

# Linton Village College Local Governing Body Meeting Minutes



Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at  
6 pm

**Governors Present:** Helena Marsh (HM, Principal); Peter Woodroffe (PW); Chris Hine (CH); Jill Carter (JC); Ronan O'Leary (ROL); Clare Gorman (CG - Chair); Carolyn Babinsky (CB); Ali Dellar (AD); Clive Turner (CT); David Blackman (DB)

**Others Present:** Shahla Matarazzo (SM); Cam Fehr (CFe); Tim Darby (TD); Kay Pearce (KP Academy Governance Professional)

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	<b>Acceptance of Apologies for Absence</b>	
	Apologies were received from Vanessa Whitcombe. Governors <b>agreed</b> to their absence. Ronan O'Leary advised he would be late joining the meeting.	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	<b>Agree minutes of last meeting and Matters arising not on this agenda</b>	
	The minutes of the meeting on 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 were recorded as accurate and <b>agreed</b> .  All items were <b>actioned</b> .	
4.	<b>Curriculum</b>	
	<p>Year 11 mock exams have taken place, and the school has adopted a structured approach to predicting student outcomes based on performance.</p> <p>Predicted grades (best outcome) are aspirational yet evidence-based, encouraging students to aim high; these are shared with the next education provider.</p> <p>Expected outcomes ("bet your house on this") serve as a more realistic benchmark for tracking school performance.</p> <p>Current performance reflects students' present attainment, with grades typically improving as the year progresses.</p> <p>Mock exams do not include NEA coursework, which explains why some subject grades appear lower. These will increase once coursework is completed and factored into the data.</p> <p>Governors <b>enquired</b> about student performance in key subjects and were reassured that there were no major concerns. The Raising Achievement Group (RAG) is focusing on targeted intervention for underperforming Pupil Premium students, particularly in core subjects, using small group tuition and academic mentoring.</p>	

	<p>For the 2025 cohort, additional study skills support has been provided through parental events and tutor-led sessions.</p> <p>Extra homework support is in place for specific student groups, with increased parental engagement.</p> <p>Staff absences have affected some subjects in 2023/2024, but measures are being taken to mitigate the impact.</p> <p>Governors <b>asked</b> about support from the Trust, and it was confirmed that regular meetings take place to assist subject leaders.</p> <p>A comprehensive presentation outlined the support provided for underperforming subjects, highlighting interventions for both students and staff.</p> <p>Governors <b>were reassured</b> that these subjects are receiving focused attention, with progress being closely monitored.</p> <p>A curriculum review has led to proposed adjustments to GCSE options.</p> <p>Governors <b>raised concerns</b> about compulsory subjects and the way pathways are labelled, emphasising the need to ensure students do not feel restricted in their future choices.</p> <p>Adjustments were suggested to enhance flexibility and inclusivity. A communication plan is in place to inform students and parents about the options available.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Inclusion</b>	
	<p>ROL joined the meeting at 7.50pm</p> <p>A new attendance tracking system has been introduced, featuring regular meetings with heads of year, online absence reporting, and rewards for good attendance.</p> <p>The school's attendance rate is above the national average. Persistent absence is being addressed with targeted support, particularly for students with additional needs.</p> <p>Efforts continue to restore attendance rates to pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Governors <b>acknowledged</b> the positive progress made so far.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Principal's Report</b>	
	<p>Staff workload and wellbeing remains a concern, particularly among middle leaders.</p> <p>While last year's inspection has driven some improvements, pressures persist.</p> <p>Budget updates revealed a significant deficit due to funding changes and increased Trust charges.</p> <p>As a result, new appointments are limited, and existing roles may be adjusted to cover gaps.</p> <p>Governors <b>expressed strong concerns</b> about the financial strain and its potential impact on school performance.</p> <p>An extraordinary meeting was requested to address these issues with Trust representatives.</p>	<b>CG/HM</b>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Data digest</b>	
	No concerns were raised regarding safeguarding updates. The Pupil Premium Action Plan remains in place, focusing on key year groups to improve study habits and outcomes.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Governor Business</b>	
	A link governor report was discussed, with additional reports scheduled for the next meeting.  Ken Murphy (Trustee) will be attending the July LGB meeting.	<b>VW, GE/JC, ROL and CB</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	No additional items were raised.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	The meeting ended at 8.20pm  Date of next meeting is set for Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm	

Items for Future Meetings	
Meeting	Item
Ongoing	Wellbeing focus

Action Log			
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
6.	Extraordinary meeting to be organised with as many governors in attendance	ASAP	CG/HM
8.	Link governors visit reports	March 2025	VW, GE/JC, ROL, CB

Rolling Action Log			
ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE

