



**North Ridge Academy Council Meeting
Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 13:00
North Ridge Academy**

Those Present:	Role:	Initials
Rebecca Allard	Executive Assurance Partner / Chair	RA
Christina Lee	Staff Governor	CL
Chloe Jones	Deputy Headteacher	CJ
Amanda Lund	Staff Governor	AL
Jim Phillips	Parent Governor	JP
Also Present:		
Jade Soler Alcaraz	Head of School	JSA
Claire Garbutt	Governor/Vice Chair	CG
Lisa Suter	Regional Director	LS
Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence None.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence None.	
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARD (OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS)	
2.1. Presentation to staff nominee(s) A presentation was made to a staff member, the winner of the "Best We Can Be" award. Anonymous positive feedback was shared, and all staff will continue to receive their submitted comments each term. Action: JSA to ensure anonymised staff comments continue to be circulated each term. A governor asked, do all staff get to see the comments written about them even if they do not win? JSA responded, yes, all nominees receive their anonymous positive comments.	Action: JSA 01/07/26
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.	
5. NORTH RIDGE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
5.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting The minutes of the meeting held 03 December 2025 were approved as a true record with one amendment. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December were approved as a true record, subject to amending Jade's title to "Head of School" at the time. Action: Clerk to make amendment to previous minutes.	Action: Clerk 19/03/26 Completed
5.2. Review of Action Tracker Outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.	

Updates were reviewed. Staff engagement in staff voting increased from 34 to 45. Governor visit schedule shared. Discussion held on link governors. Next meeting proposed for the Bridge site pending confirmation. Action: LS to check feasibility of hosting the next meeting at the Bridge. Action: JSA to identify an alternative informal focus for the July meeting if required.	Action: LS 01/07/26 Action: JSA 01/07/26
5.3. Matters arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising.	
6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
6.1. Headteacher Report JSA gave a brief overview of the Headteacher Report. <u>Inclusion</u> - Continued strong focus on communication as the central strategic priority. - Implementation of Grid 3, symbol systems, and consistent communication boards across school. - Communication leads beginning a PGCert in Speech, Language and Communication Needs in September. - Aim to maintain consistency across transitions and avoid overwhelming pupils with new communication methods. <u>Curriculum & Teaching</u> - Wide range of enrichment activities delivered including visits, theme weeks and practical learning. - Post-16 curriculum undergoing significant review of pathways, qualifications and progression routes. - Teaching cycle ("I do – We do – You do") embedded across school. - Science curriculum fully redesigned to be practical, real life and cross curricular. - Development areas: more explicit modelling and consistent dual coding across classes. A Governor asked are dual coded visuals used for the teaching cycle? JSA responded, some teachers use them. Plans to standardise this across the school. <u>Staff CPD</u>	

- Training delivered in Rise Therapy, Sensory Circuits, Attention Autism, Team Teach and Makaton.
- Positive impact seen in engagement, regulation, communication and staff confidence.

Achievement & Assessment

- Strong autumn outcomes (English 94%, Maths 82%).
- Targets set aspirational but realistic; baselining consistent across pathways.
- Improved moderation through PLC collaboration.
- Planned refinement to align Solar tracking with NexSteps to reduce workload.

A Governor asked how are baselines standardised?

JSA responded, baselines completed over first 5-6 weeks. Moderation across pathways occurs internally and via Trust PLC groups.

A Governor asked, does external moderation take place?

JSA responded, yes, Trust PLC moderation is now active across English, Maths, EYFS and Science.

Attendance

- Attendance at 91–92%, strong for a complex needs setting.
- Persistent Absence improved compared to previous year.
- Case studies show strong multi agency involvement and gradual reintegration progress for some pupils.

A Governor asked, do part time timetables distort attendance?

JSA responded, they are calculated proportionally. If they attend their agreed timetable, they score 100%.

Behaviour, Safety & Safeguarding

- Three suspensions this term for significant safety incidents.
- Behaviour Support Team created to analyse pupil needs, triggers and strategies.
- SCR fully compliant; weekly safeguarding meetings in place.
- CEOP training underway to strengthen online safety offer.

A Governor asked, were triggers identified in relation to the suspensions?

JSA responded, yes in two cases, including significant home circumstances leading to CIN support.

Personal Development & Wellbeing

- NW13 programme updated to ensure safe and meaningful experiences.

• Bridge site enrichment (Forest School, mental health sessions) highly successful. • Parent workshops planned on communication, sensory needs and online safety. <u>Leadership & Governance</u> • SEF and SIP updated using Perspective. • Interim leadership arrangements stable and effective. • Bridge playground installed under budget. Planning specialist calming/sensory rooms next. <u>Staffing & HR</u> • Sickness levels higher due to long term medical absence and seasonal illness. • Weekly check-ins, Westfield support and OH referrals in place. • Leadership and cover supervisor supporting classes during shortages.	
6.1.1. Appendix 1 – Updated School SIP This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.	
6.1.2. Appendix 2 - School SEF This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.	
6.2. Draft School Dashboard Summary The Autumn dashboard has been reviewed, showing strong performance across the majority of areas. However, the Post-16 study programme continues to be an area requiring further development.	
6.3. Budget Report It was reported that there is a healthy budget position, with server failure costs refunded by insurance. Planned expenditure includes upgrading sensory and calming rooms.	
6.4. School Calendar This was circulated for information prior to the meeting. Term dates for 2026–27 have been shared, and the four week transition period remains effective.	
6.5. Pupil Premium These updates have been incorporated into the Headteacher’s report. Priorities continue to focus on communication, personalised provision and pastoral and attendance support. A Governor asked what is the difference between communication targets on EHCPs and CVGP targets?	

JSA responded, EHCP communication targets are statutory personalised targets. CVGP relates to curriculum based outcomes (communication, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation). A Governor asked how are staff supported with training regarding SEN versus disadvantage? JSA responded, all pupils have high levels of need, disadvantage and SEND needs overlap significantly. Individualised pupil progress meetings ensure personalised support.	
6.6. Cabinet Member & MPs' Feedback from Pupil Parliament Pupil Parliament meetings continue across both sites, using Teams to maintain pupil voice and representation.	
6.7. Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment Members were reminded to complete via GovernorHub, paper versions are available. Action: All members to complete their Skills Audit and return to Clerking Services.	Action: All Members 27/03/26
7. TRUST MATTERS	
7.1. Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues LS provided updates on Ofsted changes, trust expansion and academisation consultations.	
8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
8.1. To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair None.	
9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK	
9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting None.	
10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	

Wednesday 1 July 2026	13:00 – 15:00	North Ridge Academy
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CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
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