



Kingfisher Academy Council
Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 16:00
Chapel House, Langsett Road, Sheffield, S6 2UW

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Emma Bellamy	Chair/Executive Assurance Partner	EB
William Blakeney	Staff Governor	WB
Susan Creese	Community Governor	SC
Stephen Ducey	Staff Governor	SD
James Gibson	Executive Headteacher	JG
Anthony Gore	Governor	AG
Karon Ransom	Deputy Headteacher	KR
Gary Smith	Deputy Headteacher	GS
Also Present:		
Joel Hardwick	Executive Director – Corporate Affairs	JH
Apologies:		
David Poulson	Vice Chair	DP
Apologies not received:		
Mitch Stringer	Community Governor	MS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from DP.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted from DP.	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
2.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.	

One governor reported emailing MS but receiving no response. EB acknowledged the issue and agreed it required follow-up. Governors discussed the need to ensure accountability and timely communication with link staff. EB confirmed she would support resolving the matter and ensure all link relationships are functioning effectively before the next meeting. Action: EB to speak to the Governance Team in relation to MS.	Action: EB 07/07/26
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
3.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda. None.	
4. KINGFISHER ACADEMY COUNCIL MINUTES	
4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meetings: Kingfisher Academy Council meeting held on 09 December 2025. The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting. 4.2. Review Action Tracker The outstanding items on the Action Tracker were reviewed and updated. • GS confirmed he will continue to invite governors to all safeguarding training opportunities as they arise. • JG provided a comprehensive update on EHCP historic trends, including year-on-year analysis, increases in complexity of need and implications for curriculum and staffing. • Governors engaged in structured challenge around provision for pupils with significant learning gaps, and leaders provided clear rationale for pathway differentiation. • Governors agreed that growing SEND complexity is reflective of changing referral patterns and a broader representation of need. JG provided an updated schedule of forthcoming school events and emphasised governor involvement. • Easter Celebration – 25 March. A community event including singing, musical performances and refreshments. • Year 11 Leavers Event – Date to be confirmed. Details will be shared with governors as soon as they are finalised. • Governors were encouraged to attend any events they are available for. Action: JG will continue to circulate updates as new dates are confirmed. 4.3. Matters Arising from the minutes	Action: JG 07/07/26

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.	
5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
5.1 Headteacher Report JG and senior leaders presented the report structured around the new Ofsted framework. <u>Curriculum & Teaching</u> • Curriculum stable and strong with refinements underway. • New subjects added: Drama, Design & Technology. • Flexible pathways for mid year entrants and pupils with disrupted education. • Humanities curriculum strengthening under new departmental leadership. • High-quality CPD, peer QA, coaching and reflective practice embedded. <u>Inclusion</u> • School self-evaluated as Exceptional under new Ofsted framework. Inclusion recognised as central to all provision, with bespoke pathways and strong system-wide leadership influence. <u>Achievement</u> • Achievement reporting is expanding to include holistic progress, attendance and engagement. Academic achievement strong relative to starting points. • Pupils are seven times more likely to achieve appropriate English/Maths qualifications after intervention. <u>Attendance & Behaviour</u> • Chapel pupils start with median average 0.5% attendance; substantial improvements noted. • Silverdale WINGS pupils show 15–20% attendance gains. • No suspensions recorded. • No bullying incidents recorded across the year. • Behaviour culture characterised as relational, proactive and supportive. <u>Personal Development</u> • Self evaluated as Exceptional. Strong focus on belonging, mental health, therapeutic engagement and readiness to learn. Case studies shared illustrating pupil transformation. <u>Leadership & Governance</u> • Expansion project progressing, including staffing and building preparation. • Leadership exploring alignment to values (Learn–Care–Grow).	

- Compliance strong across finance, HR, policy and safeguarding.
- Mitigated H&S exceptions due to listed-building constraints.

Safeguarding

- GS provided an extended safeguarding demonstration covering filtering, monitoring, keyword alerts, screenshots and iPad tracking limitations. Systems judged robust.

Community Voice

- Parent questionnaire overwhelmingly positive. Additional praise received from hospital education partners regarding significant pupil transformation.

EYFS

- Leaders confirmed the DfE approval process for Reception age provision is pending but progressing, JH confirmed we have not heard anything yet.

Post-16

- Leaders shared detailed updates on Silverdale Hub pupils, including transitions, progression routes and bespoke provision for medically unwell post-16 students.

Headteacher Summary

- Leaders remain confident in readiness for inspection, though risks related to site transition and staffing changes were noted.

5.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP

The School Improvement Plan and Self-Evaluation Form were reviewed against Ofsted's new five category model. Governors confirmed alignment between strategic priorities and evidence presented.

5.1.2 Appendix 2 – School SEF

As discussed above.

5.2 Draft School Dashboard Summary

The Trust dashboard was reviewed. Governors were advised that some "Needs Attention" ratings reflect national benchmarking comparisons rather than issues with local performance.

5.3 Budget Report

- Forecast surplus now £28,000 following £50,000 allocation for new-build furnishing and equipment. One-off capital costs expected to create a controlled deficit later in the year.

- National pay award uncertainty presents risk for following year; monitoring continues. 5.4 School Calendar The calendar was reviewed. Governors were informed of likely partial closure for the transition into the new building. 5.5 Pupil Premium JG reported an emerging concern raised by a partner school regarding the handling of Pupil Premium (PP) funding for pupils dual-registered with Kingfisher. The school queried how their PP allocation and EHCP linked top-up funding were being used, expressing concern that they were not receiving the PP funding despite retaining statutory safeguarding oversight of the pupils. Leaders clarified that Kingfisher currently does not receive Pupil Premium funding for pupils attending on a dual-registered basis. The Local Authority appears to be recouping PP allocations from home schools without passing them on to Kingfisher. Governors discussed the implications of this, noting: - Funding should follow the child, regardless of placement. - Schools may be left without financial capacity to meet statutory responsibilities if PP is withdrawn. - The issue appears isolated to one school so far but may indicate a wider Local Authority process. The CEO from Nexus Trust advised that the LA should not be withholding or redistributing PP in this way and requested that Kingfisher escalate the matter formally. Leaders have already sent an enquiry to the LA and await a response. Governors supported the school's view that, should a mechanism be established for Kingfisher to claim PP directly, this would allow for strengthened reporting, accountability and strategic use of funding to support highly vulnerable learners. Leaders noted that the administrative burden of PP reporting would be worthwhile if it resulted in appropriate funding. JG will report back once the LA responds and Governors agreed to revisit the matter at the next meeting. Action: JG to provide an update at the next meeting in relation to PP funding. 5.6 Cabinet member & MPs' Feedback from Pupil Parliament A meeting has been scheduled, and SD will provide an update at the next meeting. Action: SD to provide Pupil Parliament update at the next meeting. Staff presented a detailed overview of recent pupil engagement projects at the hospital site. 5.7 Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment	Action: JG 07/07/26 Action: SD 07/07/26
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The annual skills audit will be distributed electronically. EB clarified that only governors (not officers) are required to complete it. Action: All Governors to complete their Skills Audit and send back to Clerking Services.	Action: All Governors 24/03/26
6. TRUST MATTERS	
6.1. Trust verbal update of key issues JH provided the following update after the meeting: - Learning from Ofsted inspections under the new framework continues to be shared and discussed amongst school leaders within the Trust. - Two schools are in the process of conversion – one a Sheffield special school, and the other an AP in Doncaster; the Trust is also supporting the DfE with a MAT that is in the process of dissolving and the current plan would be for two special schools to move across into Nexus as part of that process.	
7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
7.1 To consider any other urgent business None.	
8. CONFIDENTIALITY	
8.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting Governors reminded of confidentiality regarding sensitive items discussed.	
9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	

Tuesday 7 July 2026	16:00 – 18:00	Chapel House
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
Emma Bellamy		