MINUTES

Meeting:	Governing Board	**Date:**	9 July 2025
School/SAT:	**Wellacre Academy**		
Venue:	School	**Time:**	5 p.m.
Governance Professional:	**Trust Governor Services** Julie Lawson (Head of Service)	**Clerk:**	Trust GS

PRESENT:
Mr T Fredrickson
Ms L Hepple-Stokes
Mrs L Johnston
Mrs J Sharrock (Principal)
Mr A Young (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE:
Miss P Bailey (Business Director) BD
Miss A Evans (Clerk, Trust GS)

1. MEETING MANAGEMENT

1.1 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & APPOINTMENTS

Resolved:

i) That the apologies for absence for Mrs L Henry, Mr C Hinchcliffe, Mrs J O'Connor, Cllr S Procter, Mrs M Radhadrishnan, Ms H Rayson, Mr S Russell and Mrs J Thirkill be accepted.

ii) That the attendance of Miss P Bailey at this meeting be approved.

1.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS & UPDATES TO BUSINESS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of conflict of interest, direct or indirect pecuniary interest by members of the Board in respect of any item on the agenda.

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2025

Resolved: ***That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2025 be approved as a correct record.***

1.4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters arising to discuss.

2. PERFORMANCE REPORT

2.1 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The Principal proceeded on the assumption that Governors had read the Report as it had been distributed along with the agenda. The following points were highlighted:

i) **Strategic Improvement Plan**

Progress has been made on the areas for improvement which were linked to the Ofsted framework. The Trust Strategy for 2025/2029, has been shared with staff.

Lots of work with the BeeWell has taken place. They have attended the school and done a lot of work with the academy's most vulnerable group, the Year 7's. The cohort has the highest level of disadvantaged, SEND and lowest prior attainment.

The Academy received some direction for 4 students who joined from Longford Park Primary School. There are 9 EHCP students in Year 7 which is higher than any other Year Group. There is some complexity around Year 7 and this was reflected in the Beewell survey.

Q: The Chair asked if the needs of the Year 7 cohort are reflective of the community of a change in admissions? The Principal advised that Wellacre is considered to be a very inclusive school with strong inclusive practice. This is a positive position and adds to the diversity of the school population. There is also a 166% increase, nationally, in EHCP's.

ii) **Staff Voice**

Issues raised by staff were largely around CPD. The Feedback is being collated and will be presented to ALT tomorrow. The Principal will be able to give more details in September once the data has been compiled.

iii) **Weekly Communications**

The Principal reminded Trustees that communications are shared via GHub on a weekly basis.

iv) **Social Media**

Wellacre have a new lead for Social Media who has been doing a very good job so far.

v) **School Improvement Update**

The Academy continues to work with the DfE, a meeting with the Relationship Manager takes places ½ termly and is very supportive. Wellacre have never been in a stronger position with curriculum provision, sequencing of curriculum and assessment.

The Principal advised Governors the Ofsted framework is going to change which looks broader and deeper than the existing framework. There was a discussion regarding the expected elements of the new framework.

Wellacre has had 2 external reviews – SEND which was a fabulous report and Personal Development which was led by Co-op Academy Trust.

The external annual audit of Safeguarding with Judicium took place on Friday 27 June and will be reported at AGM in September.

vi) **Academic Outcomes**

Information was included in the report and had been discussed and shared at C&S Committee meeting in May.

vii) **Attendance & Behaviour**

SLT presented reports at the Behaviour, Attitudes & Personal Development Committee meeting in April.

Attendance is above NA and Persistence Absentees lower than NA.

There are some concerns which came out at the SEND review, particularly in the middle years. Years 9 & 10 have higher level of absence, which is more aligned to the national picture. There is bespoke work to be done around this area. Wellacre have had a successful initiative with regard to students with attendance of 86-92% in the last 7 weeks. If there is a streak of 5-day attendance they get a reward. 35 of these students are still at full attendance.

viii) **Safeguarding**

The Principal highlighted the report and stated the school still has strong links with their partners. There has been 1x referral to LADO the outcome of which is unsubstantiated.

ix) **Workforce**

The Teaching, Learning and CPD report prepared for the Curriculum and Standards Committee in May 2025 and the impact will be discussed it the September AGM following the staff voice that took place last week.

The SENDCO is an active member of the SENDCO forum and has been asked to go on secondment at Trafford to work across schools.

There is an acceptance between Secondary Heads last week that there is a huge disproportion of spread of SEND students within this LA. Some schools have up to 6.9% of EHCP students whilst others have 0.07%.

Secondary Heads continue to meet at Wellacre as well as Trafford Attendance Network.

SLT also meet with Trafford Pupil Premium group that also meets at Wellacre.

Wellacre have joined a working party looking at alternative provision and there are plans for the schools own alternative provisions with a focus on severe absentees, using the school's own ecology site called The Lodge.

Q: Will the Lodge be away from The Hub?
The Principal confirmed that the Hub would remain. From September they have 6 students that have signed up to come in and use The Lodge from 8.40 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will have specialist input with English, Maths and Science. There will be therapeutic hours also and some Forest Schools provision.

Q: A Governor asked what the plan is for those students after that term in the Lodge
The Principal advised the provision was a temporary measure and the goal is to get those students back into mainstream.

Ben Toogood attended the opening of the boys exhibition at the National History Museum.

The Principal presented at the Trafford Neurodiversity, which was a good practice event.

x) **Staffing**

There are 2x English teachers leaving and there has been 4x appointments filled, one of which is by a former Wellacre student. 2x vacancies have not been filled.

xi) **Staff Welfare**

There has been support staff long term sick, due back in September and another will be retiring.

xii) **Student numbers**

Student numbers continue to go up. The school is at 720 students. Wellacre for the first time is now a 6 form entry.

There are 3x students the Ashley hotel, lots from out of area movement and admissions there are a number of students migrating from other Trafford schools.

xiii) **Budget Monitoring**

Discussed in detail at the Resources Committee.

Resolved: That the Principals Report be received and noted.

2.2 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolved: ***That the minutes of the following reports be received and noted:***

- ***i)*** ***That the minutes of the Behaviour, Attitudes & Personal Development Committee meeting held (07/05/2025) be noted.***
- ***ii)*** ***That the minutes of the Curriculum & Standards Committee meeting held (11/06/2025) be noted.***
- ***iii)*** ***That the account of the Resources Committee meeting held (18/06/2025) be noted as minutes were not available at the time of the meeting.***

2.3 INTERNAL AUDIT

The BD highlighted that the Internal Audit showed no reds, there was 1x amber and lots of greens.

Q: What was the plan on VAT?
The software provider has been contacted and it has been out on a roadmap for changes.

3. COMPLIANCE

3.1 APPROVAL OF BUDGET PLAN (BFR) 2025-28

Resolved:

- ***i)*** ***That the Budget Plan for 2025-28 be approved and submitted to the DfE by 28 August 2025.***
- ***ii)*** ***That the Budget Forecast Return including the letter from the Government be noted and approved.***

The BD was thanked for her hard work.

3.2 RISK REGISTER & RISK MANAGEMENT

Resolved: ***That the Risk Register update be noted.***

3.3 CYBER SECURITY ANNUAL UPDATE

Governors were advised there had been no cyber incidents.

3.4 **TRUST POLICIES FOR APPROVAL**

Resolved: ***That the following Policies be approved:***
Data Breach
Data Protection
Estates Regulations
First Aid
Health & Safety
Internal Evacuation Policy
Internal Evacuation Hirers
Privacy Notice for Governors and Volunteers
Supporting Students with Medical Conditions
Uniform Policy
ICT Disaster Plan

3.5 **APPROVAL OF MEMBER**

Dr Kelvin Gill was going to join as a Member, however, due to the following changes, it has been agreed that he is to become a Trustee.

Mr A Young is stepping down as of today but will be a Member.

Mr C Hincliffe term of office expires in September and he will be a Member.

Mr S Russell had agreed to serve another term until a suitable replacement is found.

Cllr Procter's term of office ends in September; however, it is unclear what her intentions are at this moment in time.

The Principal has asked someone that works for another Trust if they join and is awaiting a decision.

Ms L Hepple-Stokes advised that she can advertise the post via her links.

Resolved:

i) ***That the appointment of Dr K Gill, Mr A Young and Mr C Hinchcliffe as Members be added to the agenda for the next meeting of Members and their terms as Trustees end.***
(TGS retain on Ghub make Members now with term starting date of next Members meeting)

ii) ***That Mr S Russell be re-appointed as a Trustee***

3.6 **NOMINATION FOR CHAIR / VICE CHAIR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26**

Trustees were reminded that nominations for Chair and/or Vice Chair can be forwarded to the Clerking Service (clerk@trustgs.co.uk) in advance of the autumn term meeting when Chair & Vice Chair are appointed. Nomination Forms were distributed for submission in advance of the autumn term meeting.

3.7 **OPT IN OR OUT FOR PRINTED COPIES OF AGENDA PACKS**

Trustees were reminded they **must** register with Trust GS Clerking Service (via an online form) if they wish to receive printed copies of agenda packs for the academic year 2025-26.

3.8 **NOTICES FROM TRUSTGS (CLERKING SERVICE)**

Resolved:

i) That the termly Governors' Newsletter – The Clerk's Post (Summer 2025) and Training schedule be received and noted.
ii) That the Academy Trust Governance Guide Oct-2024 be noted.
iii) That the SEN Guidance for Governing Boards be noted.
iv) That the Dear Accounting Officer Letter March 2025 be noted.
v) That the Academy Trust Handbook 1-Sept 2025 update be noted including explanation of changes.

3.9 **CALENDAR OF GOVERNANCE MEETINGS 2025-26**

Resolved: That the Calendar of Governance meetings be approved.

3.10 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i) **Company Law Requirements**

The BD advised that Members and Trustee details would be verified with Companies House.

3.11 **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

There were no additional items requested for inclusion on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

3.12 **ACTION SUMMARY**

Resolved: ***That the following Action(s) arising from the meeting be noted:***

i) ***Ms L Hepple-Stokes to advertise Trustee vacancies via her links.***

3.13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved: ***That the next meeting of the Governing Board be held at the Academy on 17 September 2025 at 4.45 p.m.***

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

Chair of Governing Board ……………………………………….

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