



## Ruskin Community High School

**Student, Development & Welfare Committee**  
**19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 3:15pm**  
**Venue - School**

### MINUTES – PART ONE

<b>Present:</b>	Dean Postlethwaite (HT) Emma Szymura (ES) William Ollier (WO) Chris Griffin (CG) Don Higgs (Chair) Peter Thorpe (PT) Peter Storey (PS) Marion McKenzie (MM)	<b>Headteacher</b> <b>Co-opted Governor</b> <b>Co-opted Governor</b> <b>Co-opted Governor</b> <b>Co-opted Governor - Chair of Committee</b> <b>Co-opted Governor</b> <b>Co-opted Governor</b> <b>Staff Governor</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Margo Veitch (MV)	<b>Co-opted Governor</b>
<b>In attendance:</b>	Sarah Robson (SR) Natalie Burke (NB) Jo Rankin (JR) Natalie Cross Cheryl Jackson (Clerk)	<b>Assistant Head</b> <b>Assistant Head</b> <b>Associate Assistant Headteacher</b> <b>SENDCO</b> <b>Clerk</b>

<b>AGENDA ITEM 1</b>	<b>STUDENT / STAFF ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p><u>Student Council</u>  The SBM introduced the Student Council to Governors.</p> <p>Governors asked the School Council about their role in the School and questions about the types of activities that are involved in and what impact they have. They were also asked for their opinion on school matters and future plans.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the School Council for attending the meeting.</p> <p><u>Family Support Worker</u>  The HT introduced Tracey Daly (TD) – Educational Family Support Worker to Governors.</p> <p>TD informed Governors that she was new to the role but had worked in the School for 37 years. TD talked to Governors about working with local families that she knows and</p>



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	<p>developing a trusted relationships to support students to attend school. She noted the dedication of all staff in the School to support vulnerable students.</p> <p>The Chair thanked TD for attending the meeting.</p>
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<b>AGENDA ITEM 2</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; APOLOGIES</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>The Governors received and accepted apologies from MV.</p>

<b>AGENDA ITEM 3</b>	<b>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, (PECUNIARY OR OTHERWISE)</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	There were no declarations of interest declared with the business of the meeting.

<b>AGENDA ITEM 4</b>	<b>AOB</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	There were no items of AOB.

<b>AGENDA ITEM 5</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF THE PART 1 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	Governors approved the minutes from the meeting on 13.11.24 as a correct record and the Clerk was asked to send the minutes to be signed virtually by the Chair.
<b>Decision:</b>	Governors resolved to approve the minutes of the above meeting.
<b>Action:</b>	The Chair to sign a copy of the minutes and provide for school for retention.

<b>AGENDA ITEM 6</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Governors reviewed the Action Log from the previous meeting.</p> <p>There were no outstanding actions.</p>

<b>AGENDA ITEM 7</b>	<b>LINK GOVERNOR REPORTS</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	The following Link Governor Reports were received by Governors :



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	<p>a) Safeguarding (verbal update - DH)</p> <p>DH noted that he had completed 2 visits to the School this term. During which time he has checked the new fully computerised Single Central Record Register and discussed the concern raised by the SCIES team during the audit regarding reference checks for employees from overseas. DH confirmed that although the reference process is being followed, progress is slow for countries such as Ukraine. He also noted that these employees tend to be cleaners and work 'out of hours' with a degree of supervision from the Site Team. DH also attended the Safeguarding Team meeting.</p> <p>b) Attendance (Report circulated on Governor Hub – PT)</p> <p>PT noted that this was his first visit as Attendance Link Governor, and it was used to educate him on the processes and procedures in the School. He commented on the vast amount of work being undertaken by the School to improve attendance and suggested that additional promotion around the School would be good.</p> <p>NB noted that work is currently being done including, adapting the DfE attendance poster, improving the website page on attendance , developing an attendance noticeboard and developing an attendance 'backdrop' for all student and staff accounts.</p> <p>The HT noted that the Attendance Link was appointed due to the national focus on attendance which featured in the recent inspection.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 8	ATTENDANCE
Discussion:	<p>The Attendance Report – March 2025 was circulated to Governors at the meeting.</p> <p>NB gave an update on attendance and highlighted the following areas to Governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole School attendance is now in line with national attendance figures, Ruskin attendance has stayed the same but national figures have declined.</li> <li>• Year 11 attendance is 89.6% and this is a concern. There are issues of punctuality of students which are resulting in 'U' codes and therefore impacting attendance figures. Education of students and parents about the impact of U codes has taken place. Many of these students also have behaviour issues.</li> <li>• There has been a reduction in lates overall.</li> <li>• All staff are now trained on the Attend software and since this CPD there have been some improvements in attendance, particularly in Year 10.</li> <li>• Attendance buy-back from the Local Authority has ceased and the impact has been minimal due the additional capacity in School, the Attend software, and the ability to progress concerns more quickly.</li> <li>• Communication with parents has improved using the Attend package.</li> <li>• Attendance challenges continue following the success of the 12 Days to Xmas challenge. This challenges are targeted for maximum impact using the data available.</li> </ul>



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	<p>NB commented that there have been some issues with slow response/action from the Local Authority due to high demand, however this is improved recently.</p> <p>The current priority is to get Year 11 students into school and there is a plan in place to work with parents. 5 students in Year 11 have less than 20% attendance – this is having an impact on the predicted data.</p> <p><b>Q – Is there anything more the School can do?</b> R – The increase in resources in the Attendance Team has helped.</p> <p><b>Q – Does the Hive have an impact?</b> R - Hive is having a positive impact and has helped some students improve their attendance.</p> <p><b>Q – Would early intense interventions help?</b> R – The FSW run the transition processes and so check on attendance of students and focus on those that need additional support.</p> <p>NB also circulated the latest Newsletter which was focussed on celebrating successes including 106 students who have achieved 100% attendance for 2024-2025.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 9	BEHAVIOUR UPDATE
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>NB gave the update.</p> <p><u>Think For The Future (TFTF)</u> TFTH are currently unable to provide a mentor, so the School have continued the programme using internal mentors and received a refund. CPD for staff continues.</p> <p><u>Suspensions</u> There is an overall reductions in suspensions for all students and a reduction in number of students receiving 1 or more suspensions. However, there is an increase of suspensions in the Spring term – this seems to be a trend.</p> <p>NB noted that it is a small group of students receiving the majority of the suspensions.</p> <p>The Inclusion Centre is working well with vulnerable students receiving additional support.</p>



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	<p><u>Pastoral Team</u></p> <p>A new Year 8 Achievement Manager has been appointed.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 10	SAFEGUARDING UPDATE
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>NC gave the update.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Update was circulated on Governor Hub prior to the meeting and NC highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 27 students in School with Social Care involvement.</li> <li>• All Safeguarding training for the team and staff is up to date.</li> <li>• The School are developing the use of CPOMS to improve their usage of the system.</li> <li>• The Single Central Record (SCR) checks have been completed – all the data is now fully computerised.</li> <li>• All staff DBS checks have been renewed.</li> </ul> <p>NC noted that how busy the safeguarding team is.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 11	POLICIES
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>The following non statutory policies were reviewed and agreed by Governors :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Visit</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• EAL Induction</li> <li>• LGBTQ</li> </ul> <p>Note the Behaviour and School Uniform policies were not available.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 12	DIRECTORS REPORT
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>The Clerk highlighted the items below and noted that they had been discussed in the meeting:</p> <p>1.1 – Cheshire East Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing courses available.</p> <p>2.1 – Wellbeing for Education – consider appointing a Wellbeing Link Governor.</p>



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AGENDA ITEM 13	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
	<p>The date and time of the next Student Development &amp; Welfare Committee meeting was confirmed as:</p> <p>Spring Term – 19.03.24 3:15pm</p>

AGENDA ITEM 14	AOB
<b>Discussion:</b>	There were no items of AOB.

AGENDA ITEM 15	STATEMENT OF IMPACT
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Governors helped to move the school forward in this meeting by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving a detailed update on attendance and the challengers faced, checking that interventions are having an impact.</li> <li>• Completing an Attendance monitoring visit and gaining knowledge on the policies &amp; procedures in school.</li> <li>• Completing Safeguarding monitoring visit and attending the Safeguarding Team meeting.</li> <li>• Engaging with the Student Council and asking questions.</li> </ul>

**The meeting ended at 4.25pm**

**There was no Part 2 agenda.**

**Chair.....**

**Date.....**