / carried forward
YPA/RPA/ 58/2425	Summer 2 2024/25	New governors to be invited to Governor Discipline Panels as part of their induction and development	LP		Clerk to share training and resources and invite governor as and when any panels for the 2025/26 A/Y need to be convened	C

YPA/RPA/62/2425	Summer 2 2024/25	To make enquires with local religious organisations about visits into school, and feed back	PE		Diocesan meeting is due to take place and will be raised. Lorraine at RPA has contacted St Johns and St Marys churches in Mansfield, PE to follow up	C
YPA/RPA/03/2526	Autumn 1	Governors with outstanding Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest returns to complete	AP/DP/JC (both) LW/RS (CoC)	30/9/2025		C
YPA/RPA/03/2526	Autumn 1	All governors to complete annual mandatory training via National College and send certificates to Governance Professional once complete	Govs	30/9/2025	Ongoing – please complete by end of Autumn term	C/F
YPA/RPA/03/2526	Autumn 1	Governance Professional to update and share link governor resources	LP	1/10/2025		C
YPA/RPA/03/2526	Autumn 1	Handover SEND link governor role information/resources and questions to be asked during academy visits	PE			C
YPA/RPA/03/2526	Autumn 1	Handover Careers link governor role information/resources and questions to be asked during academy visits	LW		Complete – however resignation of JC means Careers link governor role needs to be filled	C
YPA/RPA/03/2526	Autumn 1	Share information on Business Making a Difference Partnership	RS/LP	1/10/2025	Complete	C
YPA/RPA/03/2526	Autumn 1	Governance Professional to share link to skills survey with new governors who have not already completed, and re-run results to shape governor development priorities	LP	1/10/2025	Survey shared but issues with access. CoG agreed to review LAC action plan without latest skills data but ensure full coverage next year	C
YPA/RPA/06/2526	Autumn 1	Governors to confirm attendance at any academy parent and stakeholder engagement events with the Principals	Govs	Ongoing	Complete / ongoing	C

Notes of meeting:

Blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge

Green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval

Q = Question from governors

A =Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points /summary of discussion	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline
YPA/RPA/ 10/2526 Welcome and apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from JC and LS.			
YPA/RPA/ 11/2526 Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest for any items on the agenda.			
YPA/RPA/ 12/2526 Notes of last meeting and update action log	Notes of the previous meeting were received and agreed. Updates were given for all actions from the last meeting – see above.			
YPA/RPA/ 13/2526 Governor training and development	<p>Pupil Premium</p> <p>Governors received the Pupil Premium plans for both academies in advance of the meeting. Governors confirmed that the plans clearly show the academy context and are clear in terms of the approach and ambition.</p> <p>CH delivered a presentation to the academy committee governors.</p> <p>Governors noted the following: PP is an annual needs-based funding allocation to academies from the government for ‘disadvantaged children’ defined as being in receipt of free school meals (FSM), a looked after child (LAC), or from an Armed Forces family.</p>			

	<p>Aim of the funding is to reduce the attainment gap between PP students and their non-disadvantaged peers.</p> <p>Principals advised governors that there will always be an attainment gap for learners in non-mainstream and so the funding purpose doesn't quite fit the provision at specialist schools.</p> <p>Discussion on language and terminology around disadvantage and funding eligibility took place.</p> <p>Q – do the academies use PP funding to close attainment gaps, or to enhance provision?</p> <p>A – both</p> <p>Funding has to be used for its intended purpose and meet funding criteria / rules which include improving outcomes in literacy and numeracy. At both YPA and RPA PP funding is also directed toward skill development – communication, self-regulation and social skills.</p> <p>Vast majority of PP funding at both academies is for additional TA staffing, as well as staff CPD and backfill for staff undertaking such CPD, music therapy which aligns to the triad of skills.</p> <p>Accountability – annual return to DfE</p> <p>Governor oversight – ensure alignment with school improvement priorities and effective use of funding.</p> <p>Governors received and scrutinised information on PP funding rates and this year's overall PP allocation for each academy.</p> <p>Q – why are the rates of funding different for Primary and Secondary phases? What impact does this have on provision?</p>			
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	<p>A – aim of funding is for greater early intervention to prevent educational disadvantage becoming more entrenched. Majority of funding is spent on additional staff capacity which will benefit all learners.</p> <p>Governors noted funding allocation is largely whole-academy based and not personalised for individual children. Academy budgets do show the proportion of expenditure in different categories that uses PP funding.</p> <p>Q – agree and support the principle that the funding should be used for additional TA staffing and deployed where this will make the greatest difference to the greatest number of children. What would the Principals do if this additional funding was withdrawn?</p> <p>A – re-assess staffing and resourcing plans. Consider where in the budget posts could be funded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As PP is additional needs-based funding and not guaranteed and has not necessarily led to improvements in closing the gap nationally, there is a real risk it could be removed by current or future government. - Governors noted that instability of funding is one of the highest levels of risk for both academies and were satisfied that they had regular oversight of the process for identifying and managing risks. 			
	<p>Primary Sports Premium</p> <p>Governors received and endorsed the Sports Premium plans for both academies in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>CG delivered a presentation to academy committee governors.</p> <p>Governors noted the following: Annual funding allocation for children in Years 1-6 only (chronological age not cognitive age/age at which the curriculum is being accessed)</p> <p>Funding has to be used for its intended purpose and meet funding criteria / rules.</p>			

	<p>Examples of how the funding is used in both academies was discussed and considered by the governors. At RPA and YPA funding allocation is used to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help children access and engage with physical activity and the PE curriculum, At YPA children may engage in short bursts of activity and movement breaks within the classroom e.g. Just Dance. Do not always label as 'sport', but ensure equipment to allow for PA is to hand. At RPA similarly, not always labelled as sport but sometimes an 'activity' or 'competition' which gets the children moving. • Raise profile of physical activity and movement being beneficial to health and wellbeing • CPD / upskill staff to deliver physical activity and PE curriculum. <p>- Governors noted that at RPA external providers are brought in to deliver PA sessions. The aim is to maintain relationship with current provider as not all providers are suitable for specialist settings.</p> <p>Q – has this been fed back to providers?</p> <p>A – Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PE also to raise as part of his sports development work. - Governors noted that some learners at YPA may need providers who know how to provide sensory experiences. Others are talented / competitive and may need a completely different approach, not one size fits all. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver enrichment e.g. lunchtime sports clubs. <p>- Governors noted that after school clubs not offered as many children have transport to and from school provided by the local authority and would be unable to access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase participation in competitive sporting events – Principals advised that this is difficult to access for special schools. <p>Q – is there a lack of opportunities and events for primary-age children in general, or are there no competitive opportunities for special schools?</p> <p>A – Some mainstream primary events do take place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need for external agencies with responsibility for school sport to work together to develop and promote opportunities. There may also be a lack of confidence in skillset to deliver for SEND children amongst these agencies. 			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PE is taking forwards and joining up conversations with various sports development agencies. - Discussion took place on the competitive opportunities that do exist at both academies e.g. Sports Day. Discussion on inspirational para-athletes as speakers and the suitability of this also took place. <p>Q – Does a large proportion of the funding get taken up by equipment? A – Yes, and we have a rolling programme of replacement of resources</p> <p>Q – Do both academies get through volumes of equipment due to wear and tear? A – Yes, and we factor in cost of replacement in our plans</p> <p>Accountability – annual return to DfE. All schools in receipt of funding required to report on key measures such as children able to swim 25 metres by end of Year 6, along with evidence of impact against the areas in own school plan Requirement to publish plan and evaluation on website annually.</p> <p>Governor oversight – ensure alignment with school improvement priorities and effective use of funding.</p> <p>Q – If the funding is not spent within the year, does it have to be given back? A – Have to spend within the year and cannot carry forwards. Sports Premium is additional needs-based funding for academies and is not mainstreamed. Unclear how long this additional funding stream will be available for so.</p> <p>Q – has there ever been any challenge from the DfE on use of funding or impact, that governors should be aware of and monitor going forwards? A – No. Would possibly be challenge against the KPIs if a mainstream school so it is assumed that school type / circumstances are taken into account. Unsure of QA processes within DfE but ever any query / follow up and both Principals confident robust approach and reporting processes in place.</p>			
YPA/RPA/ 14/2526	There were no confidential discussions			

Determination of Confidentiality				
YPA/RPA/15/2526 Report to Trustees	A report will be provided to Trustees following the meeting. Governors feedback on the training and development session; all agreed it was helpful to allow more time on the agenda to look into issues in more depth and increase knowledge and understanding across the whole academy committee			
YPA/RPA/16/2526 Date and time of next meeting	Friday 16th January at 10.00am at Yeoman Park Academy (Governors please note change of date)			

Signed by Chair: P Edwards MBE

Date: 16th January 2026