MINUTES OF MEETING

Nottinghamshire County Council

School:	**Trent-Rylands Federation**
Meeting title:	**First Summer term meeting of the governing body**
Date and time:	**Thursday 15 May 2025 at 5.30pm**
Location:	**At the School**

Membership		Ms L Griffiths (co-chair)
'A' denotes absence	A	Mrs D Bagley
		Vacancy LA governor
		Mrs E Truman
		Mrs S Osborne
		Mrs R Hall
		Mr C Jones
		Mr A McPherson
		Miss M Gough
	A	Mrs T Walker
		Mrs L Shepherd (vice-chair)
		Mr S Williams (co-chair)
		Mrs C Watts
		Mrs K Harby
		Mrs C Turner– Head of school
		Mrs J Barratt – Head of school
In attendance		R D R Allen (clerk to the governors)
		Mr J Wood (shadowing Mr Allen)

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Griffiths

GB/35/25 Apologies for absence **Action**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs D Bagley (family bereavement) and Mrs T Walker (childcare).

It was

resolved

that the governing body consent to these absences.

GB/36/25 Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest, either direct or indirect, for items of business on the agenda.

GB/37/25 Review of membership and terms of office ending in the next 12 months

The clerk highlighted the following vacancies on the governing body:

Councillor Kate Foale has recently resigned as LA Governor, thus LA vacancy.

The meeting discussed this at some length, with the value of Councillor Foale's contributions to the governing board being recognised.

		Action
	The meeting asked Mrs Turner to contact Councillor Foale to ask if there is any chance that she may change her mind.	**CT**
	The meeting discussed what criteria is needed to become an LA governor.	
	The clerk explained that it is not necessary to be a member of the LA. The board should decide what skills they may be short of.	
	A further decision on this matter to be made at the next FGB meeting.	**agenda**
GB/38/25	**Approval of minutes of second spring term meeting and any additional special governing body meetings**	
	The minutes of the second spring term meeting held on 13 March having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the chair.	
	Review of actions	
	GB/23/25 Governor end of year report to parents – a draft version had been written, this to be confirmed with the two headteachers.	**SW+hts**
	GB/24/25 Teacher questionnaire – to be reported at the next meeting.	**agenda**
	All other actions had been completed or are tonight's agenda.	
GB/39/25	**Financial reporting**	
	Approval of school budget	
	Details of both budgets had been previously uploaded onto governorhub.	
	The Trent Vale 2025/26 budget currently has a predicted deficit of £7,988. This is in spite of a range of cut-backs made.	
	Further measures are being considered to try and get the budget into surplus.	
	These include possibly changing the cleaning contract, adjusting the class structure and increasing afternoon nursery provision.	
	Governors sought detail related to the above.	
	Governors enquired about possible increase in pupil numbers, with lots of new houses being built locally.	
	The budget was **formally approved** by the meeting.	
	The Beeston Rylands 2025/26 budget currently has a surplus of £2.320.	
	The headteacher informed the meeting that the school is now at full capacity, with talks underway for an additional classroom.	
	She stated that maintenance issues could cause a problem.	
	She outlined changes made and being made to areas within school. Governors were invited to view these.	**All govs**
	The budget was **formally approved** by the meeting.	

Governors consistent financial reporting out-turn statement including the intended use of balances (BO2) return

Details of both of these had been previously uploaded to governorhub.

Trent Vale had a surplus of £17,129 on the 2024/25 budget. However, long term planning predicted a deficit the following year.

The above was **formally approved** by the meeting.

Beeston Rylands had a surplus of £84,810 on the 2024/25 budget. Details of planned expenditure are on governorhub.

The above was **formally approved** by the meeting.

Governors asked about issues relating to school meals provision.

The issue regarding the extractor fan at Trent Vale has not been resolved – it had previously failed an Environmental Health inspection.

Mrs Truman volunteered to follow up on this. **ET**

Beeston Fields are needing to find a new meals provider as the current one (The Lanes) has joined a MAT.

GB/40/25 Summary of headteacher's report and governors' questions and challenge

The report had previously been uploaded onto governorhub, with governors being invited to submit questions:

Could you expand on the potential plan to withdraw from the NCC Cleaning/Facilities Management contract from September and outline what the new Joint Venture Partnership entails?

We are at the early stages with this.
Other schools in the locality have done this and have said it is a relatively simple process. The first step is to contact Sarah Castle from NCC to see what the process is and if it would be of benefit to us.
We will be able to give you more information at the next Gov meeting

Note the actions being taken, and the consequence of pupils arriving at schools vs the arrival of the additional funds for them.
- This still looks (particularly at TV) a worrying picture

YES

Finance - BRJS
FY 25/26 - this looks challenging - £82k (in year) deficit effectively cushioned by the £85k of B/Fwd reserves? I can't see any significant one-off costs in here, unless I've missed something?
FY 26/27 - back to surplus - £33k - Is there a significant financial saving in the specific year? One off benefits?
FY 27/28 - back to deficit - £11k

The in-year deficit in 25-26 is significant but this is due to an increase in 17 pupils in September 2026. The funding for this (minimum of £65k purely on the formula

AWPU) lags 2 terms so you don't see this in the budget until 26-27. This is why the surplus increases in 26-27. FY 27/28 predicted £11k surplus.

Finance - TV
FY 25/26 - in year deficit - £28k. And then into negative reserves by £8k.
FY 26/27 - in year deficit - £63k. Further into negative reserves (now at £71k)
FY 27/28 - in year deficit - £76k. Further into negative reserves (now at £148k)
- Are there additional / further actions that need to be considered here?

We are hopeful of increased numbers moving forward with the new housing. We are already looking at ways to promote ourselves but know that a barrier to this will be that the juniors are full. Therefore, families with children who could potentially come to both schools may go elsewhere.
Moving forward – we will need to consider numbers carefully, and adapt the early years provision to suit. This may be a full EYFS unit.

In terms of the assessment grid - thanks for this concise overview. It's noted that a further 5 children in year 6 would need to gain Expected, and a further 2 to gain HS. Do staff think that the children in question are on track to achieve this? The challenges caused by the rapidly changing cohort are appreciated.

This is linked to Writing. It is going to be a huge task. The national figure could well change from last year. Looking at the children in question, this group have specific writing needs for example- spelling, handwriting, EAL, SEND. Staff will do their best to try and accelerate and gain enough pieces of evidence before the teacher assessment deadline. There is no progress data for 2025 which would have shown a positive picture for these children.

Confidential item, see separate sheet.

The 75th Anniversary celebrations and 'retro' themed events sound great! Is there scope here for local media coverage?

Yes, we are hoping to promote school through this.

A governor asked if the currents SATs had been as anticipated.

Generally, the children had dealt with them well.

GB/41/25 Outcomes for pupils

Full details had been previously uploaded onto governorhub.

Governors praised the new format.

Governors queried the Y5 results.

The meeting was informed that this cohort had entered the school with low performance figures.

Whilst progress had been very good, attainment is still low.

GB/42/25 Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction set by governors. Review and approve the SIP.

As stated in the headteachers report work on the SIP is ongoing.

		Action
	Governors are kept well-informed of progress. Mr Jones to arrange a visit to review curriculum work.	**CJ**
	Mr Williams left the meeting at 6.30pm	
GB/43/25	**Policy review and approval**	
	Bereavement Class Organisation Confidential Intimate Care	
	These had been previously uploaded onto governor hub and were all **formally approved by the meeting.**	
	Transition – the meeting agreed to deal with this at the next FGB meeting.	**agenda**
GB/44/25	**Information from the Corporate Director**	
	Education Improvement Service Updates and Ofsted	
	Governors noted the actions outlined.	
	Building Relational Schools: Attachment Aware and Trauma Informed Schools	
	The two headteachers and deputy head have already undertaken training in relation to this, with an Inset Day planned for September.	
	The meeting was informed that much of the actions outlined in the paper are already evident in school.	
GB/45/25	**Communication**	
	From Clerk - Governor Newsletter and actions for governing boards	
	The clerk highlighted the following articles:	
	• Headteacher Wellbeing Support Package • Safeguarding reminders • Dealing with Complaints • PREVENT – new NGA toolkit • Governor end of year and training	
GB/46/25	**Pupil Attendance**	
	Governors should be aware of the attendance rates for each group - as per View Your Education Data (VYED) This data should drive governor questions governors to be able to ask:	
	Have you noticed any difference in the number of holiday requests since the introduction of fining?	
	There is not a notable difference at present. The main holidays come next ½ term so it will be interesting to compare. Families are certainly talking to us more about the procedure and whether they will be fined or not.	

Action

Improvement in Persistence Absence in BRJS in Spring 2. Any specific reasons?

cohort based
Work with social care and attendance officer.
Work with families.

GB/47/25 **Report from training co-ordinator of impact of training undertaken and review of governor training requirements (including safeguarding)**

Mrs Truman had uploaded relevant training events onto the Noticeboard on governorhub.

Governors were reminded to enter details of all courses undertaken on their personal profiles on governorhub.

Governors were reminded of the whole school Safeguarding training taking place on Wednesday 9 July at 3.45pm – all governors are invited to attend. **All govs**

GB/48/25 **Evidence of governing body impact on school improvement and review of how the governing body has held the school's leaders to account**

Large range of questions submitted by governors prior to the meeting.

Governor review and formal approval of a range of policies.

Governor concerns expressed in relation to school funding.

GB/49/25 **Confirmation of dates for 2025-2026 to be agreed at the meeting in conjunction with the clerk**

The governing body

agreed

Autumn term 1 2025 – Thursday 25 September
Autumn term 2 2025 – Thursday 27 November
Spring term 1 2026 – Thursday 22 January
Spring term 2 2026 – Thursday 12 March
Summer term 1 2026 – Thursday 14 May
Summer term 2 2026 – Thursday 9 July
All meetings at 5.30pm

GB/50/25 **Determination of confidentiality of business**

It was

resolved

that there is one confidential item.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Signed ..... (chair) Date .....