



Minutes of the Local Governing Body of

held on Thursday 26 June 2025 at 5.30pm

Present: Mr A Lindley (Chair), Mr N Renton (Headteacher), Ms J Watson, Dr J Featherstone, Mr C Howard, Miss O Charles, Mrs A Meacher, Dr T Stowell

Apologies Mr D Hurcomb

Also present: Miss K Smith, Mrs K Moat, Mrs L Butterfield, Miss N Fareham, Mr R Sykes

Minute No.		Action
LGB 1	<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Mr Hurcomb. Richard Sykes was welcomed to the meeting. No declarations of interest were reported.</p>	
LGB 2	<p>2. Minutes of the last meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>	
LGB 3	<p>3. Headteacher's Report</p> <p>Data Dashboard There is no formal data to report.</p> <p>Mrs Meacher was thanked for her exceptional work over the busy exam period. The exams have gone well and there has been no repeat of the network issues last year.</p> <p>Suspensions remain very low compared to previous years and other local schools.</p> <p>A Governor queried if there are related incidents resulting in suspensions as they are all within the same year group. Ms Smith confirmed that two of the suspensions were related and gave background to the students involved.</p> <p>Attendance There are good positives in the attendance data, in particular Y7 and Y8. The Department of Education report highlights areas where we can make significant progress and this is part of our planning for next year.</p> <p>Up until Y11 left on study leave, attendance was 1% higher than this time last year which was our target. We maintain our goal of 1% per year. The new Y7 in September have had strong attendance in Y6, we have made some changes to Y11 study leave next year and</p>	

we have learnt more about how to manage attendance in the last few years. Miss Smith advised that we are using our focus weeks, rather than talking specifically about attendance to students. There will be a new family outreach worker starting in September and there will also be an emotional outreach worker. The Attendance Officers role has also developed. We also have a greater understanding of specific groups.

Leavers

One of our longstanding Year Managers is retiring in the summer and we are looking to replace this colleague. Mr Renton mentioned the other long standing colleagues who are leaving.

Budget

The reserve position will be strengthened at the end of this year which provides us with 8.6% of our total income. The surplus is from when staff have left and not been replaced. Next year, there will be a deficit caused by the budgeted spend for the Hub, £50,000 for the Wolfson labs and £20,000 for the changing rooms.

A Governor asked if the cost savings were sustainable into next year. Mr Renton advised that it is less sustainable and there are less options for next year. The only uncertainty for next year is the operational pay rise.

We hope for the Hub work to be completed over the summer and the changing room update is due to start in the next few days.

A Governor asked about the new Trust CEO recruitment. Mr Renton advised that he has every confidence in the Trustees that the right candidate will be appointed. The recruitment process is being advised by ASCL.

Mr Renton talked through the school improvement plan. Next year, we will be focussing on the theme of inclusion. All our data points to the gap with our vulnerable students and we need to do more to support this group. Inclusion is the focus of the Trust Conference next week.

In terms of culture, we will be concentrating on our student advocate scheme where every teacher takes one child and advocates for them. We believe this will have a real impact for these children.

There is also focus on teacher workload and the flexible working project, which has been renewed by the Department of Education for another year.

Curriculum

Some changes have been made to include the theme of inclusion. A focus is checking for understanding. The whole Trust will be working on this next year.

We are also looking at student perseverance and learning from mistakes.

We have also introduced practitioner enquiry which will be built into teachers professional development and appraisal process. Research findings will be shared with all teaching staff.

A Governor challenged how all this information will be quality assured and shared. Mrs Moat advised that we have identified 5 main areas for teachers to concentrate on which makes it more reasonable and there is a structure to it.

	<p>Reading is also a focus next year with more initiatives being introduced. We also have a focus on home learning.</p> <p>Operational Mr Renton advised that as a school, we need to improve our recycling systems.</p> <p>A Governor asked if a summary report to evidence the progress or impact of our school could be produced.</p> <p>A Governor asked how last years improvement plan informs this years plan. Mr Renton confirmed that we start each year by looking back at the plan to identify what still needs to be worked on. Mrs Moat advised that we have activities under the goal which are measurable and allow us to see progress. It was agreed to use this meeting next year to report back on progress on school improvement areas.</p> <p>A Governor challenged if we ask students for their views in relation to whether they feel included at school. We have students surveys and there is a new method which is where you track a student for a day. This is really valuable. We also encourage the use of the Reach Out app.</p> <p>A Governor asked how we can check for understanding whilst not embarrassing students. Mrs Moat talked through various strategies that are being used.</p>	Provide a summary report on school improvement plan in the last meeting of each academic year
LGB 4	<p>4. Policies for approval</p> <p>The admission policy was approved by Governors following a change to Sixth Form admission external applicants.</p> <p>A Governor queried the PAN number. Mr Renton confirmed that this relates to students who are new to the school in Sixth Form.</p> <p>There are no other changes.</p>	
LGB 5	<p>5. Chair of Governors report</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
LGB 6	<p>6. Link Governors</p> <p>None.</p>	

LGB 7	<p>7. Risk register update</p> <p>Mr Renton advised Governors that there a number of current risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHCPs – with the new SENCO/Assistant Headteacher. This is mitigated in that Mrs Zoccolan is still working for the Trust. • Ofsted – we will be in the Ofsted window in the next academic year. The new framework will start after the October break. There is much uncertainty with the new framework. There will not be a pilot period with the new framework. <p>The IT risk has reduced slightly as it has been more stable.</p> <p>A Governor asked if the new framework will be delayed.</p>	
LGB 8	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Miss Smith gave Governors an overview of safeguarding in school this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Structure & Roles A team of DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) handles a wide range of concerns, from minor issues to serious incidents like bullying and sexual harm. Staff are encouraged to report any concerns via CPOMS, and there's a clear triage process involving Year Managers and DSLs. • Training & Specialisation DSLs undergo regular safeguarding training, including Prevent, sexual harm, child criminal exploitation, and counter-terrorism. They receive regular updates and attend conferences to stay informed on national and local safeguarding trends. • Monitoring & Reporting Daily filtering and monitoring reports help identify online risks. On-call systems, iPad checks and IT reports are used to intervene quickly when students are at risk, especially before they leave school premises. • Student Engagement & Feedback Students can submit concerns through the Reach Out app. Feedback has led to improved communication about follow-up actions, ensuring students feel heard and supported. • Emerging Issues Increases in peer-on-peer abuse, inappropriate image sharing, and misuse of AI have been noted, particularly among older students. Self-harm and prolonged child protection cases are also rising. • Agency Collaboration The school works with multiple external agencies (e.g. social care, mental health services, drug outreach) but faces challenges due to limited resources and support availability in the region. • Communication & Awareness Weekly bulletins, newsletters, and assemblies help raise awareness among staff and students. Symbols and imagery used by extremist groups are highlighted to improve recognition and prevention efforts. 	

	Dr Stowell was thanked for all her hard work and commitment to HGS and wished the very best for the future.	
LGB 9	<p>Miss Fareham gave Governors an overview of the Maths Hub</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrogate Grammar is one of 40 national Maths Hubs, covering a large geographic area. • Focus on improving maths education through Teaching for Mastery and collaborative workgroups. <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High engagement with local schools (90%+). • Strong leadership and operational support. • National recognition for mixed-age curriculum work. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding reductions for 2025–26. • Need for continued development of collaborative professionalism and headteacher engagement. <p>Future Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepening impact through targeted support and leadership development. • Responding to curriculum changes and national priorities in maths education. 	
LGB 10	The next meeting will take place on Thursday 25 September at 5.30pm at Harrogate Grammar School.	

Action Point

LGB3	Provide a summary report on school improvement plan in the last meeting of each academic year
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