



HARROGATE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

**Minutes of the Local Governing Body of**

**held on Thursday 11 December 2025 at 5.30pm**

Present: Dr A Lindley (Chair), Mr N Renton (Headteacher), Dr J Featherstone, Mr C Howard, Mjr V Cliffe

Apologies Miss O Charles, Mrs A Meacher, Mrs D Reynard, Mr R Sykes  
Also present: Miss K Smith, Mrs K Moat, Ms Hooper (for the first hour)

<b>Minute No.</b>		<b>Action</b>
LGB 1	<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Miss Charles. Mrs Meacher, Mrs Reynard and Mr Sykes.</p> <p>The Trust are introducing some changes in the new year relating to Governors declaration of interests. We will provide further information to Governors when this is received.</p>	
LGB 2	<p><b>2. Minutes of the last meetings</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by Governors.</p>	
LGB 3	<p><b>Focus Area</b></p> <p>Ms Hooper reported to Governors about the student advocate scheme which was launched this year. The underlying principle is that every teacher is a teacher of SEND.</p> <p>All SEND students have a member of staff in the school that comes to know them really well. There are 3 cycles each year. Ms Hooper explained the graduated process which results in two targets being agreed. An example was talked through.</p> <p>We have 385 students who have a special education need or disability. There are 218 students on the SEND support register and 63 have an EHCP.</p> <p>Parental engagement has been very positive so far. Whole staff CPL has been completed. Adaptations have also been made to the learning plans.</p> <p>Ms Hooper talked through the historical support for SEND students and how this has developed over the last few years.</p>	

	<p>Ms Hooper gave feedback on the recent peer review.</p> <p>The SEND review in October 2024 made three recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A whole school approach.</li> <li>• Further exemplifying the seven principles to have adaptations for pupils with SEND.</li> <li>• Training so that all staff have a consistent use of language with a strength-based approach.</li> </ul> <p>Attendance, attainment and behaviour was highlighted.</p> <p>A Governor asked if there was a correlation between the attendance and attainment data. Ms Hooper confirmed that this was the case.</p> <p>A Governor asked how a student is included on the SEND register. We identify students who need to be on the register through a variety of sources including primary schools, teachers and parents. Ms Hooper confirmed that the number of students is consistent with the national figure but this is rising.</p> <p>A Governor asked if the list is fluid. Ms Hooper explained that this was the case and explained the process of how we review students and their need.</p> <p>A Governor challenged if the SEND label is negative. Ms Hooper advised that the students would not necessarily know which students are on the register and it is not normally obvious.</p> <p>Mr Renton referenced the recent peer report and the need to rationalise learning plans.</p>	
LGB 4	<p><b>3. Headteacher's Report</b></p> <p><b>Admissions</b></p> <p>Mr Renton advised that there were no significant changes. We are at capacity in school.</p> <p><b>Dashboard</b></p> <p>Y13 have completed their first CAT and students appear to be performing at a higher level than this time last year.</p> <p>The Y11 mocks have been marked and first analysis show the results to be broadly similar to last year. We are continuing to work closely with students with low attendance and disadvantage.</p> <p><b>Y11 destinations</b></p> <p>Mr Renton talked through the destinations for last year's Y11 students.</p> <p><b>Y13 destinations</b></p> <p>University remains the destination of choice for the majority of our Y13 students, particularly universities in the north. Many students achieved their first choice university this year which is very pleasing.</p> <p>Oxbridge is slightly less strong than previous years.</p>	

	<p>Apprenticeships are still relatively small but we continue to work in this area so students are aware of their options and have the appropriate support.</p> <p><b>Culture</b></p> <p><b>Suspensions</b></p> <p>Suspensions remain very low although there has been a slight increase this year, particularly in Y9. As a result of these suspensions, there has been improved positive behaviour.</p> <p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p>We are above national figure for school attendance but this area continues to be an issue for schools post pandemic. We have decided not to release Y11 on study leave until the May half term. This has been agreed with local headteachers so all Harrogate schools are taking the same approach.</p> <p><b>Sustainability</b></p> <p>Mr Renton advised that we are currently focusing on recycling in school. We also have a meat free Monday which was introduced in September.</p> <p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <p>There are no significant changes.</p> <p><b>Staff updates</b></p> <p>Our new Y10 Year Manager is settling well into school. We currently have vacancies for teachers of physics and chemistry.</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>At the start of this year we were projecting a planned deficit. The deficit has now reduced to £19,000. The local pension scheme are undertaking a consultation which would result in HGS saving £90,000. The projection for 26/27 is a £393,000 surplus.</p> <p>We would like to spend some of the surplus on new initiatives including a potential 3G pitch. We also have a lack of outdoor covered space.</p>	
LGB 4	<p><b>4. Policies for approval</b></p> <p>The Careers and Bullying and Harassment policy were approved by Governors.</p>	
LGB 5	<p><b>5. Chair of Governors report</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	

LGB 6	<p><b>6. Link Governors</b></p> <p>Dr Featherstone reported that he has attended two safeguarding meetings and met with Mr Twitchin about Sixth Form. As part of the Sixth Form meeting, he looked at the Y13 results including which subjects have done very well and ones that are under review. Staffing and 'new to' students were also discussed.</p>	Produce a template and sample link Governors report including questions
LGB 7	<p><b>7. Risk register update</b></p> <p>Mr Renton advised Governors that there are no significant risks at the moment. We will keep the financial risks and staffing under review. He did draw Governors attention to the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Three occurrences of internet outages which have been outside of our control but have really effected provision. A Trust resilience working group has been set up.</li> <li>2. Fixtures that take part in the school day and managing spectators.</li> <li>3. Ofsted new framework.</li> </ol> <p>One of the Trust schools in Leeds volunteered for an Ofsted inspection which took place very recently. Mr Renton summarised updates to Ofsted.</p>	
LGB 8	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Mr Renton advised that there have been six expressions of interest following our recent letter about the PTA. There will be a meeting in January for voting to fill the vacant PTA roles.</p>	
LGB 9	<p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 5 February 2026 at 5.30pm at Harrogate Grammar School.</p>	

**ACTION**

LGB 6	Produce a template and sample link Governors report including questions
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