

Local Governing Board (LGB) to The Learning Partnership  SPRING Term Minutes	 Wistaston Church Lane Academy
Date: Thursday 21st May 2026 at 4:00pm	
Governors Present: Audrey Skidmore (AS) – Chair David Hastie (DH) Benjamin Leighton (BL) Gillian Louden (GL) Holly Hulett (HH) Apologies: Anthony Buckles (AB) Dr Allan Howells (AH) – Director of Quality – TLP	In attendance: Cathy Elsley (CE) – Headteacher Clerk: Sharon Dutton (SD) TLP
Governance and Administration	
1. Welcome, Quoracy, Apologies and Declarations AS welcomed everyone to the meeting which opened at 4:05pm. SD confirmed that the meeting was quorate. Apologies were received and accepted from AB. AH also sent his apologies. There were no declarations. 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising a) To approve the minutes from the last LGB meeting. The minutes from the meeting held on 4th February 2026 had been uploaded onto GovernorHub. The minutes were approved unanimously. b) To review the action log from the previous meeting (04.02.2026): • #67 – AB to update SD on training records • #68 – SB's link monitoring visit will not be repeated as this is not statutory • #69 – link governor areas are to be kept the same as indicated on GovernorHub. Wellbeing is to be shared amongst all other visits. • #120 – comparison data between nurseries is ongoing • #121 – shadow TA to better understand model – this is ongoing with a visit by AS planned for later in the year 3. Membership Update The Chair confirmed no changes since the last meeting. AS agreed to renew her term of office for 12 months in light of CE's departure. All governors to consider succession planning in the meantime. The school continues to seek new Governors, and members were encouraged to share opportunities within their networks.	

Strategic Direction and Progress Against Priorities

4. School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Self Evaluation (SEF)

a) To receive an update on progress

See slides 15 – 18 of the Principal's report.

Self Evaluation (SEF)

- All key areas rated at least "expected standard", with safeguarding fully met.
- Areas include curriculum, achievement, behaviour, attendance, EYFS, leadership and governance.

School Improvement Priorities (SIP)

Key priorities and progress:

- Closing disadvantage gap
 - Targeted deployment of additional adults and adaptive teaching.
 - Strong improvement in EYFS literacy: increasing from 37% in Autumn to 70% in Summer predicted.
- Improving attendance through belonging
 - Staff training and daily routines (meet & greet, check-ins).
 - Stronger relationships and early intervention in place.
- Outdoor provision (EYFS)
 - More structured, curriculum-aligned outdoor learning.
 - Improved staff confidence and pupil engagement.
- Leadership development
 - Increased role clarity and monitoring by phase leaders.
 - Improved data use and provision consistency.
- Behaviour consistency
 - Weekly behaviour focus aligned to school rules.
 - Positive reinforcement systems embedded.

In addition:

- The Principal reported that the school had been awarded a silver accreditation for the Right's Respecting Schools Awards and confirmed that the school is aiming to achieve Gold. Parents had been notified and CE will prepare a press release. Parent governors confirmed that pupils were fully engaged with the initiative.
- The Principal confirmed that the school was developing an understanding of the new OFSTED expectations from other schools within the Trust.

b) To receive any **School Improvement ROV reports**

Nothing further to report. A visit is planned for 4th June.

Quality of Education

5. Admission and Pupil Numbers

To receive the latest data.

See Slide 5 of the Principal's report which gave a breakdown of numbers by class.

- Total pupils increased from 412 in the Autumn term to 424 in the Summer term (6 in Nursery)
- 9 pupils have joined and **none** have left this term.
- 4 pupils with EHCP's are leaving the school in September leaving 6 on roll.
- Approximately 30 pupils in Nursery 2026/2027

- Assessing Reception numbers are a challenge as these are not made available to the school by the local authority until the last minute but are approximately 50. A transition timetable has been planned.

A discussion took place around the current low Reception numbers and house building in the catchment area and the effect this might have on numbers going forward.

6. Curriculum Update

Clear attainment targets set:

- **Year 2:** Reading 89%, Writing 82%, Maths 89%
- **Year 6:** Reading 92%, Writing 85%, Maths 87%

Focus on adaptive teaching and targeted interventions across all phases.

7. Pupil Performance

a) To receive an update on progress and attainment including groups (Pupil Premium, SEND, disadvantaged, gender).

See Slides 9 – 14 of the Principal's report. This showed improved attainment at all levels for Reading, Writing and Maths between the Autumn and Spring terms.

Progress evident across phases, particularly:

- EYFS outcomes significantly improving (GLD rising).

Targeted support:

- Disadvantaged pupils prioritised in interventions and pupil progress meetings.
- Data tracking and responsive teaching increasingly embedded.

Governor question:

What is the barrier to reading progression:

CE response:

Reading and books are a really low priority with children. Many households don't have any books or are in the habit of reading to their children. Too much screen-based reading is taking place which does not enquire the same amount of concentration. Volunteer readers are still coming into the school but they have to be rigorously security checked first. A few are parents and this is helping improve standards.

8. Link Governor Monitoring

Governors reported on their recent visits:

- **Safeguarding (DH)**

The safeguarding visit (16 April 2026) found that Wistaston Church Lane Academy has **strong and well-embedded safeguarding arrangements**, with a positive culture where pupils feel safe, respected and supported. The school demonstrates a **proactive approach to bullying prevention**, with low incident levels and effective recording and follow-up systems, alongside a clear focus on educating pupils about behaviour and its impact. **Mental health and wellbeing are prioritised**, with pupil-led initiatives, pastoral support and staff training ensuring needs are identified and addressed appropriately. **Online safety procedures and safer recruitment practices are robust and up to date**, and upcoming staffing changes are being carefully managed to maintain stability. Overall, the school is described as a **happy, inclusive and nurturing environment**, with strong leadership and systems in place to support pupils' safety and wellbeing.

- **KS2 SAT Reading paper (AS)**

AS's visit (12 May 2026) to review the delivery of the KS2 SATs reading test found that **procedures were highly organised, secure and compliant**, with clear processes in place before, during and after

the test. Secure storage and handling of test materials were carefully managed and logged, and appropriate arrangements were made for pupils with additional needs, including a separate room and access to support resources. During the test, the environment was **calm, quiet and well supervised**, with staff maintaining clear communication and ensuring minimal disruption. After completion, scripts were thoroughly checked, securely packaged and stored in line with requirements. Overall, the visit identified **no concerns**, highlighting exemplary pupil behaviour, strong staff organisation and a well-managed testing process.

A discussion took place about the rollout of the SATS generally. The Principal confirmed that they pupils had been a real credit to the school and worked very hard. Results would be released at the beginning of July.

9. Pupil Premium

a) To review the impact of the spending of the Pupil Premium funding.

- **Key strategy:**

Targeted adult support and adaptive teaching.

- **Impact:**

Measurable improvement in progress (e.g. EYFS literacy gains).

- **Regular monitoring through:**

Learning walks, book looks, pupil progress meetings.

The Principal confirmed that the strategy statement review would completed before the meeting in July.

ACTION: Clerk to add Pupil Premium strategy statement to July agenda.

Personal Development and Welfare

10. Attendance

a) To receive the latest data

Attendance is currently sitting at 95.4% against national average of 94.7%. Authorised absences are at 3.6% and unauthorised at 0.6%. This decrease is t=due to aa reduction in term time holidays. 14 “disappointing start” letters have been issued and 3 attendance letters. One pupil is on a part time timetable and there are currently no dual registered pupils.

b) To receive any attendance reports from the Trust

Nothing to report

11. Rewards and Behaviour

Incidents were described as very low:

- 0 racial incidents
- 0 serious safeguarding incidents
- 1 bullying concern
- 2 short exclusions

The school has adopted a new approach with a weekly behaviour focus and reward systems (“yellow positive noticing tags”). Behaviour described generally as stable and improving.

The Principal reported that the Trust is looking at utilising ARBOR to track behavioural incidents in order to improve data for the new academic year. She outlined the difference between ARBOR and

the current system, CPOMS explaining that a scoring system would be implemented to enable analysis and track trends/establish patterns.

Governors **requested** clarification on the “feathers” rewards system which was being phased out. The Principal explained that it had been difficult to achieve continuity and consistency between teachers when awarding them.

Governors question:

Is behaviour improving?

CE Response:

Behaviour has improved significantly since the beginning of the year.

Governor question:

What support is there in place around the pupil receiving suspensions?

CE response:

Targeted external support has been sought and an EHCP application made. The school is working closely with the family who have been very receptive.

Welfare

12. Safeguarding

To receive an update on the current caseload within the school

Safeguarding remains **secure and effective**:

- 0 referrals to CHECS (Cheshire East Children’s Consultation Service) this term.
- 2 children currently on Child In Need
- 2 families pending on Early Help
- All deputy DSLs receiving updated training.
- Safeguarding governor visit completed (see agenda item 8)

13. Welfare and Wellbeing – Students

Strong provision:

- Mental health champions (Year 5)
- Counselling services ongoing (Safe & Sound)
- Lunchtime hubs and peer support (playground buddies, class ambassadors)
- “Positive noticing” and recognition systems.
- Yellow positive noticing tags
- Positive notice day

14. Welfare and Wellbeing – Staff

Support includes:

- Mentoring provision for new staff
- Access to Education Mutual
- Training delivered within working hours
- Focus on reducing workload pressure.

Local Matters and Stakeholder Engagement

15. Policies

The following policies were reviewed and **approved**, with amendments noted:

- **Charging & Remissions Policy** – approved
- **Behavior & Relationships** – approved

- **Physical Intervention & Restraint** – changes to the rules around this came into effect in April so will need to be rewritten for the new academic year (September). Further staff training (15 staff members) must also be in place for this policy to be approved.
- **Admissions 2027/2028** – reviewed (comes from the Trust)
- **Sun Safety** – to be added to the non-statutory policy page of the website. Governors asked that staff be more pro-active in this area.

16. Governor Training update

All historic training is up to date except for AB's.

ACTION: Clerk to chase AB's training records

Governors to complete NGA Cyber security training before the start of the new academic year

ACTION: Governors to complete Cyber Security training and update their records on GovernorHub

17. Stakeholder Engagement - Parents/Carers

- Parent survey completed. There were 39 responses which is 3 less than last year but responses were generally more positive than previously recorded. Governors **suggested** that a presentation be made at Reception stage to new parents explaining how to raise concerns to the school to increase communication. GL agreed to continue to share the newsletter.

18. Stakeholder Engagement - Wider Community

Strong engagement:

- Wistaston Fair participation (June 2026)
- Crewe Lyceum choir performance (June 2026)
- Awards prize from Royal British Legion for the school's support with the Poppy appeal.
- **New links with Crewe Alex (PPA cover)**. The Principal explained their involvement with the school which will be to assist with supplying sports provision due to the current PE lead leaving the school at the end of term. They already have a scheme designed and will be wanting to raise their profile within the community. The current contract with the school is for 1 year but can be cancelled by both sides at any time,

A discussion took place around the implications of the lack of male teachers within the teaching profession.

ACTION: DH to meet representatives from Crewe Alex on his next Safeguarding visit in September.

19. Communication to the Trust

- Subject Access Requests – these are increasing in number and complexity. The school would like clarity as to how to deal with these in order not to waste valuable resources required elsewhere.

20. Communication from the Trust

Governors were requested to complete the Skills audit as soon as possible

21. AOB

- BL offered early apologies for **9th July** due to a two-day corporate conference in London.
- Clarification of PPA cover for 2027/2028.
- A discussion took place around the new Headteacher transition. A timetable has been set up for after half term for her to get acclimatized informally along with meetings with

Trust personnel and a staff presentation on 11th June. CE is confident she will start next term with a good understanding of the school. She will attend the next LGB meeting.

There being no further items to discuss, the Chair and Headteacher thanked the Governors for their attendance and continued commitment and the meeting closed at 5:57pm.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th July 2026 at 4:00pm

ACTION LOG FOR MEETING 21.05.2026

Ref	Action	By whom	By when
9	Add Pupil Premium strategy statement to July agenda.	Clerk	09/09/26
16	Chase AB's training records	Clerk	09/07/26
16	Complete Cyber Security training and update their records on GovernorHub	Governors	31/08/26
18	Meet representatives from Crewe Alex on his next Safeguarding visit in September.	DH	Next visit