



Arno Vale Junior School Name Governing Board

Minutes of the spring term full governing board standard meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 6.00pm

Membership (A denoted absence)	A Payne, Chair K Gray, Vice Chair A Griffiths R Haque L Oates A Richards A Rossington, Co-Headteacher
In Attendance	D Harvey, clerk to the governing board C Baker, associate member and Deputy Headteacher/Co-Headteacher C Tinkler, associate member

PRELIMINARIES

FGB3/24-25/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

All governors were present.

FGB3/24-25/02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Governors were reminded of the requirement to consider declaration of interest, either direct or indirect, for items of business on the agenda.

The Headteacher said there is a discussion on the Headteacher position to be held later in the meeting and the staff governor and C Baker would have to leave the meeting.

FGB3/24-25/03 MEMBERSHIP

Current membership

Evidence of the current membership of the governing board was available to view on GovernorHub. The membership details were noted.

Attendance requirements

It was noted that a governor who, without the consent of the governing board, has failed to attend their meetings for a continuous period of six months beginning with the date of the first such meeting the governor fails to attend, is, on the expiry of that period, disqualified from continuing to hold office as a governor of that school. (The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012).

There were no absences to consider.

Vacancy update

The Headteacher informed governor a member of the community had briefly expressed an interest in joining the governing board, however at this time was not able to commit.

The Headteacher updated the meeting on Trust clerking arrangements, he explained the Trust run one local governing board and two committees per term. The Trust purchase clerking of the one



local governing board meeting through Nottingham City Council Governor Services. The Headteacher has explained to the Trust that the current model (two full governing board meetings per term) is effective and would prefer to continue running that model. The Headteacher explained for this to continue the school would pay for the additional local governing board meeting per term.

The Chair said in terms of the vacancy, she will follow this up with the Trust and also consider ways to attract from within the local community. Chair

The clerk reminded governors of the requirement opportunities available through online recruitment services, Governors for Schools (<https://governorsforschools.org.uk/>) and Inspiring Governance (<https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/>).

End of terms of office

There were no end of terms of office to consider.

Get information about schools (GIAS) check

The clerk had reviewed governor information on Get information about schools (GIAS) website in preparation for the meeting and reported the information as of 11th March 2025 was up to date.

FGB3/23-24/05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2024, a copy of which had been uploaded to GovernorHub for review, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Action points

Ref	Action	Responsible	Outcome
03	Contact White Hills Trust and governor services regarding targeting governor vacancies.	Headteacher	Action completed.
05	Amend previous minutes. Contact White Hills Trust to view their version of the Complaints policy and also read through the current policy.	Clerk Headteacher	Action completed. Actioned and uploaded the Trust policy to GovernorHub. Informed joining the Trust on 1 st May and agree to the policy Trust policy from this point onwards. The governing board confirmed receipt of the policy and agreed to adopt the Trust from 1st May 2025. A governor raised that language within the policy is academy connected. Chair, do adopt with holding note that language reflects being part of academy.
11	Email governors asking for volunteer as performance management governor.	Headteacher	Action completed, the Headteacher confirmed performance management took place.
13	Share the attendance policy used	K Gray	Headteacher took the Trust



	at her school with the Headteacher.		attendance policy and used that, therefore action was not required.
	Source the Trust attendance policy and update the policy and share with governors accordingly	Headteacher	Action completed.

Matters arising

A Richards confirmed she actioned the confidential item from the previous minutes.

FGB3/24-25/06 CHAIR'S OR VICE CHAIR'S EMERGENCY ACTION SINCE LAST MEETING

Neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair reported any actions or decisions undertaken using emergency authority.

FGB3/24-25/07 CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

From the Chair

-Confidential Item-

From the Headteacher

The Headteacher informed governors the conversion data for academisation to White Hills Trust has been confirmed for 1st May 2025. The tupee staff meeting was held first week in March and the school is working through the remaining items with the local authority HR. The Headteacher recognised the big piece of work is contract for services, the budget needs setting however he feels the school needs direction from the Trust. The Headteacher said the Trust finance team are support with external contracts.

A governor asked, will the local authority provide the school with one months maintained school funding prior to conversion. The Headteacher said he is unsure at this point, he recognised financially there are unknowns. The governing board recognised that converting one more into the financial year was a challenge and that the academy financial year ran from September to September.

A governor asked can the can the local authority contracts be purchased for one month. The Headteacher said the Trust are communication with the local authority on this matter. He noted there are certain services that can be transferred over to the Trust providers. The Trust purchase health and safety from the local authority. There are other services like Evolve, Fischer Family Trust, Data Collection, etc that are yearly contracts that the Trust do not purchase into. **The Chair asked at the next full governing board meeting, can a checklist of contracts be shared with governors.**

Governors recognised that some academies would have gone through a similar process, they asked can the school reach out for advice.

From the Clerk

None to report.

SCHOOL PROGRESS

FGB3/24-25/08 HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Governors confirmed receipt of the Headteacher report in advance of the meeting, **the Chair raised**



a query regarding pupil numbers report. The Headteacher confirmed the figures reported were incorrect and agreed to amend them accordingly.

There were no further questions.

FGB3/24-25/09 PRESENTATION OF PUPIL DATA

C Baker presented Progress on the School Improvement Plan, he noted the document was uploaded to GovernorHub and since the last presentation has been updated with the progress against the autumn term milestones. Mr Baker drew governors attention to the four priority areas;

1. To have consistently high expectations of all children;
2. To effectively use assessment as a tool to inform teaching and support learning;
3. To provide a rich range of personal development opportunities;
4. To embed an inclusive culture.

C Baker explained for each priority there are two-three objectives, with each objective having a clearly defined milestone for each end of term.

C Baker highlighted the end of autumn term milestone for priority one, objective one is 'teachers have defined clear expectation of high-quality work across all subjects and have communicated these to pupils'.

C Baker said the school has made good progress in ensuring that teachers define and communicate clear expectations for high-quality work across all subjects. The internal writing moderation across year groups has allowed teachers to observe and understand progression in writing, which is reinforcing consistency in expectations.

C Baker said the pupil progress meetings have provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on standards, particularly for disadvantaged children, ensuring expectations remain high. Governors noted that regular class challenges have been instrumental in raising the profile of high standards, which fosters a culture of pride in work and behaviour across the school. C Baker said these are celebrated in assembly and end of day.

The Trust conducted a PE deep dive which highlighted many strengths relating to high expectations and standards in PE.

The Chair asked, do you feel sharing communication on class challenges has been beneficial to pupils. The Headteacher said it has been highly beneficial and the way it is being implemented is adding value. C Baker explained the challenges allows that drip feeding throughout the day and has become a focus point for pupils every day. C Baker said the challenges involves everyone across the school and they can be related to all aspects of school life, for example lunchtime behaves and class displays.

C Baker highlighted the progress for priority one, objective two. He explained the identification of teachers' strengths and areas for development has been crucial step in enhancing both subject knowledge and pedagogical skills. Governors noted the ECTs have received extensive support through weekly mentor meetings, small step targets and regular monitoring. C Baker said from these the ECTs have made significant progress, and this is evidenced by their strong autumn term reviews and external praise.

C Baker said the personalised approach was informed by a staff confidence audit, ensuring that CPD opportunities were relevant and impactful.



C Baker said for priority two, objective one the end of autumn term milestone is to thoroughly review the school's marking and feedback policy with the purpose to ensure clarity, consistency and alignment with effective teaching and learning practices. C Baker explained moving into spring term, the school are looking at workload implications.

A governor asked has there been any impact measure of the feedback. C Baker said the impact will be reviewed in from spring and summer milestones in relation to books. **A governor asked, has there been any evidence that pupils are responding to verbal feedback.** C Baker said within lessons they are, he explained how the school implement the marking and feedback strategy. L Oates highlighted the importance and promotion that mistakes are a good thing and pupils learn from these, she noted there is a perception that making mistakes within books is bad, however that is not the case. L Oates said the initial implementation of the 'green pen' was successful, however requires further embedding as a standard practice.

For priority two, objective two the key milestone for end of autumn term was to have a simple and effective formative assessment system for geography that has been modelled on the successful framework implemented previously in maths. C Baker highlighted the spring term action is to introduce this into science. Governors noted progress made against the objective has been successful.

C Baker said priority three, providing a rich range of personal development opportunities is a strength of the school, the purpose of this was to further develop. The key milestone for objective one and two was to identify a range of opportunities for children where they can make a positive contribution to themselves, the school and community. C Baker said the school has made significant progress through use of leadership initiatives, competitive opportunities, extracurricular clubs and structured roles that enhance pupil engagement and development.

A governor asked how the school tracks every cohort and participation in activities. C Baker said this is tracked through an excel document and the document can be used to identify pupils who are not accessing events. **C Baker agreed** to provide a data update on cohorts accessing events at the summer term meeting. C Baker highlighted the importance of offering opportunities beyond sports and the success the school has had with varies lunchtime and after school non-sporting activities.

CB

The key milestone for priority four, objective one was to conduct a review of the teaching practices to identify how metacognition and self-regulation strategies are being used and the impact they are having.

C Baker said L Oates arranged CPD for teachers and introduced learning lesson curriculum. L Oates explained this came about from discussions with secondary schools and based on research and external advice, the school have looked at how pupils communicate, self-regulate and problem solving. She said that staff and pupils have enjoyed having these opportunities to have these lessons once a week. The lessons have provided pupils with the strategies that they can build on themselves. L Oates said the next step to build this into the wider curriculum.

Governors noted that the progress milestones for the autumn term have been completed for all objectives.

C Baker said following a review of the practice SAT papers, he is expecting the Year 6 cohort to be at least inline with national figures, he noted the data from the mock SATs is very promising. L Oates said the data will be used to adjust and tweak between now and SATs week. C Baker said those



pupils not on track in maths are having an additional hour maths time per week.

Governors thanked C Baker for the presentation.

FGB3/24-25/10 PUPIL AND STAFF WELLBEING

The Headteacher said there are pockets of pupil wellbeing challenges, he drew governors' attention to the individualised support mechanisms in place. He explained the school are always looking at ways to empower staff members to support pupils, he noted that each pupil's wellbeing need is different and there is not always a definitive answer.

C Baker noted most pupils attending school are happy and governors were invited to attend celebration assemblies.

GOVERNOR REPORTS

FGB3/24-25/11 GOVERNOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The following governor training has been completed since the autumn term meetings;

- A Richards – budget setting and pupil/staff wellbeing;
- Chair – two governor induction sessions and monitoring evaluation, with further two training sessions booked;
- A Griffiths – completion of prevent and safeguard training.

FGB3/24-25/12 REPORTS FROM GOVERNOR MONITORING VISITS

The Vice Chair said she conducted a monitoring visit before the end of autumn term, her report is available for reading. She said a follow up session has been arranged and will focus on pupil voice.

FGB3/24-25/13 REVIEW GOVERNOR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Chair noted the statutory responsibility were covered and during the autumn term there were discussions on responsibilities linked to the School Improvement Plan. C Baker noted the following was agreed in autumn;

- Priority One – R Haque;
- Priority Two – Chair;
- Priority Three and Four – K Gray.

The Headteacher recommended setting up a finance working party, a short-term arrangement to monitor the financial position during conversion with the Trust. It was **agreed A Richards** would take on this role.

FGB3/24-25/14 REVIEW OF GOVERNOR INDUCTION

The Chair explained C Baker shared a draft governor induction document, this was shared with governors and highlighted the key introductory items, including tour of school, who's who's. A governor highlighted the importance of compliance checks, for example declarations and reading Keeping Children Safe in Education.

C Baker mentioned governor photos in the reception area.

REPORT TO GOVERNORS

FGB3/24-25/15 INTRODUCTION OF REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT FOR STANDARDS AND EXCELLENCE (RISE) TEAMS, WHAT GOVERNORS NEED TO KNOW

From January 2025, the Department for Education have introduced regional support for schools through Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) teams, made up from three full-



time equivalent school leaders seconded for each region, working for up to two days per week, and civil servants. Through collaboration, the team will develop a coherent set of local area priorities.

The RISE teams will sit within a new framework of support and intervention for schools and will be strongly informed by the new Ofsted report cards after September 2025. Based on the findings of report cards, schools will be placed into one of three categories:

- Those with minimal issues with strong capacity;
- Those with one or several issues needing 'targeted support';
- Those requiring intervention.

The RISE teams will play a role in supporting schools in the first two categories through:

- Signposting schools to hubs and leading schools, to help promote the sharing of good practice and support in these areas;
- Commissioning help from a supporting organisation with a 'strong track record of improvement'. The supporting organisation could be a trust, a Local Authority or another local partner.

For schools needing intervention, the role for RISE teams is to provide emergency support in the short term. Structural intervention will still be necessary for a small number of schools, these schools will move into strong trusts and delivery teams in the Regional Groups will ensure that interventions happen.

Action for governors

- To note the report;
- Read updates on progress in preparation of the introduction of the report card;
- To note Preparing for Ofsted training material will be updated once further information on the Ofsted framework and Ofsted report card has been released.

Action for Headteacher to share update from P Heery on Ofsted changes and RISE Teams.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

FGB3/24-25/15 SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

In Headteacher report, nothing to report on since the autumn term.

FGB3/24-25/16 EVIDENCE OF GOVERNING BOARD IMPACT ON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Noted throughout the meeting;

- In SIP capture governor actions in term of scrutiny and feedback from link roles. CB from spring term can reference governor visits.
- Chair capturing visits and feedback from H&S visit and safeguard, etc.

FGB3/24-25/17 ANYOTHER BUSINESS

It was **agreed** the Headteacher would share the SFVS document with A Richards to review for approval and sign-off by the Chair.

**HT/AR/
Chair**

The Headteacher said the proposed INSET days for 2025-2026;

- 3rd September 2025 – whole Trust INSET day;
- 3rd November 2025;
- 23rd February 2026;
- 3rd July 2026;



- 23rd July 2026;

Governors agreed to the INSET days.

A Richards informed governors a complaint panel was held at the end of autumn term 2024, there has been no further communication following the outcome.

The Chair said there is a need to discuss the ongoing review of the Senior Leadership Team. The Headteacher recommended holding a meeting as soon as possible, have discussed the possibility of extending the secondment for a further term. The Headteacher said he still needs to have a review meeting with C Baker and L Oates. It was **agreed** the Chair, A Griffiths and an additional governor (time availability) would hold this meeting.

**Chair/
AG**

-K Gray left the meeting at 7.47pm-

The Chair asked governors to email confirmation to formally agreeing an extension to end of autumn term 2025. The meeting discussed backfilling the positions, C Baker said the Trust will want input in this.

Governors agreed to the recommendation of extending the secondment in principle.

FGB3/24-25/18 CONFIRM DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following meeting dates were agreed:

Spring term 2025;

- FGB Business – Tuesday 1st April at 5.30pm.

The Headteacher agreed to conduct doddle poll on dates for summer term, business mid-late May and Standards mid-July. Add SATs dates to doddle poll.

FGB3/24-25/21 CONFIDENTIALITY AND COMMUNICATION

It was **agreed** that item **FGB3/24-25/07 CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS – from the Chair** be deemed confidential for the purpose of the minutes.

The governing board retained the right to redact the minutes and documents considered should a request for access be received.

Communication of the decisions made was considered, and it was agreed that the school would undertake all communication with the stakeholders.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed by the Chair:

Date:

ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING

Ref	Action	Responsible	Outcome
04	Follow governor vacancies with the Trust and also consider ways to attract from	Chair	



	within the local community.		
09	Provide a data update on cohorts accessing events at the summer term meeting.	C Baker	
17	Share the SFVS document with A Richards to review for approval and sign-off by the Chair. Senior Leadership Team review meeting with C Baker and L Oates.	Headteacher/A Richards/Chair Chair/A Griffiths	

Attendance at meetings for the 2024-2025 Academic Year											
	Autumn 2024			Spring 2025				Summer 2025			
Governor Name	FGB 26.9	EFGB 18.10	FGB 21.11	FGB 11.3							
D Buxton, Chair	Y	Y	Y	Resigned 21 st November							
B Cameron	Apols	Resigned 26 th September									
K Gray	Apols	Apols	Y	Y							
A Griffiths	Y	Y	Apols	Y							
R Haque	Y	Apols	Y	Y							
I Oates	Y	-	Y	Y							
A Payne	Y	Y	Apols	Y							
A Richards	Y	Y	Y	Y							
A Rossington	Y	Y	Y	Y							
C Baker	Y	-	Y	Y							
C Tinkler	Y	-	Apols	Y							