



**Minutes of the meeting of the Local Governing Body of Cottingham High School
Thursday 26 March 2026, 17:30**

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Mr G Paddison (Chair, GP), Mrs C Hocking (CH), Mr J Kerby (Headteacher, JK), Mrs A Minhas (AM), Mr J Pinchin (JP)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Craxton (Clerk to LGB, LC), Mrs K Dimmack (Careers, KD), Mr R Hill (Assistant Headteacher, RH), Mrs V White (Deputy Headteacher, VW), Mr M Wort (Assistant Headteacher, MW)

43 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

GP welcomed everyone to the meeting

44 CAREERS PRESENTATION

Full PowerPoint was shared with governors

- CHS is an active member of the Careers and Enterprise Company (CE) Regional Careers Hub
- The provision is aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks and work to secure the new Benchmarks is on track
- Parental involvement embedded
- Next steps include but are not limited to:
 - Analysing Y11 data to identify those at risk of becoming NEET
 - Continue to support students with applications, CVs and interview skills on a 1-1 basis

Details of an upcoming training were provided for the Careers Link governor

C: (GP) It's fantastic to see all the great work done and continuing to be done. We need to recruit more governors to allow us to have a Careers Link

Q: (GP) Is one week of work experience enough for Y10 students?

KD: The challenge is in finding places for them as employers are also squeezed. We need to look into the timing of our work experience and it may be worth asking employers when the best time for them would be

Q: (GP) Do you any examples of where it worked well?

KD: Some have been to construction sites and places within the food industry. The next steps are to audit who does what and when

Q: (AM) For those who don't really know what they want to do, do they feel pressure to know what they want?

KD: We would never pressure them. We approach it as an experience of a workplace, not necessarily what they might want to do as a career. The independence and communication with adults is vital, it's the 'next steps' experience. We encourage them to keep their options open

C: (KD) We will cover that in the next student voice

ACTION: LC to liaise with the Director of Governance regarding the recruitment of additional governors with specific emphasis on a Careers Link governor

KD left the meeting at 18:01

45 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from R Ferguson, J Mason and L Rodgers

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

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All previously declared with the exception of RF. See minutes 48 and 57

47 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (11 February 2026)

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2026 were declared a true record and are to be signed by the Chair, GP

48 MATTERS ARISING

Due to 3 apologies, all Matters Arising are to be carried over to the June meeting

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

ACTION: AM and RF to calendar in a link visit as soon as possible

ACTION: QA and HMI reports to be summarised and bullet pointed with top 5 actions **(minute 35)**

ACTION: Careers section to be added to the next Headteacher's Report **See minute 44**

ACTION: JOB to deliver bespoke Power Bi training for all Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Attendance and Behaviour links, date TBC

ACTION: AM to complete safeguarding training prior to the next meeting **See minute 54**

ACTION: CH and RF to complete suspensions and exclusions training as soon as possible and all governors to complete their GDPR training prior to the February meeting **Completed**

ACTION: VW to liaise with Trust Headteachers to compare independent learning buy-in from students. VW to feedback to the LGB

49 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

- 27 Operation Encompass alerts received
- 51 Smoothwall incidents
- 2 PREVENT
- 17 children open to Early Help
- 7 Children in Need
- 4 subject to a Child Protection Plan
- Misogyny, online safety, AI, fire safety, mental health, racist language and attendance in focus
- Safeguarding and Inclusion Manager recruited
- 6 week minibuss pick-up to certain areas underway

Q: (GP) Has the bus improved attendance?

CC: Yes. Every student has improved their attendance after 6 weeks and now we are looking to see if that number is sustained or not. We also need to look at other ways to get them in and support them as we move on to the next area

Q: (GP) How will you keep getting them in after their 6 week bus service has ended?

CC: We will work closely with the parents and embed the new practices

Q: (GP) How have you addressed AI?

CC: Every year group has received an assembly tailored to their age but they all carried a standard message

Q: (GP) How did you deal with the students who created malicious AI?

CC: I have talked to all involved and restorative approaches were deemed appropriate. We also received parental support

Q: (GP) There seems to have been an increase in misogynistic language, what are you doing to tackle it?

CC: We have Trust DSL meetings and we cover this along with progressive masculinity

Q: (GP) Is that a real issue?

CC: Yes. We are seeing a rise in flippant comments with no understanding of what they mean or can do

C: (DC) Algorithms are dangerous. We target that and educate them

Q: (GP) What about parental responsibility? Your time could be better spent teaching them

VW: We are looking into that

C: (GP) MY fear is you are spending a disproportionate amount of time educating on misogyny

C: (VW) The curriculum will always adapt to address current issues

Q: (CH) Do you get any support from the LA or Hull City Council?

CC: HCC are very supportive

Q: (GP) What is the school's view on the opposite of misogyny and does anyone know what it is called

VW: No

C: (GP) Its misandry. We need to ensure an equal approach is implanted to assure we do not discriminate

VW: We have had no incidents at all

C: (DC) We do cover a broad range of stereotypes and misconceptions

C: (VW) We are constantly looking at the PD curriculum to make sure it is all relevant

CC left the meeting at 18:25

50 HEADTEACHERS REPORT

- Finance, staffing, student numbers and environment remains the biggest risks
- Stakeholder voice actions underway including a focus on student postcards and communication
- New house system developed
- Estates news includes the signing off of the new 3-G pitch, toilet refurbishment, science classrooms refurbishment and corridor uplifts

C: (JP) All science staff have been involved in the uplift; it's been very refreshing. We have all had input into the changes

C: (JK) The staffing picture is stable

51 PERFORMANCE DATA**Basics**

School	Basics 4+			Basics 5+			Basics 7+		
	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target
Cottingham High School	33	43.4	75	15	30.8	55	3	3.8	13

Attainment 8

School	Attainment 8		
	Autumn Mock	Spring Mock	Target
Cottingham High School	33	36.62	52

C: (JK) There is a lot of targeted work going on. We are focussing on a cohort of 30-40 over the Easter break. We have a huge cluster on Grade 3 and there is a big push to get them to a 4

Q: (GP) What happens if the children are on holiday during the Easter break, how do you support them? It is a holiday period after all and they all need a break

VW: We haven't had any yet saying they won't be there

Q: (GP) But what if?

MW: We would catch them in tutor time and interventions

Q: (GP) Parents get fined for taking them out of school during term time and you then expect them to be in school over the Easter break?

JK: We always urge all Y11 parents to not take them away over Easter

C: (MB) It's structured time

C: (JK) Persistent and severe absence also impacts, we need to catch them up with interventions

C: (GP) The word intervention suggests this is a need the student can ill afford to miss, in that case the school should work harder to ensure interventions are done during term time to not impact student and parent holidays

C: (MB) They do revision and exam preparation

C: (GP) Should this not be an optional bonus for students? I think the work you all do is great, also the amount of time you have managed to get your team to commit to during the holidays shows how far the team have come from last year's industrial action and credit to Jay and the senior leadership for this mindset shift

Q: (GP) *English Language is better than English Literature, why is this?*

RH: *Based on the mocks, literature paper 2 is longer, they get tired of writing*

Q: (GP) *And are you happy with maths?*

JK: *Yes. If the cohort all focus, they on par to achieve*

C: (MW) *We have seen steady increases and they know the techniques, it's now down to practice*

C: (MW) *Our Y7s are strong, we need to sustain that*

C: (VW) *It might be helpful to get our 5 new Directors of Learning to come and speak to the board.*

Myself and LC will have a chat to the Director of Governance

ACTION: VW and LC to chat to Lottie with regards to inviting the 5 new Directors of Learning to a future LGB

52 SEND REPORT

- 194 SEN on roll, highest % in Y7
- 31 in receipt of an EHCP
- Specific learning difficulties highest need followed by speech, language and communication needs
- Significant progress has been made with SEN passports
- Thrive Centre offers bespoke interventions including a knitting club and a homework club

Q: (CH) *How do CHS compare to other schools in the Trust?*

DC: *It's hard to compare as some have an ERP from external sources. Our EHCP numbers are in line with national but we do have a lot on the SEND register*

53 ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

- Current attendance 90.9%
- 55% of students are on 95% attendance and above
- A lot of students have moved away from severe absence
- National persistent absence is 21.9%, CHS is 20.1%
- Lessons are rarely disrupted and the amount of days lost has dropped to 146 v 365 this time last year

C: (VW) *Some come to school but don't go to class. They are still choosing to attend, we need to support them to get them back into the classroom*

C: (JK) *I had a good visit with RF. I encourage governors to come in and see the school day in action*

Q: (GP) *Are you within reach of achieving national?*

JK: *As the year goes on it gets harder to move the data. We can improve the attendance but statistical challenges are at play*

C: (MB) *At this point in the year, we are looking at week on week attendance*

54 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

54.1 Governor Link Visits

LR conducted a SEND link visit on 06 March 2026

No issues raised

Link governors were urged to book in their visits early in the new term

54.2 Governor Training

Due to unforeseen circumstances, AM is still to complete the safeguarding module. Deadline extended to the end of April

ACTION: AM to complete the Safeguarding module no later than end of April

55 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 18 June 2026., 17:00. Pre-meet from 16:30

56 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

57 ACTION POINTS

57a ACTION: LC to liaise with the Director of Governance regarding the recruitment of additional governors with specific emphasis on a Careers Link governor **(minute 44)**

57b ACTION: LC to forward data collection and pecuniary interest forms to RF for electronical completion **(minute 48)**

57c ACTION: AM and RF to calendar in a link visit as soon as possible **(minute 48)**

57d ACTION: QA and HMI reports to be summarised and bullet pointed with top 5 actions **(minute 48)**

57e ACTION: JOB to deliver bespoke Power Bi training for all Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Attendance and Behaviour links, date TBC **(minute 48)**

57f ACTION: VW to liaise with Trust Headteachers to compare independent learning buy-in from students. VW to feedback to the LGB **(minute 48)**

57g ACTION: VW and LC to chat to Lottie with regards to inviting the 5 new Directors of Learning to a future LGB **(minute 51)**

57h ACTION: AM to complete the Safeguarding module no later than end of April **(minute 54)**

The meeting closed at 19:20