

**Summary of discussions of the Local Academy Committee meeting
held on Wednesday 20th May at Bracken Lane Primary Academy**

Membership	Initials	Governor category	Absence
Mr A Murray Chair	AMU	Appointed	A
Mrs F Simpson Vice	FS	Appointed	
Mrs C Wyles	CW	Appointed	
Mrs J Gawthorpe	JG	Appointed	
Dr E Farrar	EF	Appointed	A
Mr M Wintle	MW	Appointed	*AL
Mrs M Malcolm	MM	Appointed Parent	
Mrs S Willows	SW	Appointed	A
Mrs K Cleary	KC	Appointed Parent	
Mr A Michael	AMI	Appointed	

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Mrs H Cawkill	HC	Principal - Bracken Lane	
Mrs V Read	VR	Vice Principal – Bracken Lane	A
Mrs L Spacey	LS	Executive Principal	
Mrs R Chambers	RC	Governance Professional (GP)	

Quorum	5	Governor's present	6
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*Arrived Late

Outstanding Actions Log

C	= Complete	CF	= Carried forward	I	= Incomplete (carried forward more than once)
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Agenda item	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Status
AC/14/2526	2526 - 2	Contact governors individually regarding outstanding mandatory training.	NB	26/11/2025	Still outstanding for SW and KC. All reminded to complete ASAP.	I
AC/40/2526	2526 – 4	Schedule SEND Link visits before the next LAC meeting.	JG	13/05/2026	Meeting scheduled for 21.05.26 – report to be submitted before the meeting on 08.07.26	CF
AC/40/2526	2526 - 4	Schedule Safeguarding Link visits before the next LAC meeting	CW	13/05/2026	Meeting scheduled for 21.05.26 – report to be submitted before the meeting on 08.07.26	CF

Notes of meeting:

Bold blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge

Bold green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval

Q = Question from Governors

A = Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points / Summary	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline
AC/45/2526	Apologies for absence - Apologies received and accepted from EF, SW, AMU. - AMI arriving late due to work commitments.			
AC/46/2526	Declaration of Interests - No new declarations made. - No declarations in relation to items on the agenda.			
AC/47/2526	Review of Action Log to include outstanding items from the last meeting. - The Actions log from 18th March was reviewed and approved.			
AC/48/2526	Governance Professionals report - Governors had attended to support with the SATs invigilating. HC thanked the governors for their support. - CW advised she had also recently attended the Nursery 'Parents as Partner' sessions which was fabulous. - Safeguarding and SEND link visits are booked in and reports to be submitted before the next meeting. [Action already noted as AC/40/2526]	Link reports to be submitted	CW / JG	08.07.26
AC/49/2526	Principal's report THPA Ofsted - This inspection was completed under the new framework and was the first one within the trust. Since Thrumpton's visit, there has been an inspection at Samuel Barlow Primary Academy, and both have been very different.			

	- The experience was really positive especially from the perspective of the changes with the leadership team. HC was supported by Rebecca Hurley, previous Principal, who came back to support during the 2 days. - The team are really pleased with the overall judgements. What stood out was the real shift in emphasis in that it is no longer 'best fit' and to be 'expected standard' the bar has risen. Governors noted that visually there are 2 grades above expected standard but only a handful of schools can be in the 'exceptional' standard. - LS added that she is proud of the whole team and everything that has gone into achieving the results. - It is clear on what are the next steps, and it was apparent that there are some areas of strong that the academy is meeting. Looking forward it is the rigor of being consistent within the strong area and the criteria is about further refinement and precision. - The inspectors were actively asking about employee wellbeing. - The inspectors agreed with the SEF judgements. Governors noted that attendance and absence management was a strength of the academy as well as highlighting some of the incentives that have been put in place to support with this. LS added that the team of inspectors could see the hard work of which the team do daily and the children could also discuss the attendance incentives. Q: What is the academy planning to help deepen the knowledge on British values? A: The key focus is that the children can explain in the context of their own community. Governors offered to support with the knowledge of British Values. Q: Will you be using the areas of improvement to help shape next year's AIP?			
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	A – Yes, we will whether this be from a whole school perspective or within individual remits e.g. SEND. - HC confirmed the whole staff team worked very hard and it was a full team effort. It also highlighted strengths in the relationship with other academies including Bracken Lane, where the academy was able to draw on expertise from others. The way the two academies worked together was really positive. LS added that Victoria Read, Vice Principal at BLPA, also was fully emersed in the inspection. Governors requested that HC / LS passed on their thanks and gratitude to the whole team, including those who supported from other schools, and HC was also thanked. <i>Q: One of the next steps for SEND is to ensure that detailed analysis and monitoring of interventions for disadvantaged pupils underpin the decisions for how best to support these pupils to achieve well, what are the plans for this?</i> A – As a trust, we are working on a SEND strategic strategy which incorporates the refinement of assessments and quality first teaching. The inspectors did see this to be able to grade the academy at expected standard, but the next step is on how we refine the assessments. It also about being able to precisely map out and demonstrate what the assessments show, where the academy are aiming pupils will get too and then what are the academies steps to ensure every minute is having an impact. BLPA - For the year-to-date attendance, persistent absence is at 2.8%. - GLD – on track for 86% which is the target. - Phonics are on track for 91% which is slightly lower than target - SATs – GD is slightly lower than targeted but has still increased from last year which was the aim.			
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	- The Oracy objective within the AIP will continue over to next year which is ok to do. - Following on from parent surveys a 'you said, we did' feedback will be given to parents. Key themes emerging from the comments was around development of the playground, fundraising and trips. Q: Have parent surveys been completed for Thrumpton as part of the OFSTED visit? A – All 3 inspectors spoke with parents and nothing negative was highlighted around parent communication. - There will be 24 children in Nursery, and the academy are running as a 26-place offering until January 2027. Q: How many out of the 24 children are 30-hours? A – Some are but some will leave at the end of the morning. For children who turn 3 within the autumn term, they are welcome to attend but in the afternoons. This allows the academy time to work with the children, so they are ready to start mornings in the term after they are 3. From January 2027, the provision will have 39 places and there will be 3 members of staff in there. Q: Why are families not accessing the 30-hours? A – Families do not always want them or need them. Bracken Lane do have more children accessing the 30-hours funding than other schools in the trust. Some children do not come because of the holiday wrap around so stay at all year-round settings until they start Reception. Q: Has the number of 30-hour children increased since the funding is more accessible? A – There are more and is higher than anywhere locally from a school perspective. The 24 children are only September – December and currently 27 out of 34 children do stay all day. This does have a knock on for staffing which is why the places for the rising 3's are offered in the afternoon and then can move to mornings then the time is right. Q: Do you hold places back for after Christmas?			
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	A – We will only take 26 and therefore may be full at the start of the summer term. Afternoons may then be offered if there is space. - There has been a lot of addition to in-year admissions which is because of increasing the PAN for KS2. Year 1 is still lower than desired, and the academy are working on making that a class of 30. - LS added that Reception numbers at ThPA is much lower than expected and is something to keep an eye on. HC advised that Y4 is also low at ThPA. Q: Has the new estate had an impact on in-year admissions? A – Currently Bracken Lane has not seen much impact from the new estate. The impact has mostly been from the change of catchment to incorporate the Bacopa Drive estate. There is a lot of movement within Retford schools. Governors noted that some of the in-year admissions at both academies are from other Retford schools which is a credit to them. - The academy is working on personal development around trips to ensure each trip is what is needed both for the community and that specific year group whilst also considering the cost of trips. The academy is pushing independence and resilience, so trips are booked with this in mind e.g. sleepovers and residential. LS added that this is a further example of academies moving into the ‘strong standard’ as leaders can evidence, they have focus on what each child / cohort needs.			
AC/50/2526	Safeguarding - The trust staff safeguarding survey was shared with governors in advance. - There is Prevent officer within the local area. - There is also a trust wide and localised Prevent risk assessment.			
AC/51/2526	Complete report to Trustees - Feedback from the OFSTED visit.			

AC/52/2526	Determine Confidentiality Governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was resolved: - It was agreed that there were no confidential items discussed - It was agreed that there had been no Equality Act implications.			
AC/53/2526	Next meeting Wednesday 8 th July at 5:15 pm at Thrumpton Primary Academy Meeting closed at 6:16pm			

Signed by Chair: <i>A.Murray</i>	Date: 08.07.26
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