



**Notes and Action Record of the Hillocks Primary Academy
Local Academy Committee Summer 2 meeting
Held on Monday 6th July at 17:00 at Hillocks**

Membership	Initials	Governor category	Absence
Susan Beasley (Chair of Governors)	SBea	Appointed AC governor	
Henry Reader	HR	Appointed AC governor	
Jemma Mee	JM	Appointed Parent AC governor	
Lucy Murungi	LM	Appointed AC governor	A
Simon Bennett	SBen	Appointed AC governor	

In attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Gareth Letton	GL	Executive Principal	
Claire Gledhill	CG	Principal	
Lynsey Parker	LP	Governance Professional / Clerk to Governors	
David Schwarz	DS	Chair of Board of Trustees	

Quorum Required	3	Governors present	5
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Action Record

Agenda / action ref	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Complete / Carried Forward / Incomplete

Notes of meeting

Bold blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge

Bold green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval

Q= Question from governors

A=Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points /summary of discussion	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline
HPA/43/2526 Welcome and apologies	<p>SBea welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced DS who was attending as part of the Board's commitment to attend all LACs at least once per year, and to strengthen relationships between LACs and Trustees. DS will work with SB and LP to prepare a report to Trustees following his attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>SBea also introduced PE, attending the meeting pending appointment to the LAC.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from LM.</p>			
HPA/44/2526 Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest for any items on the agenda. It was confirmed that the declarations already provided were correct.			
HPA/45/2526 Notes of last meeting / action log	The notes of the last meeting were received and accepted. There were no actions from the previous meeting.			
HPA/46/2526 Governance Report	<p>SBea confirmed that she would be standing down as CoG at the end of this academic year.</p> <p>Academy Committee governors unanimously voted to appoint PE to the Hillocks LAC and to become the interim Chair of the academy committee w.e.f. 1 September 2026. PE introduced himself, thanked all of the governors and explained his role on other local academy committees within the Trust, and his approach to working with governors, staff and stakeholders.</p> <p>All governors completed the Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest forms during the meeting.</p> <p>Governors also completed the annual skills audit. LP will produce an analysis of the results to help inform planning and priorities for the LAC for next year.</p>			

	<p>Link governor roles for 2026/27 were discussed and agreed. LP will share the updated list with governors.</p> <p>Any additional visit reports for monitoring visits that have taken place this term will be circulated to all governors along with the notes of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Introduction from David Schwarz, Chair of the Board of Trustees</u> DS explained his role and reasons for attending today. All Trustees attending LAC meetings this term will report to G&P committee afterwards, this will provide an additional lens, and any ideas or suggestions for G&P to consider implementing, to continue improving our governance processes and strengthening relationships.</p> <p>DS gave an update on the recent work of the Board and its sub-committees:</p> <p><u>Board:</u> Development of new Trust strategic plan (reaching end of current 5 year plan) Iterative process, has involved questionnaire for governors to input.</p> <p>Safeguarding is covered at every Board meeting</p> <p>Trustee recruitment issues: Aim to improve Board diversity and representation of the communities we serve Discussion took place on difficulties of recruiting to volunteer governance roles in general, and of governor/trustee retention.</p> <p><u>Standards and Outcomes Committee:</u> Patrick Knight attends every meeting to update on safeguarding, behaviour and attendance – overall patterns and trends rather than individual schools Recent Ofsted outcomes and any learning from these – Thrumpton, Samuel Barlow, Redgate.</p> <p>Attendance improvements in our Primary schools:</p>			
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	<p>Dave Cotton and Cat Summers from the Trust recently spoke at DfE conference about improving attendance (along with implementation of Magma Maths which has been trialled at Hillocks)</p> <p>Extremely positive that a positive reputation has been built over the years and the Trust is in a position to share good practice with others.</p> <p>RISE discussed at every S&O meeting. DS praised CG's approach in rationalising all support on offer and embracing this. CG added that who we have partnered with, and having the support of Transform Trust has been really beneficial.</p> <p>SB commented it was good to see Board focused on both high strategic themes, as well as looking into the positives and weaknesses of individual academies. Feels we are part of a group that cares about us.</p> <p>DS confirmed new Trustees all well briefed on needing to understand the nuance and context of all academies in the Trust.</p> <p>SB / PE feedback on the positive relationships between Trust and LACs and passed thanks to DS.</p> <p>Governors had no further questions but passed on thanks to DS for attending and building relationships with academy committee governors.</p>			
HPA/47/2526 Principal's report	<p>CG gave a verbal update on all of the available statutory assessment results. It was noted that SATs results had been delayed until 16th July.</p> <p>EYFS GLD: 2022/23 – 48% of cohort achieved GLD 2023/24 – 56% “ 2024/25 – 69% “ 2025/26 – 63% “ (small cohort this year, one child with no prior education experience) Gap between PP and non-PP has narrowed.</p> <p>Year 1 phonics screening check: 2022/23 - 66% of cohort achieved a pass (23/40) 2023/24 - 65% “</p>			

	<p>2024/25 - 54% “ 2025/26 - 76% “</p> <p>Q – these are fantastic results. What has been greatest change that has enabled this?</p> <p>A- change in leadership responsibilities. Intervention and tracking to really refine our support.</p> <p>Year 2 accessing the test this year: 88% of eligible cohort achieved a pass (3 students not passing this year have EHCPs Year 2 cohort overall is challenging with 47% SEND, 50% PP)</p> <p>Year 4 MTC: 2022/23 - 23% of cohort achieved full marks (25/25) 2023/4 - 21% “ 2024/25 - 13% “ 2025/26 - 41% “</p> <p>20+ represents a good level of fluency. 41% of cohort achieved 20+ last year 73% of cohort achieved 20+ this year</p> <p>Governors passed on their thanks to the staff and children for all their hard work. It is pleasing that our outgoing CoG can see the impact of all of the improvement work that has been taking place, and how this is already leading to improvements in outcomes prior to her leaving.</p> <p>Governors commented that it will be good to see how the Year 1-2 phonics children progress through school. CG confirmed there is lots of staff CPD on fluency taking place to enable their progress.</p> <p>Governors also thanked CG for her leadership of the behaviour and culture work that has taken place, recognising the high levels of need and that the school is supporting some really vulnerable children, who are now achieving well.</p>			
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	<p>People regularly comment to governors how calm and settled the academy now is , as the academy is meeting children’s needs and they are now ready to learn.</p> <p>Next steps – small pockets of inconsistency around adaptive teaching Pleasing progress of current year 5 cohort on SATs past papers</p> <p>A discussion took place on the overall school cohort and how the levels of need are supported. Governors noted that current whole school population = 35% SEND, 30% EAL.</p> <p>Q – Does the academy use BSquared? A - Yes especially for SEND and vulnerable children</p> <p>For EAL pupils, the academy uses Flash academy and is benefitting from experience at WPA.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the levels of need and the limited funding for children with additional needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governors heard that there are 15 children with EHCPs in the school currently - JM as SEND link governor fed back that in previous years this figure would have been much lower, and is thanks to the work of Charlotte Adams (SENCO) and team for their relationship building and working with parents to secure the best possible outcomes and levels of support for the children. - CG described the process for bidding and allocations of AFN or HLN funding. - It was noted that where additional funding is not awarded, the academy has to continue to provide the support that is legally mandated in the EHCP - The academy meets children’s need as defined in EHCP e.g. 1:1 support, and has self-funded and covered this all year. - Extremely challenging for budget planning. - Governors acknowledged that parents know Hillocks has such an inclusive environment, they want their children to come here to access this support. Conversely, some parents are not always willing to pursue a diagnosis, don’t like labels or the stigma of their children having additional needs. 			
HPA/50/2526	Feedback from recent Ofsted inspections:			

<p>Governor training and development</p>	<p>PE was invited to share his experience and knowledge from being involved in 2 recent Ofsted inspections within the Trust.</p> <p>PE feedback that the overarching message is that inspectors want to see how well governors know their schools and how different parts of the Ofsted framework and standards are approached.</p> <p>Questions have been asked in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviour and attendance - Safeguarding - Curriculum <p>Inspection teams have asked questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do governors know things have improved? e.g. scrutiny of data, patterns over time, benchmarking with national averages and similar schools. - Attendance e.g. governors have been asked to discuss details of the academy's approach - Behaviour e.g. inspectors want to know that governors know that what they are being told by Principals is actually happening. What is the evidence e.g. visits, learning walks. <p>A discussion took place on inconsistencies between different inspections and inspection teams.</p> <p>DS advised that in all cases, LAC governors have demonstrated clear knowledge of the academies, and have provided excellent feedback on their meetings and link visits.</p> <p>Logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 2-3 governors can be present at the governance meeting. - So far all governor meetings have taken place on Wednesday am. - Attendance co-ordinated by Governance Professional (LP). <p>There was a suggestion for another governor alongside the Chair to attend the Trust AIR meetings, so all can gain some experience and exposure to the type of questions asked. DS will include this suggestion in his post-meeting report.</p>			
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	<p>A brief discussion on the academy SEF took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement and curriculum and learning have been assessed as ‘needs attention’ in the SEF. - Governors confirmed that they can see evidence of much more technical ability in all teaching staff at the school, and are confident that leaders know where there are still areas of inconsistency, all governors can talk about the improvement journey. - Inspection teams do look at previous Ofsted Afls. Governors need to be able to understand what are the quick wins, and what takes longer to have an impact e.g. improving outcomes. - A discussion took place on staff wellbeing and the need to ensure Ofsted is not a negative experience – needs attention in some areas may still show a positive direction of travel from the previous Ofsted and this should be acknowledged and celebrated. <p>Q – Are there any key/consistent areas of questioning that have been asked of governors?</p> <p>A - How do you know PP is being spent effectively? British values Quality assurance and evidence of impact</p> <p>Q – Have any questions been asked about our relationship with the Trust and how the Trust is supporting its schools?</p> <p>A – Yes, and answers have focused on the 2-way relationship and feedback. Consider the areas of joint working across the Trust.</p> <p>Q – What information do the inspection team have in advance?</p> <p>SEF, AIP, IDSR and results dashboards, academy website. Most inspectors will have an understanding of the local area and academy context.</p> <p>Cat Summers, Chief Education Officer at the Trust has provided governors with a pack of information beforehand, and has briefed on key themes and given feedback on what has been considered so far by the inspection team. DS confirmed Trustees receive a similar pack of key information.</p>			
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	<p>In summing up, SB and CG reminded governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You don't need to know everything - governors are volunteers - Take notes in to meeting with you - Take turns to speak with others on the call, this allows time to pause and gather your thoughts, slow down, ask questions - It is natural that for non educationalists there is some trepidation over terms, acronyms – but diversity and mix of education and non-educational professional backgrounds is the strength of the Hillocks LAC - Take the opportunity to feedback on what has personally impressed you about the school - Share information from link visits – this activity is as important as our collective LAC meetings - Think of link roles as areas of specialism. We are able to show sharing of this knowledge and expertise across the LAC <p>A discussion took place on the need to continually consider the children and staff in the school in all aspects of the LAC's governance duties, noting this can be as simple as saying thankyou to staff, ensuring they feel seen and their efforts recognised.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>CG and all governors passed on thanks to SB for all her hard work as Chair and for supporting the academy in its improvement journey, and wished her all the best for the future.</p> <p>It was confirmed that a new governors award would be given at the awards assembly on 21st July, all governors welcome and encouraged to attend.</p>			
HPA/49/2526 Determination of Confidentiality	Governors determined that there were no confidential discussions			
HPA/50/2526 Report to / from Trustees	<p>A report will be submitted to Trustees following the meeting.</p> <p>The responses to our reports from the Trust G&P Committee will also be shared with the governors.</p>			
HPA/51/2526	Next meeting: Monday 21st September 2026			

Date and time of next meeting	The meeting closed at 19.10			
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Signed by Chair: S Beasley	Date:
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