

Minutes – Uphill Village Academy

Meeting Date: 13th January 2026
Location: Uphill Village Academy
Time: 5.00pm

Present:

Toby Blackburn (TB)	Chair Academy Council
David Croft (DC)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
Vacancy	Sponsor Academy Councillor
Ellen Williams (EW)	Parent Councillor
Stewart Castle (SC)	Sponsor Academy Councillor (VC)
Sasha Allsop (SA)	Teacher Academy Councillor
Vacancy	Support Staff Academy Councillor
Caroline Jamieson (CJ)	Parent Councillor

In attendance:

Susie Weaver (SW)	Director of Education
Sam Hodder (SHO)	Principal

Absent:

Carina Ridge (CR)	Sponsor Academy Councillor
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Item	Description	Action
1.0	Introductions	
1.1	TB welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	Absent without apologies: Carina Ridge.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no declarations of interest pertinent to the meeting content.	
3.0	Academy Council Membership	
3.1	Stewart Castle’s Term of Office is in the process of being renewed.	
3.2	A Support Staff Councillor election has taken place, but no-one volunteered for the role.	
4.0	Minutes of the last meeting	
4.1	The minutes of 10 th November 2025 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.	
4.2	The Trust is going to issue a new Risk Register template shortly.	
5.0	Chairs Update	
5.1	The Academy Councillors were reminded to complete their confirmations via Governorhub.	
5.2	The COAC meetings have been changed to three two-hour meetings and training will be offered.	
5.3	There was a discussion around the new Trust focus which is ‘Focus on inclusive excellence and high expectations.’	
5.4	The SEF template is going to be updated to reflect the new Ofsted Inspection Framework. UVA is not due for inspection until 2029, therefore the new template will be adopted at the beginning of the next academic year.	
5.5	An updated on the new Ofsted Inspection Framework will be covered at the next meeting.	

Academy Council Report		
5.6	<i>Papers circulated in advance and shared via screen.</i> PP attendance dropped last term due to sickness but since we returned in Term 3 the PP attendance has had some days where it was higher than non-PP attendance. We continue to be mindful of attendance and support families wherever possible.	
5.7	Persistent absenteeism (90% or less attendance) is restricted to a few key individuals.	
5.8	The impact data for Reading, Writing, and Maths across the CLF has not yet been received.	
5.9	Can you share the attendance data with parents at the next parents meeting? Yes, that information is shared, and we indicate what the absence equates to in terms of lost learning. We will also update the one-page report to include number of days lost.	
5.10	Do you discuss attendance with children? When it's appropriate, yes.	
5.11	We have 310 pupils due to some families relocating. We are anticipating a new pupil starting shortly.	
5.12	If there are spaces in Y6 that aren't filled, can you fill Y5? No because then we could end up with too many children when they move up a year.	
5.13	We were the third most over-subscribed school in North Somerset last year which is encouraging.	
5.14	The school trip had to be postponed due to snowfall and will therefore be re-arranged when appropriate.	
5.15	We are offering a range of clubs which have been well-received by families. All our teachers offer a club at some point in the year.	
5.16	We have an Easter Bonnet parade planned and we provide materials for any children who need them so that everyone can take part.	
5.17	The January Inset Day included a Real PE refresher and attendance and safeguarding updates, Writing moderation, SEND progress reviews, and Prevent training. We offer a carousel of training for the teams which works really well.	
5.18	On the 23 rd February 2026 the Trust has arranged a Collaboration Day which is based on subjects. On the 6 th March 2026 there is a cluster based inset day.	
5.19	A Safeguarding Link Visit is planned for next week.	
5.20	We have been looking at our key trails in our data analysis. Reading has improved significantly mock on mock and is currently 74% and climbing. Mock three will commence the week after next. Maths has improved and tends to climb slower due to the need to teach the content. We use a writing framework to ensure that the children achieve a secure fit as opposed to a best fit. As a result, we've made some changes to how we teach writing and the review process.	
5.21	SW: We have changed the Trust wide moderation focus to Y1, Y3 and Y5 following data analysis.	
5.22	Should we be seeing an increase in deepening data? Not at this stage because the data is for December and therefore, we would not expect to see more deepeners at that time.	
5.23	Are you able to identify gender imbalance quickly and address it? Yes, we review the gender gap per year group and monitor that moving forward.	
5.24	Do you ever see the GCSE data for your pupils? We do discuss progress for some pupils where they have moved to schools in our Trust like HPA or BA.	
5.25	'Just Read' focuses on achieving 30 minute a day of focused reading to children that is higher than they would usually engage with. The Literacy Association provided statistics that indicated that there are fewer children choosing to read on a daily basis. By adopting this process, we can help to mitigate that, especially for household where children have a lot of screen time and no-one reads to them.	

5.26	There is a gap between PP and non-PP reading, some of which will be SEND based, but we are reviewing how we teach reading. We provide a challenging text for Y5/Y6 that linked to their project. The second text we used was <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens which was challenging for them, but they enjoyed it.	
5.27	The children sit with one book between two and the teacher models reading via a visualiser. Pre-teaching any tricky vocabulary is done first and then a reminder of the plot.	
5.28	We measured the chronological reading age of the children before and after the reading project which indicated a significant improvement in two terms. We also assessed their comprehension which showed a significant increase. 32% of the Y6 cohort are disadvantaged and now none of them are below their reading age for comprehension. We are now going to roll out the process to Y3 and Y4.	
5.29	How do children who don't understand the vocabulary engage with the text? Some of lowest attainers made the most progress because they were engaged in the text, even if they didn't understand every word.	
5.30	Will you share the process with parents to indicate the impact of reading to your children? Yes, we can do that when the next round of data is in.	
5.31	Do you provide a list of recommended texts to parents? Yes. We can share them again with parents this term at parents evening and we can include the process of how to read with children as part of the reading week.	
5.32	We changed how we teach Maths in KS2 this year with whole class arithmetic for three days a week. This indicates that 75% of children are now at O+ which is where we would expect them to be and is in line with other years. The term-on-term data indicates that the Y3 cohort is also where we would anticipate them to be. This indicates that the planning and delivery of Maths is consistent and having impact.	
6.0	Policies	
6.1	<p>For noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions 2027-28 <p><i>The Academy Councillors noted the above policy.</i></p> <p>For approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-bullying Behaviour Accessibility – To be reviewed at the H&S Committee and then approved via Govhub. <p>Proposal to approve the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies: TB Seconded: DC Show of Hands: Unanimous</p>	
8.0	Link Visit Reports	
8.1	Safeguarding – TB Pupil Premium - EW	
9.0	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
9.1	None.	
10.0	AOB	
10.1	None	