

**Minutes of the joint Academy Committee Board Meeting
held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 5.15pm at Thrumpton Primary Academy**

Membership	Initials	Governor category	Absence
Mr A Murray	AM	Appointed governor	
Mrs C Wyles	CW	Appointed governor	
Dr E Farrar	EF	Appointed governor	
Mrs F Simpson – Vice chair	FS	Appointed governor	
Mrs J Gawthorpe	JS	Appointed governor	
Ms M Malcolm	MM	Parent governor	A
Miss S Garnett – Chair of Governors	SG	Appointed Parent governor	
Mrs S Willows	SW	Parent governor	
Mrs K Cleary	KC	Appointed governor	A
Mr M Wintle	MW	Appointed governor	

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Mrs L Spacey	LS	Executive Principal	
Mrs H Cawkill	HC	Principal for Bracken Lane	
Mrs R Hurley	RH	Principal for Thrumpton	
Mrs A Elway	AE	Head of Governance	
Mrs S Kahler	SK	Primary Maths Lead	
Mrs N Benson	NB	Governance Professional	

Quorum number	5	Governor's present	8
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Item No	Item	Action/ by who/when
AC/11/2425	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Mrs Spacey explained that Mrs Hurley will be leaving Thrumpton at the end of this term to take on a new venture as Principal at Thoresby Vale Primary School alongside Gareth Letton. Sarah Kahler will be taking over from Mrs Hurley. Sarah is not new to the Trust and has been working as Primary Maths Lead.</p> <p>All governors introduced themselves to Sarah.</p>	
AC/12/2425	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Ms Malcolm due to another engagement and these were accepted by the committee. Apologies were received from Mrs Cleary during the meeting due to unexpected work commitments.</p>	
AC/13/2425	<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>The chair asked if anyone had any declarations to update. Governors confirmed that the declarations given at the beginning of the academic year were correct.</p>	

AC/14/2425	<p>Ofsted Training</p> <p>The chair asked if all governors had reviewed the Ofsted training recording prior to the meeting. Governors confirmed that they had viewed the recording.</p> <p>The chair asked governors if they had any questions or feedback following the training. Governors commented that there was a lot to take in and they were pleased to see some of the changes and are hopeful things will improve moving forwards. <u>Governors then asked</u> what the status of the schools currently is and where they might be in the cycle of inspections <u>and expanded on the question by asking</u> where the schools are in respect to the priorities of the last inspection, what the current priorities are and how they are progressing.</p> <p>Mrs Hurley responded that Thrumpton's next inspection is expected in or around the Autumn of 2025. In terms of priorities from the last inspection at Thrumpton, one of the areas for development was around communication with parents. Mrs Hurley explained that at the time of the last inspection the schools were transitioning to the Weduc platform and this had been identified through parents surveys as an issue. A lot of work has been done around this since the Ofsted visit and Weduc is now working well for parents. Another priority was about curriculum adaptation and meeting the needs of all the children in the classroom. Mrs Hurley said that great gains have been made since the inspection and this has been reinforced by the Academy Improvement Review (AIR) earlier today.</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill said that Bracken Lane expect their next Ofsted in the same window as Thrumpton. Feedback from the last inspection was that leaders were not yet leading and driving things forward. The Academy had welcomed new team members during lockdown and were building up the ability to lead subjects and the priority was identified when Ofsted visited just after covid. Things have moved on, and the academy continues to work on leaders driving improvement. Another area identified for improvement was around knowing more and remembering more and children didn't always achieve as highly as they could because the sequence of learning wasn't picking up levels of vocabulary in the curriculum. A huge amount of work has already gone into this and continues.</p> <p><u>Governors commented</u> that the Ofsted presentation was very good in picking up the inconsistencies within the Ofsted system adding that there has been a quadrupling of inspectors which has been very good. The presentation picked up issues around training and made it clear that inspections will be more <i>with</i> schools rather than at schools. Governors commented that they would have liked to have seen a reference to the more able as they are going to be classed as a vulnerable group. <u>Governors also felt</u> that it was a welcome amendment to the process, ensuring that all schools to be inspected will receive a phone call on a Monday.</p>	

	<p><u>Governors asked</u> about how SEND will feature as part of the new inspections and Mrs Spacey said SEND is featuring highly from what has been seen so far within the trust. <u>The governors then asked</u> if SEND leaders are on the senior leadership teams and Mrs Spacey confirmed that they are.</p>	
AC/15/2425	<p>Governance Report</p> <p>The governance professional (GP) discussed the content of the governance report reminding all governors to complete any outstanding administration tasks and mandatory training.</p> <p>There were no Link Visit reports to share or discuss. All governors were reminded to inform the GP when a link visit has been scheduled and share link visit reports so that they can be uploaded to the portal.</p>	
AC/16/2425	<p>Minutes of the last Academy committee meeting on 25th September 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been received were agreed and signed by the vice chair.</p>	
AC/17/2425	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>AC/02/2425 All governors to complete the Declarations of Interest for 2024-2025. SW outstanding complete</p> <p>AC/02/2425 All governors to read and sign the Code of Conduct for 2024-2025. SW AM MM complete</p> <p>AC/02/2425 All governors to review the GP report and complete necessary actions around training and housekeeping. complete</p> <p>AC/02/2425 NB to share a link to Voice 21 following the meeting complete.</p> <p>AC/02/2425 NB to amend the school contact information within the Link Governor document complete.</p> <p>AC/02/2425 NB to update website to reflect link governor role changes complete.</p> <p>AC/05/2425 LS to feed back to the trust comments regarding timing and frequency of staff surveys. complete</p> <p>AC/05/2425 HC to share delayed ERM with governors. complete</p> <p>AC/05/2425 HC to arrange SEND meeting with JG. complete</p> <p>AC/05/2425 NB to schedule a training session on how to navigate the governor portal in advance of the next meeting complete.</p>	
AC/18/2425	<p>Thrumpton Principals Report</p> <p>Mrs Hurley displayed the Thrumpton report on the screen and told the committee that the writing target has been tweaked to 73%. She went on to say the AIR had been held at Thrumpton earlier in the day and had been a very positive process. Mrs Hurley explained that the AIR is part of the school improvement cycle and helps all leaders, a planning meeting takes place before arrival and the AIR come in to work with schools. This time a team of 6 came to Thrumpton with a focus on maths as it took a bit of a hit at year 6 SATS, the work that Mrs Kahler has been doing during this period of time has focussed around maths and some strategies have been</p>	

	<p>implemented. The AIR also looks at the wider curriculum areas and did a deep dive into art, music, geography and science as well as looking closely at early years to see how improvement measures put in place have developed and how children with SEND are being supported.</p> <p>From the AIR there has been some very successful feedback, the process has reassured Mrs Hurley of the strengths within Thrumpton, has confirmed the next steps are right and identified where the trust can support with the process. This is a great way to ensure resource is deployed effectively and accordingly. Mrs Hurley and team will now look at the Academy Improvement Plan (AIP) and add new targets and also work on the Self Evaluation Report (SEF) and update the positives.</p> <p>The key improvements to be made will be around adaptations for SEND children. <u>The governors asked</u> what the school is really good at. Mrs Hurley said that there are significant strengths in reading and phonics and SEND provision for the most vulnerable learners and the next layer to work on is looking at the needs of the next level of learners. Mrs Hurley added that the leadership development of some of the staff has been noted as a success. <u>Governors then asked</u> what the main areas are to develop. Mrs Hurley said they are in SEND, adding that early years environment in f1 needs to be the same quality as the environment in f2 to ensure that all requirements of the curriculum are being met in both areas so refinement in these areas to understand what is being used and why. <u>The governors wanted to know</u> that all staff are sufficiently trained to meet complex needs in order to enhance provision for all children with SEND. Mrs Spacey told the committee that the whole school access the full suite of training and specific training needs identified can be addressed in this way. Areas of best practice and areas where resource is needed are identified and focussed to individuals or teams of people. Teaching Assistants are also supported in this way. Mrs Hurley said that throughout the day there had been acknowledgement of the challenges created by the flood and praise for how the school continued to improve. Mrs Kahler added that she had been at Thrumpton all day and it had been very beneficial for her to get a good handle on things as part of those discussions.</p> <p>Mrs Hurley finished her report by explaining that the SEF shared as part of the Principals' report will now be revised based on the feedback received and will be shared with governors again.</p> <p>Bracken Lane Principals Report</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill referred to the Bracken Lane report and told the committee that she has not yet had a meeting to discuss targets but that she and Mrs Spacey have looked at them together. One of the AIP objectives for the year is around raising the number of children meeting the 'greater depth' standard and being more ambitious about this. The next piece of work is to look at the greater depth targets and identifying which children are definitely going to get there and those that staff can work very hard with to get them there. Further refinement of the targets needs to be done and the plan behind how this will be achieved will be shared with governors. Mrs Spacey added that those children that have the potential for greater depth need to be</p>	
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	<p>identified before they reach year 6 so that they can work towards this at the earliest possible stage.</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill said that the phonics targets are also stretching, the early years target is high, as it was last year, and staff are confident they can be achieved.</p> <p>Bracken Lane ERM summary</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill referred to the ERM shared following the last committee meeting explaining that attendance is high but could be better, even though it is above national average, it is not yet back to pre-covid levels. Mrs Cawkill invited questions on the ERM, there were no questions.</p> <p>Bracken Lane SEF</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill said that the SEF shows a better picture of school than ever before. Mrs Spacey explained the SEF is now being used as a working document which is a more valuable approach and Mrs Cawkill said that she feels she has a much better picture now and told governors that the document will be shared regularly.</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill told the committee that the recent parents evening was very well attended, the year 6 children showed parents around the building and feedback was good.</p> <p>Three Bracken Lane children have been involved in writing a peace anthem along with students from other local schools. The children practiced this at school, went to town hall to practice with the other schools for 45 minutes and then performed in front of an audience with a brass band. Mrs Cawkill said this was an amazing experience for them and the 3 children went to lay a Remembrance Wreath on Remembrance Day. Chris Collins was part of both events. Chris has also invited children into school for some glitter and glue activities which has seen very positive results. Getting families into school and using this as an opportunity to be able to signpost people to additional support and resources in a more informal way was very successful and more events like this will be planned.</p> <p><u>The governors noted</u> that schools can often get embarrassed when celebrating themselves but when successes can be backed up with evidence, they should be celebrated.</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill told the committee that Mr Wintle has scheduled a time to come in to read with some of the children.</p> <p>Build Update</p> <p>Mrs Cawkill said that the hall is now complete and is a massive a game changer for the school. There's still some snagging to be done and a lot of sorting still to do which continues. Staff have been great throughout all the upheaval. Plans are awaited for the library space.</p>	
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	<p>Safeguarding – Confidential Minutes</p> <p>There was a confidential discussion around safeguarding.</p> <p>The admissions policy is in consultation until 22nd December and was shared at the last meeting for review and comments. There were no comments or concerns raised.</p> <p><u>Governors asked</u> if there is an expectation that the Trust will be inspected soon and wondered if the Principals’ voice has been gathered. Mrs Spacey said that an inspection is expected and that the Trust is ready for it.</p>	
AC/19/2425	<p>How has the AC held senior leaders to account?</p> <p>Challenges from the governors have included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ofsted changes and preparedness - SEND in relation to Ofsted - Staff training to meet SEND needs - AIR at Thrumpton - Targets 	
AC/20/2425	<p>How have the VMV of Trust / Equality been upheld?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was agreed that the VMV of the Trust & Equality has been upheld. The academy committee members felt that there had been a respectful and positive discussion, high expectations and aspirations. 	
AC/21/2425	<p>Complete report to Trustees</p> <p>The report to trustees was completed and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report to Trustees was completed and submitted with input from all members of the committee. 	
AC/22/2425	<p>Determination of Confidentiality</p> <p>Equalities Act consideration</p> <p>AC members considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was resolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a confidential discussion around safeguarding which has been confidentially minuted. - There had been no Equalities Act implications. 	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting:</p> <p>Academy Committee meeting Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 5.15pm at Bracken Lane.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 18:27</p>	

Signed by Chair: *S Garnett*

Date: 13/12/2024

Sarah Garnett, Chair of Governors