



Beech Academy Council
Friday 05 December 2025 at 10:30am
Beech Academy, Fairholme Site, Fairholme Drive, Mansfield NG19 6AH

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Neil Davies	Executive Headteacher, Beech Academy	ND
Charlotte Edwards	Parent Governor	CE
Tracey Geeson	Staff Governor – Non-Teaching	TG
Lucie Hawke	Parent Governor	LH
Kathryn Johnson	Staff Governor - Teaching	KJ
Katie Sudlow	Parent Governor	KS
Sacha Schofield	Chair	SS
Also Present:		
Kathryn Craig	Head of School	KC
Apologies:		
Paula Williams	Executive Regional Director	PW

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
<p>1.1. To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from PW.</p>	
<p>1.2. To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from PW.</p>	
<p>1.3 Confirmation of Vice Chair</p> <p>Vice Chair CE confirmed as previously agreed.</p>	
<p>1.4 Confirmation of Resignation – Sue Elliott, Community Governor</p> <p>It was confirmed that Sue Elliott, Community Governor, has resigned.</p>	
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS	
<p>2.1 Best We Can Be Awards</p> <p>Four members of staff DL, LW, SM and TE were presented with their Best We can Be Awards. All nominees were celebrated and congratulated accordingly.</p>	
3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered Chair to determine any items of urgent business</p> <p>None.</p>	
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
<p>4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>There were no declarations received.</p>	
5. BEECH ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
<p>5.1 Approval of the Academy Council meeting held on 04 July 2025.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 July 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<p>5.2 Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Pen portraits: Still pending update on website; clerking services to follow up. Action: Clerking Services to look at Pen Portraits.</p>	<p>Action: Clerk 20/03/26</p>

<p>PSHE curriculum details: KC will share the embedded content for the PSHE curriculum, providing further details on the resources and materials included. Action: KC to share embedded content for the PHSE curriculum.</p> <p>Attendance codes: ND to circulate updated information. Action: ND to circulate updated information on attendance codes.</p> <p>Parent voice questionnaire: Revised phrasing noted; July results included in report.</p>	<p>Action: KC 20/03/26</p> <p>Action: ND 20/03/26</p>
<p>5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>None raised.</p>	
6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
<p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p>ND and KC gave an overview of the Headteacher Report.</p> <p>Leadership and Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School settled after previous staff turnover; new Assistant Head appointed in September. • Numbers and Budget: Current roll 110 (target 115 by February); slight risk of deficit mitigated by successful funding bids. • Growth and Expansion: Plans are progressing for Mansfield Day Service building; feasibility studies underway; first plans expected before Christmas. • Safeguarding: Section 175 audit completed; positive feedback. • Attendance and Behaviour: Attendance above national average for special schools; behaviour is strong. • AI Usage: New priority for safe and effective integration of AI in school processes. <p>Quality of Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision judged as strong based on internal QA and external health checks. • Strengths: High aspirations for pupils; strong subject knowledge and curriculum planning. • Areas for development: Oracy and impact of learning assistants on progress. • CPD highlights: Safeguarding training, PATH model rollout, collaborative learning sets. • External training: Ruth Miskin phonics, NCTEM math's and apprenticeships. • Reporting to parents: New termly curriculum and progress updates introduced. <p>Personal Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Parliament thriving; supported by local MP Steve DBM. • Enrichment program expanded (Friday carousel for KS3). • Music curriculum and Able Orchestra introduced. • Sports fixtures established under staff leadership. • Work experience and Duke of Edinburgh continuing for KS4. <p>Alternative Provision:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three pupils accessing AP to maintain placements; therapeutic approach for complex needs. <p>Community Voice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent survey: 100% respondents report children feel happy and safe. • Areas for improvement: bullying perceptions, clarity on curriculum (being addressed). <p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP</p> <p>This was sent for information only prior to the meeting.</p> <p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 – Updated SEF</p> <p>This was sent for information only prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.2 Draft School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>This was sent for information only prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.3 Budget Report</p> <p>The budget is close to balanced, with additional funding secured to support planned activities and ensure financial stability.</p>	
<p>6.4 Teaching Staff Appraisal Outcome Report</p> <p>This was sent for information only prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues</p> <p>SS provided a Trust Update.</p> <p>There are 2 new schools joining Nexus, Seven Hills in Sheffield is currently pending approval from the Department for Education, while Levitt in Doncaster has submitted its application to join the Trust.</p> <p>The merger process with Ebor is ongoing, with discussions and planning continuing to ensure a smooth integration.</p> <p>The Ofsted Inspection Framework is shifting towards a “day in the life” approach, focusing on the actual experiences of pupils. The previous inspection categories will be replaced by a new toolkit designed to guide evaluations more effectively.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>8.1. To consider any other urgent business.</p> <p>None.</p>	

9. CONFIDENTIALITY	
<p>9.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>Expansion plans for Mansfield building remain confidential until formal communication in early 2026.</p>	

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	
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Friday 20 March 2026	10:30-12:30	Beech Academy Council
Friday 03 July 2026	10:30-12:30	Beech Academy Council

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
Sacha Schofield		