



Minutes of the meeting of the Local Governing Body of Cottingham High School
Thursday 18 September 2025, 17:30

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Mr J Mason (Chair, JM), Mrs C Hocking (CH), Mr J Kerby (Headteacher, JK), Mr J Pinchin (JP), Mrs L Rodgers (LR)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Craxton (Clerk to LGB, LC), Mr J O'Brien (Director of Improvement and Standards Secondary and Post-16, JOB), Mrs V White (Trust Leader, VW), Mr M Wort (Assistant Headteacher, MW)

Throughout these minutes a question is indicated by Q followed by the initials of the questioner and a comment is marked by C.

01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

LC and JM welcomed all to the meeting and all present introduced themselves

It was noted that S Howe and C Wright had stepped down from the LGB

All present wished them well for the future and thanked them for their time on the board

02 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr R Ferguson and Mr G Paddison

Resolved: That consent be given for the absence of the above-named governors

03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All present completed their annual data collection and pecuniary interest forms

LC to forward forms to RF and GP for electronic completion

ACTION: LC to forward data collection and pecuniary interest forms to RF and GP for completion

- 1 -

Signed by the Chair:.....

Date:.....04/12/2025.....

04 LGB MEMBERSHIP

It is the duty of the Governing Board to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair annually. GP had been asked by the departing Chair Vince Tennison if he would consider becoming the next chair as nobody else had come forward to be considered for the role. GP initially shared concerns about the limited experience he had within the sector. However, VT and L Thompson (Trust Director of Governance) convinced GP he would be a great fit and explained GP would have the support from the Trust, so GP agreed to put his name forward for the position, subject to JM agreeing to stay on as Vice Chair.

Resolved: All present approved GP's appointment as Chair

Chair 2025/2026: G Paddison

Vice-Chair 2025/2026: J Mason

PP Link: TBC

SEND Link: L Rodgers

Safeguarding Link: C Hocking

Attendance and Behaviour Link: TBC

Curriculum: J Mason

ACTION: LC to email RF and GP with regards to the PP and Attendance and Behaviour link positions

05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Thursday 26 June 2025)

A slight amend was noted on page 3

Resolved: Once the above amend was agreed, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 June 2025 were declared a true record and are to be electronically signed by the Chair, JM

06 MATTERS ARISING

ACTION: RH to attend a future LGB meeting to give an update on Reading Plus **Carried Forward**

ACTION: LC to liaise with the relevant Shared Services department to address vaping/smoking at the school gates **Completed**

ACTION: CHS to send out communication to parents regarding the onsite EWO **Not done, to be removed from the minutes**

ACTION: Governors to meet before the end of term to ascertain link roles for the new academic year. This will allow those changing roles to prepare **See minute 04**

ACTION: CH and GP to complete the Safeguarding module on Governor Hub by the end of the summer term **See minute 11**

- 2 -

Signed by the Chair:.....



Date:.....04/12/2025.....

ACTION: RF and JM to complete the Governor Hub Effectiveness tool before the end of the summer term **See minute 11**

ACTION: LC to forward the parent letter for uniform changes to the LGB **Completed**

ACTION: LC to populate calendars with the LGB meeting dates for 2025-2026 **Completed**

ACTION: JK to speak with the Trust DSL regarding over easy access to the school site through the boom **Completed**

ACTION: VW to follow up to see at what point emails are checked against Arbor **Completed**

07 PERFORMANCE DATA REPORT

KS4

Progress measures are not available for this cohort because there is no published prior attainment data due to the cancellation of KS2 assessments in 2020 due to COVID

- Attainment 8 44.45 (2024 47.4)
- Basics 4+ 68.2 (2024 59.4) and Basics 5+ 40.0 (2024 37.0)
- 68% of all students achieved a grade 9-4 in both English and Maths
- English, Maths and science all down on last year
- DA performed better at 4+ and 5+ as did SEND EHCP and SEND Support

KS5

- A-level VA up: 2024 -1.15, 2025 -0.43
- Applied General up: 2024 -0.34, 2025 0.2
- Non A-Level Vocational saw gains in Criminology and BTEC Applied Science
- No movement was seen in BTEC Business and BTEC Media and BTEC Engineering was down on last year

Q: (JM) What can you tell us about the EBacc offer?

JK: We value the fact that our offer is what's best for students. Contextually, Humanities did not perform as well as hoped but we won't put them in for a subject just to tick a box

C: (MW) We need to get the right students on the right courses to get the best results

Q: (JP) Do we know the Trust average?

JK: Each school is a contributor to the Trust average. We hit high with 9-4 and are pleased as the year was disrupted and we knew 9-7 would be lower

C: (JOB) The Trust average is 31%, this is driven high by Hessle High School and Wolfreton. As a Trust we don't drive EBacc, MFL is a concern

C: (JM) It's good you don't push EBacc and instead encourage the right pathways

C: (JM) You must be pleased with the results. When you look at the figures, areas of underachievement are minimal

C: (JK) All of the hard work staff have put into their curriculum areas is bearing fruit, especially in this disrupted year

Q: (JM) What are the drivers for this Year 11?

MW: 9-5 is much stronger and at 7+ non-DA are good. A8 has dropped but we are seeing a natural improvement. We are much more proactive with the most vulnerable

- 3 -

Signed by the Chair:.....



Date:.....04/12/2025.....

Q: (JM) How are you monitoring?

MW: Analysis of the summer exams has been done and the next temperature gauge will be the October mocks. We promoted period 6 at the Year 11 launch event. Tutor groups have also been changed to be more bespoke to students

C: (JM) Sharing that data with the LGB will allow us to be more supportive in certain areas if needed. We can't change last year, the focus has to be on this year

C: (JK) Every student in KS3 will get Reading Plus and Mathletics in their tutor time. KS4 tutor groups have been changed to be subject specific

C: (JK) Interventions further down in the school are being implemented to cement the learning. We will compare with last year and, although we are looking at very different cohorts, it will allow us to see what worked and what we can do more of

C: (JOB) It's important to note the good progress in Maths

Q: (JM) Are the significant changes in Maths bearing fruit?

JK: Anecdotally, we recorded fewer behaviour points and fewer lesson removes. Feedback from the students was positive and interaction with independent learning was better

C: (JP) The change in monumental systems are making a huge difference

C: (VW) That is all credit to Pete Brookes

C: (JK) A lot are now choosing to do their homework at school

Q: (JOB) What about the numbers for those students you don't have much control over?

JK: We have 17 severe absentees in the whole school, this is up 6 on last year. Persistent absence is higher but the majority of that is lateness to school rather than absenteeism

Q: (JM) Do you get support from the parents of the more challenging?

JK: Early indications show we have strong parental support

Q: (LR) The SEND data is phenomenal, how did you achieve this success?

JK: Through relational practice although we are still in the early days. Credit to MW, Maths is a big gain that has brought the numbers up. It's heartening to see the data but the gap between DA and non-DA is widening. On the whole the data is positive as everyone is moving forward together

C: (MW) It's important to teach SEND with the rest of the class and implement pre-teaching if they need it rather than catch-up after the lesson

Q: (JM) Did the 6th Form data place them all for the next stage?

JK: The destination was positive but the 6th Form data was indicative of the challenges we were facing

C: (JM) There are some big successes in there

C: (JM) Please pass on our thanks to all staff, teaching, support and admin

MW left the meeting at 18:24

08 HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Risk Summary

The greatest risk is student numbers

- Interest in the school continues to grow as a consequence of improved results
- The Thrive Centre also proving popular with potential parents
- JK to sit on the Fair Access panel for 2025-2026

Staffing

- 7 new starters
- 1 current vacancy
- Open evening to welcome Year 5 and 6 parents

- 4 -

Signed by the Chair:.....



Date:.....04/12/2025.....

Estates/Health and Safety Update

- Significant work has taken place over the summer. This includes, but are not limited to:
 - Toilet refurbishment
 - KS4 canteen refresh
 - Corridors and classrooms uplift
 - Changing rooms

Q: (JP) Is it the school's aspiration to push up student numbers?

JK: Historically the school has set a 'CAN' figure and the Pan is 180. We want to carry 180 through to KS4

C: (JK) We lost some in Year 10 to the technical college but we have more joining us. We are predicted to go up after the recent dip but historically we are low for 1st choice. It's aspirational but I view the school as being oversubscribed in the near future

C: (VW) At the recent Primary Heads cluster meeting it was noted that our Thrive Centre has a primary classroom set up. The primary heads were very honest about the challenges they are facing. Myself, the DSL and Marlowe are booked in to visit several primary open evenings

C: (JK) This is a huge opportunity to build on what we are doing

C: (JOB) It's the right approach

Q: (CH) Are younger siblings not guaranteed?

C: (VW) Looking at feedback from last year, having a sibling at the school did not guarantee parents would send their younger children here

09 ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT

- 85 Smoothwall incidents logged
- 22 Operation Encompass alerts received
- NHS Targeted Group Offer (TGO) to replace SMASH following the successful pilot of the scheme

Q: (JP) I read SMASH is discontinued, will the TGO work as well?

VW: The TGO identifies small groups for intervention to help with low-level mental health. All children identified have secured a place and we have the support of parents

Q: (JP) What type of professionals will be joining the pastoral meetings?

VW: A member of the Early Help team will join a pastoral meeting every half term

Q: (JP) Will there be any crossover with TGO and Thrive?

VW: The Thrive practice will be able to access similar levels of support programmes over time

Q: (JM) The LA have reduced support with alternative provisions, was there any consultation on this?

VW: No and they received a huge backlash. Workloads in schools will increase but we have a very strong safeguarding team

10 SEND REPORT

- 192 students on SEND Register, 27 of these in receipt of an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)
- Year 9 seeing highest number of SEND
- Greatest needs are Speech, Language and Communication needs and Moderate Learning Difficulty
- Thrive Approach training given to all staff
- Thrive Centre up and running
- SEND team expanded

- 5 -

Signed by the Chair:.....



Date:.....04/12/2025.....

- Learner Passports redesigned

Q: (JM) How have the AQA unit awards affected overall school performance?

VW: Not all students are on level 2 awards. The AQA unit programme is mapped up to level 2

C: (JK) AQA gives us the opportunity to keep students in school

C; (VW) AQA awards cover a lot of things. We do what we need to do to get them in and keep them in and for them to be happy in their work

Q: (JOB) How many are doing formal awards?

VW: None. They are not leaving their classrooms unless they really want to

Q: (JM) For those who have already completed a lot of work, can that count towards their AQA?

VW: Yes

Q: (JP) Will you rollout Thrive practitioner training to all staff keep it small?

VW: We have many plans in progress. One is to make sure as a body of colleagues we are all Thrive aligned. It's a costly route to become a Thrive Practitioner. On the training day, staff requested more CPD on Thrive

11 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

11a Governor Training

All governors were asked to complete the following training on Governor Hub before the end of the half term:

- Safeguarding* (refresher if completed in full in last academic year)
- Suspensions and Exclusions

* All governors who have completed full safeguarding training as part of their daily role do not have to complete the training but must bring proof of completion to the next meeting/email for LC to note

ACTION: Governors to complete the safeguarding (where applicable) and suspension and exclusions training on Governor Hub before the end of the half term

11b Governor Hub Effectiveness Review

JM has noted technical issues when trying to access the review, LC to advise

RF still to complete it

ACTION: LC to help JM access and complete the Governor Hub Effectiveness Review, RF to complete it

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

JP noted a clash with parents' evenings and the meetings scheduled for 11 December 2025 and 05 February 2026. LC and L Thompson (Director of Governance) to meet with GP to resolve

ACTION: LC and LT to meet with GP to resolve meeting clashes (11 December and 05 February)

13 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 6 -

Signed by the Chair:.....



Date:.....04/12/2025.....

None

14 ACTION POINTS

14a ACTION: LC to forward data collection and pecuniary interest forms to RF and GP for completion (**minute 03**)

14b ACTION: LC to email RF and GP with regards to the PP and Attendance and Behaviour link positions (**minute 04**)

14c ACTION: RH to attend a future LGB meeting to give an update on Reading Plus (**minute 06**)

14d ACTION: Governors to complete the safeguarding (where applicable) and suspension and exclusions training on Governor Hub before the end of the half term (**minute 11**)

14d ACTION: LC to help JM access and complete the Governor Hub Effectiveness Review, RF to complete it (**minute 11**)

14e ACTION: LC and LT to meet with GP to resolve meeting clashes (11 December and 05 February (**minute 12**))

Part A closed at 18:58 and JOB, JP and VW left the meeting

- 7 -

Signed by the Chair:.....



Date:.....04/12/2025.....