MINUTES OF TRUST BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday 6th May 2026
Time: 10.00am
Venue: Laurus Trust- Boardroom

Clerk: N Burgess
Present: L Woolley, S McGill, T Little, J Crawford, R Kumar, G Turnpenney, M Vevers, D Brown, A Gilmour, C Nevin, L Magrath and W Mason

	Action	Initials
1	Trustees to inform the Clerk of any changes to their register of business interests	All
1	Trustees to contact their Link Trust Director to arrange a visit	All
2	Trust Assurance Framework to be reviewed and an action plan shared at the next meeting	LW

Agenda – Part 1				
Category		Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	Apologies	Apologies were received and accepted from N Thompson, D Kershaw, S Mellor and D Woolley.	
		AOB items	There were no other items of business which were not covered under the agenda for this meeting.	
		Compliance	The register of business interests was circulated and Trustees are asked to confirm their record and update the Clerk of any changes.	All
		Minutes of the last Trust Board Meeting	Minutes of the meeting held 11th February 2026 were approved as a correct record of the meeting. Matters arising • R Kumar updated on funding opportunities which are available for schools to bid for and agreed to meet with WM outside of the meeting • Trustees are reminded to contact their links to arrange times to visit and meet with Trust Directors • Trustees will be asked to complete the mandatory training modules at the start of the next academic year • Climate Action report was an agenda item for the Finance and Resources committee meeting in March 2026	All

		Membership and succession planning	TL updated Trustees that DK, RK, GT, AG and SMc had all agreed to extend their terms of office for a further period of four years. Trustees were also informed that N Thompson would be stepping down as a Trustee at the end of the academic year.	
		Safeguarding update	DB gave a verbal update on Trust wide Safeguarding. Lead DSL post has now been made full time and is an essential post as the Trust grows. Trustees noted the considerable amount of work around Safeguarding which has been undertaken at HGHS recently, and that this had been recognised in the recent inspection. The SLT changes in the school means the school has a strong team in place. DB confirmed that the Trust primary schools are now working to align with the CPOMS categories from September 2026, this will allow from more in-depth analysis to be completed. A written Safeguarding report will be available for the Autumn term meeting. Trustees had no further questions.	
		Executive Team updates	<u>Ofsted</u> MV updated Trustees on the recent inspection at HGHS. The school was inspected under the new framework which had come into effect in January 2026. There are 7 areas graded and Safeguarding is classed as met or unmet. The outcome for the school was as expected in all areas. The next steps for the school are detailed in the report. It is good for EM, as a new Head of School, to be able to see the impact of the work done already. Trustees were pleased to note the outcome of the inspection and looked forward to reviewing the full report in due course. Q – Are the staff pleased with the outcome? A – Yes, they are. Q – How do schools use the grades now there is not a	

			one word judgement? A – We are unsure at the present time, the revised framework removed the necessity for an overarching judgement. Trustees discussed the issue of Attendance and Behaviour being part of the same judgement, noting the difficulties experienced with attendance since the pandemic. Q – When will the full report be in the public domain? A – It is not exactly known, the process is taking a little while longer than normal due to capacity issues at Ofsted and the additional QA needed during the initial phase of the new inspection framework implementation. <u>Primary update</u> LW updated Trustees on the progress of the application for TGPS to join the Trust. The school is currently in a listening period as part of the consultation. Interviews have taken place for the Head of School at CHPS and the details are currently being finalised before the parent community are informed. LW informed Trustees that AH, Head of School at HGPS, had accepted a position at another school outside of the Trust, and would be leaving in the summer. Thanks were offered to JC for stepping in to Chair the Academy Committee of the school. An Associate Head of School will be appointed and the vacancy has been circulated to eligible Trust staff with applications welcomed. <u>Admissions</u> WM updated Trustees that since the last meeting the primary place allocations for Reception for September 2026 had been received. Of the 6 Trust primary schools only HGPS is under PAN. Trustees also noted that WPS was oversubscribed. <u>Secondary update</u> LM updated that the Bury LA school who had expressed an interest in joining the Trust earlier in the academic year was no longer an active proposal. Support for another Stockport high school was discussed. Leaders are meeting with the Chair of the Trust in the coming days and there is potential that this support could be via the RISE programme.	

			LM updated on an all through school project on a planned housing development in the local area. A selection process, for a Trust who will operate the school, is due in the coming months. WM informed Trustees that LR are currently consulting on the addition of a Resource Base at the school. This would be identified as a significant change and a full consultation process is being undertaken. Funding will be from Tameside LA for a 42 place RB to be built at the school. Trustees had no further questions on any of the updates received.	
		Approve policies as per the Trust policy schedule	CN confirmed that all policies had been reviewed by the policy sub-committee and recommended the policies to Trustees for approval. Trustees approved the following policies: Assessment, Feedback and Marking policy Bullying and Harassment (staff) policy Curriculum (secondary) policy Functional Skills and Entry Level policy Managing Change and Employee Reductions policy Minibus policy	
		Meeting dates	Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 10.00am	

2	Being strategic	Internal Governance Review	The CST Assurance Framework for trust governance is the document which will be used to undertake the internal governance review. Trustees split into 4 sub-groups and worked through one domain each, reviewing the questions and RAG rating the current position of the Trust, whilst considering the previous self-review which was undertaken in 2024. Board Leadership Structures Accountability Compliance Trustees were asked that once they had reviewed their allocated domain that they briefly familiarise themselves with the rest of the review sections. Following review Trustees then regrouped and fed back on their discussions and answers within their allocated domain. LW agreed to review the Assurance Framework document and compile a list of actions and follow up points for Exec Team to be able to allocate actions and timescales. It was noted that discussions are currently taking place for an external board review with another Trust, and it is anticipated that this will most likely take place at the start of the next academic year. The completed sections of the Assurance Framework will form the master document which will be reviewed by the Executive Team and shared back at the next meeting of the Trust Board.	LW
3	Approvals	Approvals at this meeting	Summary of approvals at this meeting: • Minutes of the meeting held 11th February 2026 • Trustees approved 6 policies	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
Membership of the Trust Board was updated
Trustees received a Safeguarding update
Executive Team updates were given and included the Ofsted inspection at HGHS, Admissions and primary and secondary updates
Trustees approved 6 policies
Trustees undertook a self-assessment using the CST Assurance Framework

Meeting closed at 12.35

Tony Little
Chair of Trust Board
08.07/2026