



Local Governing Board to The Learning Partnership

**KNUTSFORD ACADEMY LGB
MINUTES – Part I**



Date: Monday 26th January 2026 @ 4:00pm

Present:

Mrs D. Nicholl-Timmins - Chair (DNT)
Mrs D. Baines (DB)
Mrs A. Sennett (AS), left at 6:08 pm
Mrs A. Stott (AST)
Mr C. Brooks (CB)

Apologies:

None

Absent:

None

In attendance:

Mrs K. Key (KKY) - Headteacher
Mrs A. Thatcher - (ATR) Deputy Headteacher, left at 5:57 pm
Mr C Leigh (CLH) - Assistant Headteacher
Mr C. Parr - (CPR) - Assistant Headteacher
Ms Nikki Walsh (NW) - Head of PE Faculty-left after item 2

Clerk: Mrs S. Pomeroy

Administration

1. Welcome, Apologies and Confirmation of Quoracy

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed it was quorate. There were no apologies to receive.

There were no additional Declarations of Interest made with the business of the meeting.
All papers and policies referred to had been uploaded to Governor Hub (GH) prior to the meeting, unless otherwise stated.

2. Presentation from Head of Faculties-NW

NW addressed the following matters in her presentation:

- The curriculum covers all elements of the National Curriculum. Ten different activities are offered over the year.
- [Teaching Outdoor Adventurous Activities](#) (OAA) is in the early stages.
- The school meets the key recommendations from the School Sport and Activity Action Plan (SSAAP) published in July 2023, which aims to integrate sports and physical activity into the school day and extra-curricular programs. This includes boys and girls having access to the same sports in Years 7-9.
- Enrichment opportunities include clubs which change termly, trips, competitions and sports fixtures. Details of successes from last year were shared.
- Results 2025: Results at GCSE have improved in virtually all measures. Results in Sports Studies have also increased in all measures. This is a vocational qualification with a lower weighting on exams.

Governors questioned why the school had decided to change from the BTech qualification. **NW explained** that BTech changed the exam and it was not suitable for the students.

Governors also asked whether the school is expecting results to continue to improve. **NW confirmed** that, overall, this is the case.

Governors asked whether table tennis could be introduced to allow students the opportunity to extend their range of activities. **NW responded** that this is a good idea but there are issues with storage and only four pupils can play on one table. Rock climbing has been introduced, and this has had a significant impact on practical scores.

Governors referred to Slide 19 in the Headteachers Report showing Key Stage 3 PP1 subjects and Residual scores. ATR explained that a new aligned Key Stage 3 assessment process had been introduced in the autumn term and early adjustments may have caused minor data anomalies. There is no exam in PE, and the target is based on the average of the KS2 English and Maths, so the target is not equitable to their performance. **NW added** teachers use their knowledge of pupils' practical ability when assessing performance.

Governors challenged what the school was doing to make a difference. **NW explained** that work has been carried out to improve the offer at Key Stage 3 to help improve outcomes at Key Stage 4. For example, badminton was introduced in Year 7 as many pupils are choosing this activity. Also, some written content has been introduced to Key Stage 3 homework to prepare pupils for the exam element of PE at Key Stage 4.

Governors questioned how the school addresses inclusion in PE. NW explained that all pupils participate in all the activities. After school clubs are open to all pupils. For competitive team games, an A team and a B team are formed and the pupils rotate. The school has funded activities such as rock climbing for pupils entitled to Pupil Premium funding. There is also funding available to support girls' football. Adaptations are made where possible for pupils with a disability. KKY added that the percentage of students entitled to Pupil Premium (PP) funding who participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme is low and so, as part of the school's PP Strategy, registration fees will be paid for these pupils and for those with SEND.

Governors questioned how pupils are encouraged to take on responsibilities through PE. For example, by taking on the role of team manager. **NW informed** them that from Year 9, pupils are given more responsibility. They have lanyards which demote a specific role within a lesson. **DNT thanked** NW for her presentation. *NW left the meeting at 4:32 pm.*

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Governors approved the minutes of the LGB meeting held on 29th September 2025 as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

The following matters were discussed.

- It was noted that monitoring of the RESET room is ongoing over the year. It is used not just as a sanction but as a restorative measure also. There has been a reduction in one- and two-day suspensions.
- AST was asked to update her training record on Governor Hub.

All other actions had been met and closed as appropriate.

4. Membership Update

- a) Chris Brooks had been appointed to the LGB 01.01.2026-31.08.2029.
- b) Andrea Sennett's term of office is due to expire on 31.08.26. She confirmed that she would be willing to stand for a further term of office. The clerk would inform the Director of Quality. **ACTION**

Strategic Direction and Progress Against Priorities

5. School Improvement Plan and Self Evaluation

a) Update on Progress

KKY provided an update:

- Each area is broken into Intent, Implementation and Impact.
- **Inclusion:** a second Deputy Headteacher has been appointed to start after Easter 2026, and an advert has been placed for an Assistant Headteacher for a September 2026 start. These appointments will increase leadership capacity and capability, particularly in SLT and SEND. Meetings are being held with the Trust to align the SLT structure with the Trust's model.
- **Curriculum and Teaching:** The focus for 2024-25 and 2025-26 has been on adaptive teaching, formative assessment and active engagement. Subject specific pedagogy meetings have been introduced and high-quality resources produced by Heads of Faculties. Monitoring and evaluation have taken place to identify strengths and areas for further development.

Governors challenged on how the faculties are monitored. **ATR is responsible** for the coordination of monitoring for each faculty. Professional development is designed to improve the Quality of Education. An evidence-based Quality Assurance programme is in place and is linked to the faculty development Plans.

Governors asked whether there is any interfacing between different faculties. **ATR responded** that there is. If a teacher is teaching outside of their faculty, then there is the opportunity to attend relevant CPD in the non-specialist subject.

Governors asked about the use of cover supervisors. **KKY informed** them that there are two in post who are now on the ECT Framework. This is part of the school's commitment to retain high quality staff. An induction programme is in place for cover supervisors and CPD needs are identified.

- **Achievement:** A new approach to summative assessment, recording and reporting has been introduced to ensure that all assessment is accurate. This means that progress towards FFT 5 targets can be monitored.

Governors commented that the reporting system is much better with the banding at Key Stage 3.

Governors asked whether the school has information on prior attainment. **STR explained** that the school ranks all pupils based on Key Stage 2 data. This ranking is checked at all assessment points.

- **Attendance and Behaviour:** The aspirational target is 96%. New registration curriculum and presentations are embedded. A new strategy for mobile phones will be introduced from September 2026. All Cheshire East schools are considering the use of pouches for mobile phones.

Governors asked about the school uniform consultation, particularly in relation to skirts. KKY informed them that the school is considering introducing a new skirt and tie from September 2026. The skirt would be branded but would not be a compulsory item. Plain black trousers could also be worn.

Governors challenged on the 96% attendance target; how achievable it is and how it compares to pre-Covid 19 levels.

- **Personal Development and Wellbeing:** The school is developing the "Student Leadership Pathway" from Years 7 to 13. To date, this has been most impactful in Years 7 and 8.
- **Post 16:** The Trust is reviewing post 16 provision across its schools. This involves a consideration of efficiencies, optimal group sizes and protocol and procedures.

Governors requested information on the application process for sixth from places. **KKY explained** that students complete the options form and then receive an email thanking them for their application. A meeting is held with all internal applicants.

- **Leadership and Governance:** The intent is to improve engagement with parents so that they feel valued and included. The school is working toward the Parent Partnership Award but

lack of capacity in SLT has slowed progress towards this. Implementation will take place in the spring and summer terms 2026.

Governors raised issues over the quality, length and frequency of parental involvement in meetings and communications in sixth form. **The school responded** that there are also opportunities to speak to the teacher throughout the year **but noted the concerns** which would be addressed outside of this meeting.

b) School Improvement Record of Visit Reports

Governors noted the RoV 13th November 2025 which had been shared in the meeting papers.

Quality of Education

6. Pupil Performance

a) Update on Progress and attainment: ATR highlighted the following points to address agenda items 6a) and 6b):

- Trends in data are tracked across a 3-year period.
- Compared to this point last year, data in English and Maths is below, except for 7+ which has shown an increase.
- Targets are very high.
- There is no Key Stage 2 data. CAT tests were administered in Year 9. This means that targets are not as reliable.
- A significant amount of work has been undertaken to raise attainment at 7+ and the school is confident that 4+ and 5+ will also improve.
- There has been a significant improvement in the Science department this year. And a bespoke intervention plan is in place. Two intervention days are being held to address gaps and support pupils.
- Outcomes from Trial 1 shows vocational qualifications making less progress. These subjects have a heavy course work element. English Literature is down slightly, but the students will not have covered all the content yet.
- There is disparity in some vocational subjects, and ATR will investigate this.
- Issues in the quality of teaching in Psychology have been addressed.

Governors noted that the results do not paint an accurate picture as they would be in-line if CSS students were removed. It is important to have the narrative around the impact of CSS. ATR responded that the most important aspect is what the school is doing to support pupils and specific subject areas. Ofsted would consider only external data for KA and not CSS.

c) Mock Results KS5 (Year 13)

- ALPS information is provided for Years 12 and 13.
- Economics and Business Studies have the same leader. Significant work has been undertaken to improve Business Studies.
- Vocational subjects do not transfer well to ALPS.
- There are some outliers who are two grades below in all subjects.
- Student intervention plans are in place and pupil progress meetings involving parents are held. **Governors commented** that parents are only involved where the pupil is two grades below target and **raised concerns** around the consistency in marking. **ATR would follow this up** with the Heads of Department.

ATR left the meeting at 5:57 pm.

7. Pupil Premium

a) Publication of the PP strategy on the school website

It was confirmed that the PP Strategy had been revised and published on the school website by 31.12.25.

b) Impact of the spending of the Pupil Premium Funding

- The school has received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education regarding the performance of students entitled to PP funding in 2025. It ranks the school amongst the best nationally. **Governors commented** that this should be celebrated.
- The largest proportion of the funding is spent on Teaching and Learning. Improving Attendance and Reading are also priorities.

AS left the meeting at 6:08 pm.

8. Admission and Pupil Numbers: CPR

- The school has received 258 first choice preferences and so will achieve the PAN of 230.
- 360 applications have been received for Sixth form with 260 of these being first choice preferences. 160 is achievable.
- The school currently has 1430 pupils on roll and is full in every Year Group except Year 11.

9. SEND Report: CLH

- There are higher numbers of pupils with SEND in Year 10 and this reflects a national picture.
- Three additional EHCPs have been granted since Christmas 2025.
- A further six EHCPs are under review. These are parental requests and this is an increased trend.
- The school has received consultation requests for 18 Year 6 pupils and has agreed that it can meet need for six of these.
- Behaviour data is stable.
- Most detentions are related to skirt length or homework.
- Persistent disruptive behaviour is the most common category for suspensions.

10. Link Governor Monitoring

Safeguarding-DNT

SEND-AS

Careers-AST

*** DNT uploaded monitoring reports to Governor Hub following this meeting.*

Personal Development and Welfare

11. Attendance-CLH:

- The school has consulted the Trust lead on Attendance as there had been a dip in attendance from last year.
- Factors include the effect of CSS students, a 3 day start to the term where parents took pupils on holiday and a period of illness.
- There is variability across Year Groups. The Year 9 cohort had poor attendance across Year 7 and 8. Lots on intervention work has taken place and this has now stabilised, as has attendance in Year 11.

12. Rewards and Behaviour

- The school has a comprehensive programme in place.
- Celebration assemblies are positive, genuine experiences.

13. Safeguarding: CLH

- The SCiES audit was good preparation for the upcoming Ofsted inspection.
- The SCiES team highlighted four key areas of focus in Cheshire East for 2025-26:
 - Neglect
 - Education as a Protective Factor
 - Sexual Abuse
 - Contextual Safeguarding

14. Welfare and Wellbeing- Students:

- Staff are using resilience surveys for intervention groups.
- A Family Liaison Role has been created, overseen by the Safeguarding Team. One family who had recently moved to the area were helped to furnish their house.

15. Welfare and Wellbeing- Staff:

- Slide 15 details staff wellbeing initiatives.

Local Matters and Stakeholder Engagement**16. Local Policy Approval**

Governors **approved** the following policies

- Admissions 2027-28
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions at School
- Safeguarding

Governors **noted** the following Trust policy.

- First Aid Policy

17. Governor Training Update:

Governors are requested to watch the recent seminar on the changes to Ofsted from the Key:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2j1trXuSlwM>

Governors are requested to ensure that their Prevent training is up to date (re-do if undertaken prior to 2025): [Prevent duty training - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/prevent-duty-training)

18. Stakeholder Engagement -Parents/Carers

Addressed under agenda item 5

19. Stakeholder Engagement -Wider Community

Admissions Consultation.

There had been no objections received to the consultation. The Admissions Policy has been updated to include Lower Peover as a feeder school.

20. Communication- to Trust:

Governors asked ES&P Committee to note the letter from the Secretary of State for Education. They also asked whether the Trust has a policy on the use of AI.

21. Communication- from Trust:

- a) Governors noted the feedback from the ES&P Committee.
- b) The Governance Conference will take place on Saturday 25th April 2026.
- c) Sean Houlston and Margaret Cheshire have been appointed as new Trustees. Sharon Dempsey has been appointed as a Member.

22. AOB

None

The meeting closed 6:42 pm.

LGB meeting dates 2025-26:Monday 18th May 2026Monday 29th June 2026

All meetings to take place in school at 4:00 pm

Apologies to the Clerk via Governor Hub or email to spomeroy@tlptrust.com**Summary of actions****From the meeting held on 26.01.26**

3.	To issue a communication to parents to ask if they can identify potential new governor candidates. (non-parent).	KKY	13-Feb-26
3.	To inform AH that Andrea Sennett is happy to serve a further term as a parent governor at EPS and that the LGB support this.	Clerk	27-Jan-26
5.	To follow up matters raised by Andrea Stott relating to A Level Economics data and communications to parents.	KKY/ATR	13-Feb-26
5.	To provide further detail on the disparity in attainment between vocational subjects	ATR	13-Feb-26
10.	To forward governor monitoring visit reports to the clerk for circulation.	DNT	13-Feb-26
17.	To arrange a second Ofsted training session for governors.	KKY/DNT	28-Feb-26
17.	To update the training record on Governor Hub. (Prevent, Safeguarding)	Andrea Stott/ Chris Brooks	13-Feb-26
17.	To complete the requested training for the spring term 2026 and update training record on Governor Hub.	All governors	31-Mar-26