

Summary of discussions of the Local Academy Committee meeting

held on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7.30am at Walton Academy

Membership	Initial	Governor category	Absence
Mr J Horsfield	JH	Parent Governor	
Mr D Morgan	DM	Appointed Governor	
Mrs L Purcell	LP	Appointed Governor	A
Mrs K Hardy (Chair)	KH	Appointed Governor	
Mrs A Bellett	AB	Appointed Governor	A

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Mrs C Saxelby	CS	Executive Principal	
Mrs J Leonard	JL	Principal	
Mr M Hoad	MH	Vice Principal	A
Mrs K Dolby	KD	Assistant Principal	A
Mrs L Owen	LO	Assistant Principal	A
Mrs R Chambers	RC	Governance Professional	

Quorum	3	Governor's present	3
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Outstanding Actions Log

C	= Complete	CF	= Carried forward	I	= Incomplete (carried forward more than once)
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Agenda item	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Complete / carried forward
AC/16/2526	2526 - 2	TB to Email the link to the accessibility client to AB.	TB	27/11/2025	This has now been completed and is on the academy website.	C
AC/38/2526	2526 - 4	Develop and share the recruitment plan - Place an advert onto REACH volunteering, investigate other	NB	21/05/2026	An update was provided on recruitment. Action marked as complete as this will be the committees action plan for 26-27.	C

		platforms such as Inspire for the Future, use the flyers to target parents				
AC/38/2526	2526 – 4	Make arrangements with JL to send out the letter that KH has put together with parents (focus on year 8).	NB	21/05/2026	An update was provided on recruitment. Action marked as complete as this will be the committees action plan for 26-27.	C
AC/38/2526	2526 - 4	Investigate use of LinkedIn to target alumni as potential governors.	RC	21/05/2026	An update was provided on recruitment. Action marked as complete as this will be the committees action plan for 26-27.	C

Blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge

Green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval

Q = Question from Governors

A = Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points / Summary
AC/58/2526	Apologies for absence - LR has now commenced on maternity leave and will return to the committee in 2027. - AB sent apologies that were approved due to work commitments. It was also noted that DM would be chairing the meeting.
AC/59/2526	Declaration of interests There were no changes to declarations of interest made at the start of the year and no declarations in relation to the agenda.
AC/60/2526	Vision Mission Values (VMV) - A Y7 student who was an academy host at the recent open evening was celebrated for her enthusiasm. JL noted that this student attends every event and is a fantastic student with lots of resilience.

	- The efforts that went into the stands at Lincolnshire Show. There were a gardening team and a STEM / scientist team and the academy came 1st and 3rd which is fantastic. Q: Was the event well attended by schools? A: Yes, the Education Centre was full of Lincolnshire primary, secondary and special schools which was great to see. Q: Did the academy film the event? A: The day was put on social media and then was also included in the Grantham Journal. The relationship between the Grantham Journal and the academy has improved vastly due to the work of Teo Cunnington. The academy are also currently filming student journeys to help with school promotion. The first draft of this will be ready in September. - The Art Exhibition event went well albeit attendance was impacted due to the heat wave. Governors were advised that the exhibition will remain up for the next few days so that classes can visit and that the academy is looking at bringing the exhibition forward in the academy timetable so that it coincides with the open evening next year.
AC/61/2526	Review of Action Log The Actions log from 21st May was reviewed and approved.
AC/62/2526	Governance Housekeeping - All governors have completed the annual Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct. - KH advised that it was not her intention to remain as Chair into the future. She would however see through until OFSTED took place. Her intention was to absolutely continue as an active governor but personally did not enjoy the role of chair. After a good discussion DM and KH agreed to joint Chair of Governors for a 2-year term of office from September 2026. - The link roles within the committee were discussed and agreed as below; - o Safeguarding & SEND - AB - o Careers & Post 16– DM - o EDI and Behaviour & Attendance – KH - o H&S and GDPR – JH - RC to share new link governor visit report. [Action: RC to distribute]
AC/63/2526	Self-evaluation and action plan - The self-evaluation and the action plan were discussed with the committee, and it was then approved.

AC/64/2526	Training – Ofsted preparation JL shared a presentation with the governors. [Action: RC to share the presentation] - The new inspection framework was discussed with the governors, highlighting that inclusion has now been added, so there are now 8 areas of which the academy will be inspected against. - There is no overall grade anymore. - The academy shares evidence from the inspectors which is gathered through the IDSR, AIP, the academies quality assurance schedule, external / internal audits, stakeholder surveys and observations on the ground. IDSR now includes lot more forensic data on attendance, behaviour and outcomes and is much more current as it was previously lagged. The academy SEF – strengths - Leaders and staff know the academy well - There are clear visions and plans for improvement - There is an open safeguarding culture that is embedded with robust systems and reporting processes - There is an ambitious curriculum, and the academy deliver beyond the national curriculum. - Behaviour culture is secure - Inclusion is central to all strategies and systems. This has been reviewed and the academy have identified barriers and any students who are behaviourally not meeting the academy expectations on a consistent basis. <i>Q: This is increasingly consistent now, do you acknowledge this was not consistent before?</i> A: Yes, and there is still further work to do. - There is an embedded system around the assessments and review cycle. - P16 is an ambitious and viable provision. The academy SEF - areas of development - Further consistency in middle leadership – some middle leaders are quite new, so this is looking at further upskilling the staff and giving them the confidence in decision making. - KS3 is an area of development and ensuring there is the right level of challenge. Further work is needed on ensuring that this is consistently embedded in all classrooms and all teaching. <i>Q: Can you describe adaptive teaching?</i> A: This was previously around students with SEND and for students with lower ability on how teachers were differentiating work so that they can access it. Adaptative teaching is regardless of young person’s starting point, ensuring teachers know their
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students well and then adapt the curriculum and the delivery of it so that all students can access it and have success and see what success is. The academy's "All Mark Count" strategy has showed students that they can have success so with the adaptive teaching it is about highlighting all the different ways success can be celebrated.

Q: Is this different in each class?

A: Yes, it is different per child. It is a challenge for teachers, but it is in the best interest of every student that they have the right amount of challenge and support so that they see success. The biggest challenge is knowing your class and your students. The assessment cycle supports with adaptive teaching.

- Attendance is the academies biggest barrier, but the academy knows that children who attend well, achieve very well. Therefore, a focus is on how the academy can break down the barrier of attendance to help Walton's students to achieve highly.

Q: With attendance, does the academy get a target for the year or are you expected to make a generic improvement?

A: The academy gets a generated target from the government which this year is 90% following the attendance figure being at 89.5% at the end of last year. The academy will not meet 90% this year but there has been extenuating circumstances including the difference in Walton's academy holidays in comparison to the rest of Lincolnshire as well as the heatwave, 2 significant periods of illness and more recently the World Cup with matches being in the middle of the night.

Q: What do you think the outcomes will be?

A: Safeguarding will be met, expected standard will be achieved for 6 areas and then 1 may fall into needs attention. The one in needs attention could be attendance and behaviour which is largely down to the academy's attendance figure being below national average. Governors were reminded this is not a national average school though with PP & FSM being about 40% of the cohort and the number of children with SEND is above national average too. From September 2026 there will be a new tool where schools can be compared to 50 similar schools. The tool will use data e.g. numbers of PP, FSM, attendance data, IDACI etc. It is believed that inspectors will use this tool which is welcomed.

Q: Why is safeguarding met and unmet rather than expected standard?

A: Safeguarding has a different grading system. If there is an issue with safeguarding, then the inspection will be paused, and they will return in 3 months to allow the academy time to solve the issue.

Academy priorities for 26-27

- Improving attendance by

	○ Inclusion – academic reintegration, parental engagement ○ Pastoral - graduated response, pastoral communication ○ Lessons – The Walton Way, assessment at KS3. It is a much more disadvantaged cohort and disadvantaged children thrive from structure and routine. The Walton Way has been revisited, and this will be rolled out again in September. ○ Enrichment – new benchmarks ○ Reading and writing – ensuring the academy are delivering the right interventions to the right students at the right time. There have been a few students who have come to the academy who have not met the expected standard on writing and there is a cohort of below national average on that. There needs more of an emphasis on writing and the gaps that are there. <i>Q: Is there anything that can be done to ask parents to support?</i> A: Foundational skills to a big driver of the government currently. The academy is developing the events that parents can attend for more opportunities to meet with parents. Each year group will have parents evening and then another evening e.g. Y7 journey evening, GCSE options evening etc. this way it will allow for individual conversations and will also allow for reading and writing to be a feature of all events. The academy does also work with the local primaries from both a pastoral and academic perspective. <i>Q: Are the events held in the library, especially if reading and writing is a focus?</i> A: If the events are going to be well attended then they will need to be in the hall so that there is enough space <i>Q: Do staff come together and calibrate individual pupil behaviours?</i> A: Yes, the SEND team do that weekly and then this is done with ELT once a term. It goes back to pastoral communication which needs to build on. CPD time is also used to do that. <i>Q: Is the governor meeting likely to be a Wednesday?</i> A: The phone call will happen on a Monday and then the inspection will take place on a Tuesday and Wednesday. The meeting with the governors would likely be on the Wednesday. <i>Q: If the one-word grading has been removed, how can your report be shared locally?</i> A: It allows the academy to celebrate multiple areas. <i>Q: For FSM students, are the academy claiming back the funding for trips?</i>
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	A: Yes, the academy utilises all available funding when students go on trips. This may be on an individual basis or to subsidise a complete trip so that the cost is lower for all students. Also, for certain trips and visits, funding and grants are applied for to allow the academy to take whole cohorts of students.
AC/65/2526	Complete annual summary template on the effectiveness of governance 2025/26 - The annual summary was completed and retrospective approval was granted.
AC/66/2526	Determine Confidentiality Governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was resolved: - Any confidential items discussed have been recorded separately. - There had been no Equality Act implications.
AC/67/2526	Next meeting Thursday 24 th September at Walton Academy at 4pm Meeting closed at 9.18am

Signed by Chair: <i>D.Morgan</i>	Date 24.09.26
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