



Ruskin Community High School

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Committee

18th June 2025 at 4:15pm

Venue - School

MINUTES – PART ONE

Present:	Chris Griffin (CG)- joined online Dean Postlethwaite (DP) William Ollier (WO) Emma Szymura (ES) Peter Storey (PS) Marion McKenzie (MM) Margo Veitch (MV)	Co-opted Governor - Chair of Committee Headteacher Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor and Deputy Headteacher Co-opted Governor Staff Governor Co-opted Governor
Apologies:	Don Higgs (DH) Debbie Jones (DJ) Shelley Whitefoot (SW)	Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Careers Lead
In attendance:	Sarah Robson (SR) Natalie Cross (NC) Natalie Burke (NB) Fabrice Gale-Coyne (Clerk)	Assistant Head Assistant Head and SENDCO Assistant Head Clerk

AGENDA ITEM 1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
Discussion:	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Governors received and accepted apologies from Don Higgs (Co-opted Governor), Debbie Jones (Co-opted Governor) and Shelley Whitefoot (Careers Lead).

AGENDA ITEM 2	CAREERS UPDATE
Discussion:	This item was cancelled due to apologies and will be rearranged for a future meeting.

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



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AGENDA ITEM 4	AOB
Discussion:	There were no items of any other business to discuss.

AGENDA ITEM 5	APPROVAL OF THE PART 1 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Discussion:	Governors approved the minutes from the meeting on 18.03.25 as a correct record and the Clerk was asked to send the minutes to be signed virtually by the Chair.
Decision:	Governors resolved to approve the minutes of the above meeting.
Action:	The Chair to sign a copy of the minutes and provide for school for retention.

AGENDA ITEM 6	MATTERS ARISING
Discussion:	Governors reviewed the Action Log from the previous meeting. There were no matters outstanding.

AGENDA ITEM 7	LINK GOVERNOR REPORTS (TLA)
Discussion:	<p>DH completed the SEND Link Governor Report on 14th May 2025. Due to apologies, this will be discussed at a later meeting.</p> <p>It was confirmed that all Curriculum Link Governor visits have either already occurred or are scheduled to be completed within the next three weeks. Governors have engaged with curriculum leaders, interacted with students, and reviewed books.</p> <p>The focus would now be on the priorities for 2025 to 2026, which will be presented in the autumn term.</p> <p>Governors praised SR for organising visits more systematically, which was very informative and positive. Governors felt they now have more opportunities to address issues and engage with all aspects of the school. This was recognised as a positive step forward and governors thanked SR for her hard work.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 8	TEACHING & LEARNING UPDATE
Discussion:	<u>Teaching & Learning</u>



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SR provided the following verbal update:

- The school will continue to focus on priorities this year and further develop the curriculum, core knowledge, and address misconceptions. Work has been completed with teachers and curriculum leads. The use of mini whiteboards was now a Ruskin strategy.
- The following four priorities were noted:
 1. SW worked with curriculum leaders to consider how careers could be further embedded into the curriculum.
 2. Further work on Talk for Writing following the Mark Bayley visit. This will be discussed in more detail in Item 9.
 3. Assessments had already been revised for KS3, and the school was satisfied with this. Further work would be carried out on assessments across departments to ensure they are fair and consistent.
 4. Linking independence to the core value of confidence. The revision strategy will start in September for all year groups. The goal was to embed skills and confidence from Year 7 onwards. The revision strategy will involve flashcards and core knowledge.

Q- Two teachers mentioned they hadn't seen the Mark Bayley report during a recent visit. Would it be worth sharing with staff?

R- The main report was shared with SLT, but Mark Bayley also produced a document for staff, so all staff should have seen this. It is available for staff.

Options Update

ES provided the following verbal update:

- The options process for Year 9 was now complete and the school were able to offer a broad curriculum to students.
- The only subject that wasn't viable was electronics. Electronics was initially introduced to appeal to those students whom UTC may tempt, but this has not helped with that.
- There was a strong group for triple science this year, with many students taken from sets one and two. The science department worked hard to recruit students.
- Very few students did not receive their option choices. For those who did not, they worked with staff to identify suitable subjects for their ambitions.
- Statistics was also added as a subject for this year, which was positive.

Q- Are there updates following the RE Presentation at the last meeting?

R—RE will continue with the same curriculum map, and students will still receive two hours of RE. Students will decide whether to proceed with exams.

Q- Is this approach ok with SACRE?

R Yes.



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Q- Who taught electronics?

R- The school lost its electronics specialist, and with an insufficient number of students for the cohort, this issue has resolved itself naturally.

SEND

NC provided the following verbal update:

- DH completed a link governor visit on 14th May 2025 and observed animal therapy and interventions. DH suggested that the school consider adopting zones of regulation, a method frequently used in primary schools. While this approach was practical for students, primary schools typically had more time to revisit the zones during the day. The school will further explore using zones of regulation and look for ways to make it feel more 'grown-up'.
- In September 2025, the school will have eight students with EHCPS, with two more Year 6 students undergoing Needs Assessments. This will lead to an expected increase in the total number of EHCPs. The school has stated that it can meet the needs of three out of these eight students.
- The school will lose ten SEND K students and gain 31 SEND K students.

Q - If the school has informed the Local Authority that it cannot meet needs, where do we stand with health and safety?

The school has informed the Local Authority of several concerns, but Ruskin was chosen based on parental preference. The Local Authority has carried out an environmental audit. Some areas will be straightforward to modify, but others are more challenging due to the age and design of the building.

Q—If the school has raised concerns and expressed that it cannot meet needs, who would be liable if an accident happened?

R- It would still be the school.

Governors acknowledged the increased EHCPs and SEND K nationally and the challenges schools face.

AGENDA ITEM 9	CPD UPDATE AND SIP REPORT
Discussion:	<p>Governors noted that the SIP Report had been circulated on Governor Hub prior to the meeting.</p> <p>SR provided the following verbal update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school has changed how it utilises support from the SIP, now linking it closely to CPD.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher talk was too high and identified as an area that required further support. Students needed more opportunities to collaborate. This was an area already identified by SLT.• Mark Bayley provided feedback to all staff in March 2025, sharing his findings and outlining the proposed changes. He provided theory on the benefits of talking in lessons instead of chat.• The school now has a teaching and learning group consisting of sixteen staff members chosen by SLT. The group includes a range of teachers from ECTs and curriculum leads to experienced staff members. Mark Bayley met with the team, observed the meeting, and then returned in April 2025 to observe teachers from the group. Teachers were eager to be observed and to receive feedback. The school aims to foster an environment where observations were a support tool rather than something to worry about.• Mark Bayley's upcoming visit was scheduled for Friday, June 13th, 2025. The school plans to continue with Mark as the SIP for the 2025/2026 year. His approach was flexible, and feedback was given at a time convenient to staff. <p>Governors noted that the school had made good progress this year with Mark Bayley's support. Teachers were keen to be observed, reflect, and improve under his guidance.</p> <p>Governors confirmed Mark Bayley as the SIP for 2025/2026.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 10	PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE
Discussion:	<p>Governors were already aware of the school's work with the Rady Project to improve the attainment of disadvantaged learners. When the school joined the initiative, it was the only local high school among a group of primary schools. The Local Authority was widening its offer to other schools. Ruskin was further along in the project, and it sometimes felt like the school shared more than it gained from other schools.</p> <p>The school had a meeting scheduled for next week to connect with and meet the second cohort and secondary school group. It was hoped that the school would gain more from the secondary school group, which may have similar contexts.</p> <p>SLT focused on a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students to look at the PP offer. Next year, the focus will be on using support-first strategies and ensuring they have been utilised. A particular focus will be on doubly disadvantaged groups.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 11	POLICIES
Discussion:	Governors reviewed and approved the following statutory policies:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships, Sex & Health Education. <p>Governors noted that the following policies had been reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum• Literacy• Marking and Feedback• Remote Learning
Decisions:	Governors approved policies.

AGENDA ITEM 12	DIRECTORS REPORT
Discussion:	The Clerk highlighted the following item to Governors: 2.1 School Development Pathway Training for 2025-2026. 2.3 Access to 'Thinking Differently' Resources. 3.3 DfE updates statutory careers guidance.

AGENDA ITEM 13	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
Discussion:	The date and time of the next Teaching, Learning & Assessment Committee meeting will be confirmed at FGB when the 2025/2026 dates are discussed.

AGENDA ITEM 14	AOB
Discussion:	There were no items of AOB for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 15	STATEMENT OF IMPACT
Discussion:	Governors helped to move the school forward in this meeting by: Improvement in the consistency and quality of link governor visits and reporting. Options were reviewed and discussed to ensure the school offered a broad curriculum to students. Being informed about the increase in SEND numbers and the impact on education and budgets.



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	Review of CPD and the link with Mark Bayley (SIP) on reducing teacher talk and encouraging student collaboration. The development of a teaching and learning group to develop staff expertise and the willingness of staff to get involved. Ensuring the continuity of the work of the SIP continues into 2025-2026.
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The meeting ended at 17:04pm

There was no part 2.

Chair.....

Date.....