



**Pennine View Academy Council
Thursday 19 June 2025 at 09:30
Pennine View School**

Those Present:	Roles:	Initials:
Carl Cousins	Headteacher	CC
Sacha Schofield	Chair of Governors	SSc
Catherine McLaughlin	Governor	CM
Chris Rowse	Governor	CR
Sam Symonds	Staff Governor	SC
Carole Lawrie	Vice - Chair	CL
Lindsay Thompson	Staff Governor	LT
Also Present:		
Lyndsay Foster	Nexus MAT Governance Clerk	CLERK
Emma Parker	Observer	EP
Lisa Suter	Nexus MAT Executive Regional Director	LS
Apologies:		
Sally Macdonald	Governor	SMa
Kirsty Waddington	Parent Governor	KW

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received for SMA and KW	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted for SMA and KW	
2. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS	
2.1. CC discussed the 4 members of staff who received Best we can be awards; Lucy Hill, Taylor Bassett, Angela Williamson and Claire Newey. These were presented before the meeting started due to school trips and other commitments within school.	
3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered. None.	
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business, or other governance interests on any item on the agenda None.	
4.2. End of Term of Office – Carol Lawrie and Chris Rowse. CL and CR both agreed to continue their roles as governor and ratified in the meeting.	
5. PENNINE VIEW SCHOOL LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MINUTES	
5.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2025 were approved as a true record.	
5.2 Review of Action Tracker The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.	
5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes None.	
6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
6.1 Headteacher Report ACTION: CC to organise extra Governors meeting. CC provided a brief overview and discussion on the current report. It was noted that, due to a significant increase in consultations and Tribunals, the workload has become too extensive for the current postholder to manage alone.	ACTION: CC 27/11/25

To address this, a new SENCO has been appointed and is scheduled to join the team in September. The role has been structured to include 2 days a week for teaching responsibilities allowing the SENCO to assess and support provisions directly, then 3 days a week dedicated to working with Pennine View and focusing on Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP's).

CR asked about the capacity of students previously discussed, does CC feel there's sufficient space if the published admission number (PAN) increases to 157?

In response CC confirmed that the staff/PE room, previously unused as a classroom, has been repurposed and is adequately sized to function a classroom. CC also stated that he feels comfortable and confident accommodating up to 169 pupils including those attending McCauley Hub.

SSc inquired if CC feels any pressure from DMBC to expand given the rising PAN and the ongoing influx of consultations?

CC expressed he doesn't feel pressure but there is a need to have students who the school will meet need.

LS added that the perceived pressure may stem from the fact that the other schools in the area have significantly increased their capacity, in some cases doubling in size. CC reassured the group that plans are already in place to manage the rising numbers. For example, lunchtimes have been staggered to ease congestion and improve overall experience for students and staff.

CC provided an update on the schools ongoing focus on middle leadership growth, which remains a key priority. The school has been working closely with Jonathan Sharpe from the Trust to support this development.

As part of this collaboration, Quality Assurance (QA) works has been carried out in Religious Education (RE) and Mathematics, with Computing scheduled to follow. Feedback from Jonathan Sharpe has been very positive and supportive, reflecting the progress being made in strengthening leadership capacity across subject areas.

LT shared that staff have responded positively to recent changes, noting that things have been working really well. Staff have appreciated dedicated time to complete continuing Professional development (CPD) activities, with some of the training being delivered online to support flexibility and accessibility.

CR asked is the training through the Nexus Enterprise Learning Institute (ELI)?

CC discussed ELI, confirming that it hadn't been used in this instance.

CC provided a brief overview of the recent deep dives conducted in collaboration with the Trust, highlighting the strong working relationship and the valuable support received. He also shared the positive impact of the Dojo Factory initiative on student engagement, recent activities have included a bowling trip and a bus outing to Alton Towers, both of which were well received by students.

LT added that students are thoroughly enjoying Freeze Friday ice creams which have become a popular treat.

CC discussed the introduction of the Thrive approach as a means to further meet the needs of students, particularly those with trauma-informed backgrounds. Drawing on previous positive experiences with the Thrive, CC expressed confidence in its effectiveness and relevance.

To support the initiative £10,000 has been allocated from the budget to:

- Provide staff training
- Equip classrooms appropriately
- Purchase specialist resources and equipment tailored to student needs.

CC also noted that many of the new EHCPs now reference Thrive, which will make integration and support more streamlined moving forward.

ACTION:
CC
19/06/25

ACTION: CC to arrange governors training session on Thrive when the system goes live in school/via Teams.

CL asked if school still engages in the services of an Educational Psychologist?

CC confirmed that the school currently buys in 10 days of Educational Psychologist support annually.

CC informed the group that Nicole Doyle will be leaving the McCauley Hub. She has received high praise for her positive and impactful work with the students, and her contributions have been described as amazing. Her departure will be a significant change for the hub, given the strong relationships and progress she has helped foster.

CR suggested that letter of thanks be sent to Nicole Doyle from both the Academy Council and the school, in recognition of her dedicated and impactful work at the McCauley Hub.

ACTION:
CC
27/11/25

Looking ahead, CC shared that the school is reviewing the structure of the McCauley Hub. Rather than appointing a new Head of Centre, the plan is to recruit a Co-ordinator who will work alongside the hub team and help merge two provisions. CR also raised the idea of inviting a member of staff from the McCauley Hub to join the Governors Board, to ensure the hub feels represented and involved in wider school governance.

ACTION:
CC
27/11/25

ACTION: CC to arrange another governor visit to McCauley site end of year.

SSc inquired about the current status of Key stage 4 (KS4) provision for certain pupils and whether the issues previously raised have been resolved.

CC responded that the situation is still under review, specific updates include:

- One pupil's parent is exploring alternative placement, potentially at another Nexus school, which may be more suitable.
- Another pupil is currently placed in an alternative provision.

- A third pupil is not accessing the McCauley hub as expected.

CC noted that a further meeting with the LA is scheduled for July to continue addressing these matters.

LS expressed a special thanks to CC on his hard work with the provision from where it started to where it is now.

SSc shared that the Trust has reflected on the current situation and, upon review, acknowledged that the approach makes sense given capacity constraints. However, SSc emphasised the importance of integration, noting that this is a learning opportunity to improve support for both the school and its students.

CR expressed that he had expected McCauley to be more involved as a joint venture, highlighting the need for stronger collaboration.

CL asked whether students from McCauley are visiting other sites

CC confirmed that they are actively engaging with the wider school community. For example:

- McCauley students use the sports hall at Pennine View every Friday
- They also participate in shared events such as Pride festival/Colour run parade this week, and have attended other joint activities in the past, with more planned for the future.

SSc asked CC to explain the VIPERS Curriculum?

CC explained that VIPERS is a group-led reading activity designed to build on the positive outcomes from phonics. Previously, there was no structured follow-on from phonics, so VIPERS was developed to fill that gap. The gap includes next steps for students who are beginning to read, there's newly sourced books that students are now enjoying daily for 20 minutes and there's a strong link to the spelling development.

SS added that the school has also introduced Ready, Steady, Spell, a programme designed to bridge the gap between phonics and VIPERS starting from year 2 with a graduated approach.

CC concluded that this approach is particularly beneficial for the school's entry level 3 and above cohort, helping strengthen writing skills and support future success.

SSc asked whether the school is seeing a shift in the incoming cohort towards a greater focus on functional skills?

CC confirmed that this is the case, noting improvements in Maths among the current cohort, which supports this direction.

CC discussed the Trust's next steps, which are outlined in the report. These steps cover the educational journey from Early Years through to A Levels. Each school will be responsible for informing the Trust of where each pupil is working at, ensuring consistency and clarity across the Trust.

EP shared a document during the meeting that explains the process in detail. EP elaborated on how the document will be used, including:

- Moderation procedures
- How different schools are currently mapping progress
- The goal of creating a unified approach across all schools to make moderation easier and more consistent

CR asked about the gap between provision at SEMH, mentioned on page 16, and if it related to the EHCP target?

CC informed that it's a bit of both, one from Ofsted EHCP priorities and some pupils where SEMH isn't their priority need and Thrive will pick this up

CC also highlighted the continued high volume of consultations, with 10 tribunals currently pending, many of which involve year 7 pupils. This remains a significant focus for the school.

CR asked is the pattern of fluctuating attendance at McCauley Hub to be expected?

CC confirmed that it is to be expected given the nature of the provision. He noted that one pupil had not been attending prior to January, and that there are only a small number of students in the provision, which naturally leads to more noticeable variations in attendance patterns.

CC provided a summary of the Year 11 leavers and their Post 16 destinations. A significant number of students are moving to Communication college, with many also benefiting from early transition support.

SS added that a large portion of students are going to the Ridge and Communication college, with some progressing onto Post 16 at Heatherwood. To support and smooth transition, students have been attending weekly visits every Wednesday to their new provisions. These visits have been well received, especially by students with anxiety, helping them feel more comfortable and confident.

SS also highlighted the strong working relationships with leaders at all the receiving placements, and confirmed that all students have places.

CR and CMc expressed how great the Year 11 room is and the vibe is very positive amongst the students.

CL shared information about a contact within the Local Authority (LA) who specialises in careers support, including helping with CV writing, job applications, and employment readiness. The contact is willing to work with school and CL will pass information onto CC.

CC noted that the school currently works with Sarah from the Trust for careers and the events put on at Pennine View have been phenomenal, providing valuable support and guidance for both students and parents.

SS added that Year 10 students and parents have been invited to a careers event on 15th July, further supporting transition and future planning.

SSc gave a huge congratulations on the Prem aware award.

<p>CR asked how far the furthest student travelling from and is transport going to be a problem?</p> <p>CC informed its Castleford and its around 50 minutes travel time.</p>	
<p>CC showed the governors picture of pupils with the cash for kids cheque donation which was raised by the students and congratulations.</p>	<p>ACTION: CLERK 19/06/25</p>
<p>ACTION: Clerk to send extra Development session dates for 25/26 before each AC meeting and distribute to governors.</p>	
<p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 - Updated SIP Document shared for information.</p>	
<p>6.1. 2 Appendix 2 – School SEF Document shared for information.</p>	
<p>6.2. School Dashboard Summary Document shared for information.</p>	
<p>6.3. Budget Monitoring Report Document shared for information.</p>	
<p>6.4. School Calendar Document shared for information.</p>	
<p>6.5. Cabinet Member & MP's Feedback from Pupil Parliament SS to look to present with Pupil Parliament in the Spring term meeting.</p>	
<p>6.6. Skills Audit Document shared for information and feedback on the report was very positive and well received. LS enquired whether its possible for the governors to attend some staff school training when they do inset or twilight training sessions. SSc informed some schools and teams will record on Teams so then governors can watch back when convenient.</p>	<p>ACTION: CLERKING SERVICES 27/11/25</p>
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues SSc expressed if anyone interested in becoming Academy Chairs, they can put themselves forward. LS informed the group that a Trust-wide letter will be sent out today regarding a consultation on a potential merger with Ebor Trust, proposed to take effect from September 2026. LS emphasised that there will be no changes to how the Trust currently operates. The merger is intended to create the largest and strongest Trust,</p>	

enabling greater collaboration and the ability to utilise expertise across both Trusts to benefit all schools involved.	
8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
8.1. To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair Clerk to distribute new dates for 25/26 for 3 extra sessions before AC meetings and use as a Development session.	ACTION: CLERKING SERVICES 19/06/25
9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK	
9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting None.	

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING		
Thursday 27 TH November 2025	09:30 – 11:30	Pennine View Academy
Thursday 12 th March 2026	09:30 – 11:30	Pennine View Academy
Thursday 25 th June 2026	09:30 – 11:30	Pennine View Academy

Minutes approved.

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE