

Minutes – Uphill Village Academy

Meeting Date: 14th July 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
Vacancy	Parent Councillor
Vacancy	Sponsor Academy Councillor

In attendance:

Susie Weaver (SW)	Director of Education
Sam Hodder (SHO)	Principal
Caroline Jamieson (CJ)	Observing

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Introductions	
1.1	TB welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	No apologies were necessary. The meeting was quorate.	
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	Toby Blackburn's Term of Office has been renewed.	
3.2	Caroline Jamieson's Term of Office expired on 21 st June 2026.	
3.3	A Support Staff Councillor election has taken place, but no-one volunteered for the role. The role will be advertised again next term.	
3.4	SH and TB have met a potential new Sponsor Academy Councillor who is in the process of completing her application.	
4.0	Minutes of the last meeting & Actions	
4.1	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record.	
4.2	The Trust is going to issue a new Risk Register template shortly.	
4.3	Discuss dual-channel communications (MCAS and email) with Julie to ensure key information, including surveys, reaches all parents.	
4.4	Explore reformulation of the Belonging Survey parent question to better understand what parents would like from the school community (consider QR follow-up via PTFA) - Action Closed	
4.5	CLF attendance audit to review PP attendance gap and school processes; report findings back to Academy Council - Action Closed	

4.6	Implement post-Easter SATs support plan: informal paper practice from week 1 back, targeted breakfast club sessions for priority pupils, parent contact re: homework – Action Closed	
4.7	Share learning from trust primary school Ofsted inspection (new framework) with Academy Council at next meeting - Action Closed	
4.8	Complete Self-Evaluation document (CE) aligned to new Ofsted framework evaluation areas, ready for inspection window (2028–29) – Action Closed	
5.0	Chairs Update	
5.1	The CLF Central Team has reminded all Academy Councils to have only three Link Roles: Safeguarding, SEND and Disadvantaged.	
5.2	Link Role training will be offered during July.	
5.3	ACTION: The Academy Council requested that SH shares a parent guide to MCAS with parents in September.	SH
	Academy Council Report	
5.6	We've had a bout of chicken pox and some holiday requests which have impacted on attendance, but we remain above the national average. Disadvantaged attendance remains a focus, but there are some complex cases behind the statistics.	
5.7	We had an attendance review with North Somerset who reviewed our attendance processes to identify any additional strategies which we can implement, but they are satisfied that we are doing all we can.	
5.8	We treat all cases on an individual basis and identify barriers to attendance. Relationship building is key and has had a significant impact on improving attendance.	
5.9	Our attendance policies and procedures are robust and embedded.	
5.10	We sometimes find that families with Reception children under the statutory school age take their children on holiday during term time.	
5.11	Did the football have an impact? No. But the heatwave did. Following the two red-alert heatwave school closure days, we had increased absence on the Friday due to heat induced illness.	
5.12	We 306 pupils on roll vs 315 capacity, which is due to families re-locating geographically. We will have gaps in Y5 next year. However, we are also showing three families around on Friday.	
5.13	We moved Sports Day so that it took place over two mornings because of the heat, which worked well. We may need to consider that as a solution long-term if our climate is going to remain hot. We will also review our camp dates for next year.	
5.14	The CLF Conference day was really successful and very well received by the staff. A range of inspirational speakers were available along with lots of CPD opportunities.	
5.15	Paul Cox, the North Somerset Safeguarding Lead provided feedback on the S175 Audit.	
5.16	[REDACTED]	
5.17	The KS2 SATs results have been delayed until 16 th July 2026. We sent a letter to the Y6 parents to advise them of the delay.	
5.18	[REDACTED]	
5.19	84% of our children achieved their Phonics pass and in Y2, seven children took the re-assessment, of which five passed and the remaining two were very close. We found that supporting the Y2 children with the Y1 Phonics team was very impactful, but we will not need to use that approach next year as it's a different cohort of children.	
5.20	We were disappointed with the Multiplication Check because in the mock assessments the children have done well. Therefore, next year we will change the strategy for teaching times tables.	

5.21	We were moderated for Writing this year by the Local Authority. 88% of our children achieved ARE which we are pleased with and reflects the hard work of the teachers.	
5.22	We are anticipating a reduction in PP children moving forward due to the change in Universal Credit thresholds. We are supporting those families who need to apply for free school meals.	
5.23	Will the children get individual SATs results? Yes, the results will be released on Thursday and then we will share them with families.	
5.24	The Education Endowment Fund has a range of strategies that we can apply to our disadvantaged children and those with SEND because need is increasing nationally.	
5.25	The Academy Councillors noted that the Risk Register has no column to record the review date. However, a new template is due to be released for next term.	
5.26	The budget has been set for next year and we've achieved the staffing structure that we need.	
5.27	The Academy Councillors reviewed the staffing structure for next year and the maternity cover plans.	
5.28	We have arranged for the staff to have some CPD into unconscious bias.	
5.29	[REDACTED]	
5.30	We have a robust complaints process that we follow should parents raise any concerns.	
5.31	[REDACTED]	
5.32	The Academy Council determined that they would like to have an EDI Link Role which will be held by Ellen Williams. The Academy Council noted that the link role will not be recorded on Governorhub so that it doesn't impact on overall Trust Link reporting.	
5.33	How do you challenge inappropriate comments by parents on forums? When we become aware then we have discrete conversation with the family concerned, especially if they have any concerns that we need to be aware of or address.	
5.34	How do you ensure that all the children have access to the full lunch menu? We are in the process of changing caterers and will review the range and portion sizes then.	
6.0	Policies	
6.1	For approval: Local Learning Areas Visits Policy <i>The Academy Councillors approved the above policy.</i>	
8.0	Link Visit Reports	
8.1	Safeguarding – TB	
9.0	Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC	
9.1	None.	
10.0	AOB	
10.1	The Academy Councillors wished all the staff a restful summer break.	