



The Learning Partnership

Crewe UTC LGB

Crewe UTC

Part 1 Minutes



**Crewe Engineering
& Design UTC**

Date: Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 4.30pm – in person at Crewe UTC

Present:

Mark Marsh (MM) – Chair
Helen Tattersall (HT) – Vice Chair
Chris Geddes (CG)
Clare Greenhalgh (CG)
Harry Wain (HW)
Greg White (GW)

Apologies:

Dr Allan Howells – TLP Dir. of Quality
Jason Conliffe (JC) – Governor in approval process

Absent:

Georgina Harris (GH)

In attendance:

Will Chitty (WC) – Principal
Charlotte Casewell (CC) – Assistant Principal
Steve Fergusson (SF) – Assistant Principal
Sarah Hatton-Tonge (SHT) – Assistant Principal (Quality of Education)

Nastasha Hibbert (NH) – Governor in approval process
Neil Travis (NT) – Governor in approval process

Clerk: Sian Wilkinson (SW) – TLP Governance Clerk
Clerk: Sharon Dutton (SD) – TLP Governance Clerk (observing)

The following documentation was shared with the Governors on GovernorHub prior to the meeting:

- Crewe UTC Draft Agenda 27.01.26
- Principles Report January 2026
- Quality of Education January 2026
- 2a. Crewe UTC DRAFT LGB Minutes 30.09.25
- 2b. CUTC Matters Arising Action Log
- 2c. CUTC Pan Consultation Summary Nov 2025
- 3. Link Governor Roles and Attendance 2024-2025
- 6a. Industry Ready January 2026
- 6b. CUTC Leaver Destinations Report from BDT
- 7. SEND January 2026
- 13. CUTC Student Survey Report BDT
- 15. CUTC Student Vehicle Usage Policy January 2026
- 20. Feedback to CUTC from ESP 23.10.25
- 2026.01.19 Baker Dearing Start of Term Letter

Governance and Administration

• **Welcome, Quoracy, Apologies and Declarations**

The meeting started at 4:38 pm.

The Chair (MM) welcomed everybody to the meeting and the meeting was confirmed quorate.

Apologies were received and accepted from AH and JC. Introductions took place for new members of Governance.

There were no additional declarations of prejudicial or personal interest.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Crewe UTC LGB meeting held on 30th September 2025 were approved without amendment.

Matters Arising:

- Item No. 52 – Safeguarding visit report to be uploaded to Governor Hub by HT.

3. Membership Update

The Chair welcomed newly appointed governors, GW, to the meeting. The Chair reported that no response had been received from governor GH to his email. In accordance with governance procedures, the Clerk confirmed that the governor removal process would now be initiated. The Clerk advised that AH would issue a formal notification letter giving GH a statutory 10-days to respond.

UPDATE

Clerk update: Following the meeting, Governor GH confirmed resignation on 31st January 2026

4. Chairs Update

BDT Winter Conference

Following recent attendance at the BDT Winter Conference on behalf of CUTC, the Chair provided the LGB with the following key updates:

- Strength and impact of enrichment activities across CUTC, particularly highlighting the success of the F1 in Schools – Singapore competition.
- Current policy developments relating to the skills agenda and T-Levels.
- Increasing national recognition of UTC outcomes.
- Ofsted's new inspection framework and approach.
- Attendance, Mathematics, and English identified as ongoing areas of concern across the UTC network.
- Two CUTC pupils received the Lord Baker Award
- Strengthening representation of UTC's

Governor Question:

Are employers being adequately engaged in shaping T-Levels?

Response:

There are ongoing concerns that key stakeholders are not yet fully engaged in the development process. Sector feedback also indicates a risk of repeating issues previously encountered with T-Levels. Greater clarity is expected with the publication of the forthcoming education white paper.

Employer and Academic Working Group – Proposal

- The Chair expressed the intention to accelerate the establishment of the working group.
- New governor JC remains keen to participate; DBS clearance is currently in progress.

Visit Reports – Importance and Requirements

The Chair reiterated the need for governors to complete and submit visit reports promptly.

ACTION:

Governor HT was reminded to upload the Governor Safeguarding Visit report to Governor Hub at the earliest opportunity.

Strategic Direction and Progress Against Priorities

5. School Improvement Plan (SIP) and self-Evaluation (SEF).

Principal's Report January 2026

Priority 1: Industry-ready students

- Strong T-Level outcomes again exceeding national averages.

- Level 3 qualifications for students with lower prior attainment are being phased out due to Ofsted recommendations.
- 25% of T-Level cohort go onto degree apprenticeships

Priority 2: Formative Assessment

- SLT highlighted the balance between providing detailed data and keeping governor materials digestible.
- Governors invited to request deeper dives as needed.

Priority 3: Numeracy & Mathematics

- Staffing issues due to unavoidable long-term absence.
- Interventions performing below age related target, integrated maths within employer projects continues to support progress.

Priority 4: Attendance & Punctuality

- Mean vs median attendance explained due to small cohort effect.
- Upward trajectory continues; median attendance suggests majority attend well.
- Outliers disproportionately affect mean figures.

Governor Question:

Was support requested with regards to recruitment in the mathematics department?

Response:

Yes. The Trust response is noted in ESP report, but resources remain limited until staffing situation becomes financially resolvable due to long term staff illness/absence. This will be reviewed September 2026.

Governor Comment:

Governor requested that trend data to be available in future LGB Meetings.

ACTION:

SLT to include trend progress over time data in next cycle

Quality of Education

5. Admission and Pupil Numbers

Principles Report 2026

Key Highlights:

- 100 places confirmed per year group
- Year 10 applications extremely high: 165+ applications for 100 places, with potential to reach 200 by March deadline.
- Oversubscription criteria constrain allocations (fixed for current cycle).
- Criteria catchment area is a percentage split between the following local areas: 35% Crewe, 15% Nantwich, 25% Congleton/Sandbach and 5% Macclesfield.
- Principal raised concerns about fairness, representation, and attitude
- Principle continues to present assemblies across schools in Cheshire to promote and encourage admissions
- Continuation of open evenings which attract great attendance
- Continued social media marketing

The LGB reviewed the gender distribution within admissions, noting the lower proportion of female applicants. The Board discussed potential strategies to increase female representation to 50%.

Further **discussion** took place regarding proposed amendments to the admissions criteria. It was confirmed that any changes must be finalised by 31 March 2026 for implementation in the 2027 admissions cycle.

Governors **emphasised** that applicant attitude should be a key factor in avoiding the admission of disruptive or disengaged pupils. They requested that the interview process incorporate mechanisms to assess attitude, ensuring candidates demonstrate the motivation, commitment and passion required to succeed at CUTC. While reaffirming that CUTC is an inclusive provider, Governors highlighted the importance of balancing inclusivity with the need to attract candidates with a genuine interest and aptitude in engineering.

Governors also **noted** the importance of prioritising local pupil admissions, emphasising that reinvestment in the Crewe community is essential to meeting local needs and supporting regional employers.

ACTIONS:

HT to schedule a workshop with LGB members to review admissions data and the admissions criteria for the next academic year.

6. Curriculum Update & Careers

6a Industry Ready

6b CUTC Leavers Destination Report

Key Highlights

- 64% of Year 11 students intend to remain at CUTC for sixth form, significantly above the UTC network average of 48%.
- Employer Set Projects (ESPs) have been strengthened and are now fully integrated across relevant core subjects.
- Mock assessment centres, delivered in partnership with industry employers, have been highly successful in preparing students for real-world recruitment processes.
- T-Level industry placements now operate through a three-wave model, increasing placement capacity and meeting high employer demand.
- Both KS4 and KS5 learners are actively engaged in employer-set projects.
- 37% of CUTC students' progress into apprenticeships, compared to the UTC network average of 16%.
- Year 13 students benefit from a comprehensive programme of industry-readiness interviews, mock assessments and practical tasks.
- CUTC continues to provide strong support to students in securing high-quality T-Level industry placements.

Governor Question

Could you explain how the T-Level placement three-wave model operates?

Response

The three-wave model increases placement capacity by enabling a larger number of employers to host students throughout the academic year. Placements are divided into Wave 1, Wave 2 and Wave 3, allowing businesses to take students at staggered intervals rather than all at once. This flexible structure has enabled more employers to participate, with several choosing to host students across multiple waves.

As a result, the model has:

- *Increased the overall number of available placements,*
- *Improved the responsiveness to employer demand, and*

- *Strengthened partnerships with industry through sustained engagement over the year.*

7. Pupil Performance

7. SEND January Report 2026

- a) Update on progress and attainment including groups – PP, SEND, disadvantaged, gender

Key Highlights:

- 17% total SEND (National: 13%, Cheshire East: 9.9%). 19% in key stage 4 and 14% in key stage 5
- Teachers at the UTC have followed a CPD program to support them in developing a repertoire of strategies to support our SEND learners, using the evidence based EEF 'Five-a-day' principle: -
- SENCo continues to provide staff with support and strategies for each individual student
- SEND pupil progress is tracked as part of a whole-school approach.
- Exam Access Arrangements screening earlier in Year 10 has allowed for the trial of arrangements during the Year 10 mock exams.
- Data highlights that a high number of Year 10 students arrived at CUTC with a low reading age and have required intensive interventions
- Whilst there is a SEND gap across some core subjects, the gap is relatively small.
- Mathematics and English Language show SEND students as less than half of a grade away from their target.
- Year 10: Expected not to be on target after six weeks; progress indicators are mostly positive.
- Year 11: Cohort has lower prior attainment profile than previous year; outcomes expected to be lower.

Interventions to improve pupil performance:

- 20 targeted students assigned 1:1 staff mentor
- Subject level intervention plans in place, subject leaders are working well to highlight low attainers to ensure the correct interventions are in place
- Strong student engagement reported, students are reacting positively to their 1:1 mentor

Governor Question:

How will impact be measured?

Response:

The impact will be measured via comparative analysis of next data capture in March 2026, with an expected increase in progress and improvement.

Governor Question:

Please could you clarify what is FFT50?

Response:

The Trust requires schools to assess pupils' progress against FFT50 benchmarks, which are targets set using pupils' Key Stage 2 results from Year 6. These benchmarks indicate the level of attainment pupils are expected to reach by the end of Key Stage 4. The data presented in the report reflects both the progress pupils have made to date and the progress expected based on these targets.

8. Link Governor Monitoring

LGB board to note any link visit reports and discuss any matters arising:

- Chair reminded governors of the importance of visit reporting for evidence of monitoring.

9. Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium Strategy Statement to be submitted to the school website by 31.12.25:

- Strategy Statement due next week: website update underway.

Key Highlights:

- SLT presented the PP and SEND outcomes, noting that while the SEND cohort entered with significantly lower prior attainment, they are making measurable progress through targeted reading interventions.
- Non-PP and PP attendance gap is 3.7%

ACTION:

SLT - Pupil Premium Strategy Statement to be uploaded to school website

Personal Development

10. Attendance

Principal's Report January 2026

Key Highlights:

- Trust wide aligned attendance process implemented.
- Whole school attendance: 90.4% mean / 94.5% median
- Early warning letters, family audits, and staged interventions showing impact.
- Attendance team monitoring attendance closely
- 2x pastoral members of staff to support students in understanding barriers to attendance
- Fixed penalties put forward to the local authority for pupils with attendance below 75%
- PP pupils continue to have a lower attendance compared to Non-PP, SEN and EHCP

11. Rewards & Behaviour

Principal's Report January 2026

Key Highlights:

- A higher number of suspensions in Year 10 have been recorded, primarily relating to incidents of misogyny, verbal abuse, and general conduct concerns.
- The behaviour curriculum has been strengthened, and sanctions relating to punctuality have been revised.
- SLT are working closely with families and external agencies in cases deemed high risk
- The conduct curriculum continues to be reinforced through regular assemblies.
- Amendments have been made to punctuality sanctions to improve consistency and expectations.

Governor Question:

Is misogynistic behaviour linked to external influences?

Response:

Although children and young people may be influenced by external perceptions, CUTC ensures that the PHSE curriculum consistently challenges prejudicial attitudes and actively promotes the re-education of such behaviours and views.

Governors **praised** how CUTC is managing behaviour within the school.

Welfare

12. Safeguarding

Safeguarding Report

Key Highlights:

- Recent SCiES safeguarding audit very positive.
- Students understand how to access support
- High level of social care involvement in cohort (87 of 300 students previously known to services).
- Minor improvements identified with website signposting and tracking changes

13. Welfare and Wellbeing – Students Principal's Report January 2026 13. CUTC Student Survey Key Highlights: • 186 student responses • Overall positive student feedback • 91% students would recommend CUTC to a friend • BDT student survey shows improved student satisfaction, particularly regarding employer links and UTC identity
14. Welfare and Wellbeing – Staff Principal's Report January 2026 Key Highlights: • Availability of wellbeing days extended to 2025/26. • Commitment to 50-hour fortnight (against a 60-hour timetable) • Maximum of 1 meeting per week for non-SLT • Overall positive response from the staff survey conducted October 2025
Local Matters & Stakeholder Engagement
15. Policies The following policies were reviewed by the LGB and accepted with no amendment: • Behaviour & Conduct • Exclusion • Relationships and Sex Education • Student Vehicle Usage (NEW)
16. Governor Training Update • Clerk reminded Governors to view Ofsted video and refresher Prevent training (if not yet undertaken or completed prior to 2025) and posted onto Governor Hub
17. Stakeholder Engagement – Parents / Carers Principal's Report January 2026 • Updates included in HT Report; no additional discussion
18. Stakeholder Engagement – Wider Community Principal's Report January 2026 • Ongoing employer partnerships and local outreach maintained
19. Communication – To Trust The LGB board discussed ongoing issues with the mathematics staffing recruitment capacity alongside the admission pressures, Governors agreed to revisit at the Chairs meeting. ACTIONS: Chair MM – to highlight recruitment staffing issue within mathematics department at the next Chairs meeting.
20. Communication – From Trust a) Feedback from Education, Standards and Performance Committee b) Governance matters: • Feedback from training events • Governance Conference Saturday 25th April 2026

21. AOB

- a) The Chair requested the LGB discuss the Government consultation on mobile phones in school, with questions around how the issue will be managed within the industry and direction will CUTC take:
- School confirmed they are aware of the consultation, and the Police & Crime Commissioner will offer subsidised funding towards the solution
 - SLT are reviewing solutions: lockers or pouches
 - Ofsted will evaluate school compliance
 - Governors were in majority **agreement** for the mobile phone ban in schools
 - Governors **expressed** concerns about logistics, parental expectations, and admin burden.
 - Governors **reported** industry examples show increasing restrictions on mobile devices

ACTIONS:

Principal/SLT to report further Government guidance and SLT to conduct student consultation ahead of any policy change

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 4:30pm

Meeting Closed at 6:42pm

Minutes Prepared by: Copilot in collaboration with the Clerk.

Minutes approved:

Date:.....

ACTION LOG FOR MEETING 27.01.26

	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
4.	Governor HT was reminded to upload the Governor Safeguarding Visit report to Governor Hub at the earliest opportunity.	Clerk	Feb-2026
5.	SLT to include trend progress over time data in next cycle	SLT	May - 2026
5.	HT to schedule a workshop with LGB members to review admissions data and the admissions criteria for the next academic year.	HT	Feb – 2026
9.	SLT - Pupil Premium Strategy Statement to be uploaded to school website	SLT	Feb – 2026
19.	Chair MM – to highlight recruitment staffing issue within mathematics department at the next Chairs meeting	Chair	Mar - 2026