



Kenwood Academy Council – Sheffield & Barnsley Committee
Thursday 20 March 2025 at 15:30
Classroom E8 Kenwood Zone - Nexus MAT Headquarters,
Enterprise Works,
300 Meadowhall Way, Sheffield S9 1EA

Present:	Role:	Initials:
Richard Webster	Strategic Transition Lead/Chair	RW
Kathy Esberger	Governor/Vice Chair	KE
Martin Grinold	Parent Governor	MG
Richard Hadfield	Executive Headteacher	RH
Kizzy Jaycock	Staff Governor	KJ
Kerry James	Staff Governor	KJa
Sorrel Morris	Parent Governor	SM
Bridget Parrott	Staff Governor	BP
Also Present:		
Matthew Hallam	Head of School	MH
Adam Cloney	Corporate Governance Manager	Clerk
Sacha Schofield	Executive Regional Director	SS
Jenny Hair	Deputy Headteacher	JH
Amberlie Dales	Student-Chair of Pupil Parliament	AD
Apologies:		
Ella Dixon	Community Governor	ED
Nathan Wood-Hague	Parent Governor	NW-H
No Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from ED and NW-H.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence	

Apologies were accepted for ED and NW-H.	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
3.1. Chair to determine any terms of urgent business to be considered None.	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
3.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda None.	
4. KENWOOD CENTRE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting: The minutes of the meeting held 12 December 2024 were approved as a true record with no amendments.	
5.2. Review Action Tracker: The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated. Item 5.2.1.- A discussion held around location of meetings. It was agreed the groups would meet in Barnsley in Autumn/ Meadowhall site (Enterprise Works) in Spring/ Healey House (Broadfield) in Summer. ACTION- Clerking Services to organise meeting logistics regarding future meeting dates and locations. Item 5.2.1.- Training dates to go out to Academy Council members. ACTION- RH to review any upcoming events with cohort and invite Governors if appropriate.	Clerking Services 17/07/25 RH 17/07/25
5. MAGIC MOMENTS	
5.1. Success Stories (students and staff) MH presented overview of success stories across Kenwood Academy to the council. MH explained University offers have been received for English Literature, Psychology, Sports Journalism and Maths. MH discussed how AV1 robots which help students remotely access lessons and explained its impact on accessibility to learning and attendance.	

The Academy Council was shown a 40 second video of a recent performing arts show at the school. MH commended KJ for the quality of the production. KJ explained that this was written and performed by students. It was well attended by parents and the community.

The Academy Council were presented an outline of the 'Job Ready' Programme. MH outlined some case studies to explain the development of the programme. The programme prepares students for working life and provides them opportunities and progression routes. MH commended all staff working on the initiative.

MH outlined Jonathan Sharp, Executive Assurance Partner at Nexus MAT, has spent significant time at West Riding's campus focussed on their curriculum. It was noted specifically that 'class management timetables, curriculum and pedagogy is paying off.'

The school recently held a Parent and Carers Forum which had 50% attendance across all sites. SM, who attended the event, explained that it was good to be exposed to tutor, teachers and other parents.

RW- Have there been new parents present at these events?

MH outlined this is likely due to school growth more than any other factor.

KE- How do you reach out to those that do not attend? What are you doing to engage and support parents to attend?

MH discussed the work the SENDCO team undertake to invite parents and generate engagement for events. The school is learning for each experience and will explore avenues to make it easier for parents to access, like remote/virtual attendance.

A presentation was displayed showcasing the Kenwood 'Cook Along'. Students worked in a commercial kitchen. It built pupil confidence and gave them invaluable experience of a working kitchen. Kenwood Academy can offer a BTEC pathway for interested pupils.

6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

6.0. Student Council-Feedback from Pupil Parliament / Role of Mental Health Links Presentation

JH and AD explained the role and function of the Pupil Parliament at Kenwood Academy. RW outlined a key focus of the Academy Council is to engage with students and felt further collaboration with the Parliament could be mutually beneficial. JH acts as a conduit between students and staff and evokes engagement from both groups of stakeholders. AD is Chair of Pupil Parliament across all Kenwood sites and the specific Chair of Meadowhall site. AD explained the meeting process and the challenges faced by the Parliament regarding multiple sites, attendance of members and quoracy. To combat the quoracy challenge, the council has proactively implemented 'shadow councillors'. These are students who are learning the processes involved and will have the opportunity to fill any vacancies in the future. KE offered to attend Pupil Cabinet in the future.

AD left the meeting.

ACTION- JH to invite KE to attend the next student council meeting- KE to feedback to Academy council at the next meeting.

**JH/KE
17/07/25**

ACTION- RW to write a letter to the Pupil Parliament and AD commending their efforts and initiatives.

**RW
17/07/25**

A discussion was held around the role of mental health link governor. The school want discourse at all levels of the organisation including the Academy Council. JH explained the post holder would be a 'champion' of the cause, attend a termly meeting and report back progress on a variety of initiatives back to the Academy Councils. RH added that the overriding aim is for students to be well, enjoy school and be safe in their communities. Mental health support is part of the core offer at Kenwood Academy but wants to improve and take it to the next level. Training is available to the post holder, opportunities dependant on skills the person already has.

ACTION- Governors will consider the role and volunteer if interested.

**Academy
Council
17/07/25**

JH left the meeting.

6.1. Executive Headteacher Report

RH provided an overview of the Autumn report and invited questions.

1. Context – Key School Profile Data

Provided for information. The Academy Council had no questions.

RW- At the bottom of this section, it mentions Healy House, what is that?

RH explained the Broadfield campus is going to be two sites. The Broadfield building currently will be called 'Broadfield House' and the second site will be 'Healy House', a unit in the same complex. It is a bigger area and will provide more classroom space. The aim is for the space to be operational in September 2025. The Academy Council cohort arranged to host one of next years' meetings from 'Healy House' and have a tour of the facility.

2. Leadership & Management

RH explore plans for the leadership team from September 2025, explaining there is very little change to structure but some personnel changes.

Regarding Staff Sickness Absence Data, the West Riding site is higher than other sites at present and being monitored with a view to reducing it.

RW noted the 100% retention rate of staff and commended school leaders.

2.3 Safeguarding

The Academy Council had no further questions.

3. Quality of Education

MH presented on Curriculum intent, how its implemented across various plans and the accredited qualifications offered. He explained the processes undertaken to shape the curriculum and how it incorporates the inspection framework.

The curriculum has been developed further to ensure future success in Identity and Independence, Health, Communities and Friendships and Education and Employment. MH explained students with EHCPs, going into fulltime employment, sits at under 5% nationally and Kenwood aims to get students to realise that what they know and can be applied to the outside world. The curriculum competes with peers nationally; it is intensely personalised and underpinned by the outcomes in EHCPs. The positive impact is on the attainment; more students are learning more.

SS- How are children accumulating UCAS points?

MH explained that Universities have modified offers for students. RH commended the team at the school and Trust responsible for networking with Universities and helping create, establish and embed pathways that give pupils these opportunities.

RH highlighted the curriculum is not in place currently at West Riding. Age 16 students face challenges in that setting regarding their next steps in education and it is a current focus for the Leadership team.

ACTION- MH to condense PowerPoint and provide to Academy Council members for information.

**MH
ASAP**

4. Behaviour & Attitudes

RH highlighted suspension rate at West Riding was very high with varied reasoning. RH believes the site to be overcrowded exacerbating poor behaviour.

KE- What are you going to do with the physical space to reduce this problem?

RH confirmed the school is working with agencies to reduce need. There are no plans to change layouts or make modifications as West Riding is a bespoke site. SS reaffirmed RH position explaining LA's place some children in places that do not suit their needs. For some students they are simple not suited to the open plan environment at West Riding site. A discussion was had about a lack of funding for special schools. RH credited Barnsley LA and Nexus MAT for creating West Riding as one of the only provisions available to that community.

Pupil attendance is an area of focus for the Leadership team.

RW- Transport has been a barrier to improving attendance. How can the school address this?

RH discussed the challenges at all sites and highlighted the importance of building relationships with Barnsley and Sheffield Transport services. They are overbudget and there are cut-backs expected. Solutions involve independent travel training and personalised budgets with a view to reducing cost. Kenwood Academy has little control but is improving how sites are utilised.

<p>KE- Do you break down attendance to highlight where the barrier to attendance is transport?</p> <p>RH explained the government has introduced a specific code for that. The school is yet to analyse the data but will aim to give the Learning Mentor team capacity to review the data. SM expressed concern due to the complexities of transport and the funding challenges families place once pupils turn 16.</p> <p>5. Personal Development RH confirmed that an MFL teacher has been appointed and the school's offering will be expanded from September 2025.</p> <p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP and Pupil Premium Strategy Report received.</p> <p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 – School SEF Report received.</p>	
<p>6.2. Draft School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>The report was received for information.</p>	
<p>6.3. Budget Report</p> <p>6.3.1 (Sheffield Kenwood) and 6.3.2 (West Riding) budget reports received.</p> <p>RH explained that in period 6 monitoring, across both sites budgets there was an in-year deficit of £77,000. This is a significant budget issue which could be impactful if not addressed. Academy Council will review progress at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>6.4. School Calendar</p> <p>The report was received for information.</p>	
<p>6.5. Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment</p> <p>Governors were reminded to complete their Skills Audit, with the deadline set for the end of April. An email with instructions on how to complete the audit will be circulated to members after this meeting. Action – Clerking Services to email those who did not complete Skills Audit at AC meeting the Skills Audit.</p>	<p>Clerking Services 24/03/25</p>
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1. Trust Verbal Update of key issues</p> <p>SS provided an update on Nexus MAT, noting the addition of two new schools: Bents Green and Seven Hills. There is also potential for collaboration with HHELC, a Nottingham Hospital School, starting in September 2025.</p>	

<p>The Trust is working to understand how Ofsted is changing. It is in a process of trial and feedback and will adapt staff training to help with recent updates.</p> <p>A discussion was held around the overall Trust finances and its healthy position.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>8.1. To consider any other urgent business</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>9. CONFIDENTIALITY</p>	
<p>9.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>The Chair emphasised the importance of confidentiality, stating that everything discussed at the meeting was to remain confidential.</p>	
<p>10. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p>	

<p>Thursday 17 July 2025</p>	<p>15:30 -17:30</p>	<p>Nexus MAT Headquarters, Enterprise Works</p>
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Minutes approved

<p>CHAIR</p>	<p>SIGNATURE</p>	<p>DATE</p>