RISEDALE
A family of learners

B E S T
RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT RESILIENCE RELATIONSHIPS

OUR VISION & VALUES:

Our aspiration is that every pupil and staff member is supported to be the BEST version of themselves.

Members of our Risedale family will feel a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment as a direct result of attending our school. They will accumulate knowledge, cultural capital and social skills, such as empathy and kindness, enabling them to thrive in society and enjoy healthy RELATIONSHIPS. All our pupils will make good progress from their starting points.

At whatever stage of their education Risedale pupils leave us, they will be well-equipped to take the next steps on their journey to becoming a RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL and RESILIENT citizen who can embrace change and learn from mistakes.

Risedale School

Full Governing Body Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 5pm at the school

The three key functions of governance:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

In Attendance

Governors Present	
Nick Horn (NH)	Co-opted Governor, Chair
Lucy Greenwood (LG)	Headteacher
Charles Anderson (CA)	Co-Opted Governor
Kate Morgan (KM)	Co-Opted Governor
Pamela McMahon (PM)	Parent Governor
Beki Bulmer (BB)	Local Authority Governor
Dean Higham (DH)	Staff Governor
John Glahome (JG)	Co-Opted Governor
Lara Vinsen (LV) (via Teams)	Co-Opted Governor
Ray Nyambira (RN) (via Teams)	Co-Opted Governor
Amanda Hastings (AH)	Parent Governor
In attendance	
James Yates (JY)	Deputy Headteacher
Jon Norden (JN)	Principal Advisor - NYC
Chris Walker (CW)	Senior Governance Office and Clerk to the Governors (NYC)

No.	Item
	PART 'A:' – Procedural
1.	**Election of Chair and Vice-Chair** NH was the sole nomination for the position of Chair and was elected for a period of 12 months. Governors considered succession planning and how best to utilise the Vice-Chair role in supporting this process. Two Vice-Chairs were subsequently elected – AH and BB. BB agreed to be considered for the role of Chair in 12 months' time.
2.	**Welcome and Apologies for Absence and to determine whether any absences should be consented to.** NH welcomed everyone to the meeting. All governors were present.
3.	**To remind Governors of the need to declare interests, pecuniary or non-pecuniary.** There were no declarations of interest or hospitality at this meeting.
4.	**To determine whether any part of the proceedings should be treated as confidential and excluded from the minutes to be made available for public inspection.** To be considered as the meeting progressed.
5.	**Notification of urgent other business previously notified to the Chair.** To agree a date for the Pay Review Committee.
6.	**To approve the minutes and confidential minutes from the meeting on 10 July 2025.** The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record to be signed by the Chair, subject to the inclusion of apologies from JN at the last meeting. Governor question Q: When will the staff health and well-being survey be shared? A: At the next meeting. **Action:** Add feedback from the survey to November meeting agenda. (Clerk) **Action:** All governors to let BB know when they undertake a school visit to enable BB to maintain the record of visits. (All) A review of the actions took place. All actions had been completed or updated as follows: • AH/JG to arrange to meet with SBM and Bursar – which would include the review of the SFVS • It was possible that the next meeting with the LA, to discuss finance, might take place before the SRMA visit which would not be helpful as the outcomes from the SRMA would need to be considered as part of any strategic planning – specifically to deliver a 3-year financial recovery plan. Governor question Q: Will the recovery plan include specific numerical targets? A: No – it will set out how the school will achieve a healthy financial position. Q: Will there be consideration of the wider needs of the school in terms of things like delivering school improvement or is it purely financially driven? A: It will consider the wider context. LG reported that the school would present a number of scenarios at the meeting which would highlight how a healthy financial position could be achieved and what the wider impact might be.

	NH explained that an additional consideration would be any impact arising from the new Ofsted Framework. Governor question Q: Do you think it will put more pressure on the HT? A: Yes. JN provided a verbal summary on some of the differences with the new framework and reported that the LA was working with two schools who were undertaking a pilot project to greater understand its impact. Governors were concerned that the new framework was far more complex and could only lead to more work and pressure for HTs – which is something it was supposed to be moving away from. A key focus in the new framework was SEND provision and Inclusion. LG reported that she had structured the SEF to fit the new structure of the framework. Governor question Q: Is this now set in stone? A: Technically no but the toolkit is being published by the DfE in November and it is unlikely to change. (JN) Q: How will you be able to use it to compare to other schools? A: Whilst there will now no longer be a 1 word judgement the new framework will use a colour coding scheme (a kind of RAG rating effectively). Q: Will this end up creating an elite list of schools which will only impact negatively on the rest? A: To some extent this is happening already but we can only judge the impact over a longer period of time. LG confirmed that training for governors on the new framework would be provided in advance of the next meeting. Governors agreed to consider the data review (Item 13) at this point in the meeting to enable JY to present and then leave.
13.	**Data Review** A report providing a summary of Exam Results was shared in advance of the meeting. JY highlighted the key points in the report which included: • The unique context of the school which had high levels of mobility, largely as a result of the high numbers of service students, and a higher proportion than average of students from the disadvantaged groups. • Due to Covid, there was no KS2 prior attainment available to be able to baseline progress. CAT test results had been used instead. GCSE Data • Cohort context very similar in 2025 to 2024. • Number of pupils achieving Grade 4+ in Eng and Maths had increased from 17.5% in 2024 to 23% in 2025. For the disadvantaged students, there had been an increase from 9.7% to 20%. • Whilst this evidenced progress and a closing of the gap the key focus was now on driving up the overall levels of attainment. • JN reported that, for last year, the national figure for Grade 4+ was 65% Governor question Q: How do we compare to similar schools? A: In many ways our school is unique in its context so it is difficult to compare like for like with other schools. We have looked at the data for Wellington Academy in Wiltshire which has a similar service

element but not the other factors that are here in Risedale. This is something we are currently working on. We are aware that we do need to improve the outcomes for our students.

Impact of Mobility

- The report showed the impact on outcomes for those students who joined the school after Year 7 – effectively, the later a student joined the school the bigger impact on their results.

Attainment 8

- Had decreased overall in 2024-25 although there was now more consistency within the groups.
- Good progress had been made by those students on support plans – which evidenced the impact of the work with middle leaders and with the Leeds Learning Partnership.

Governors asked that in future reports there needed to be greater clarify around some of the terminology used – for example the use of 'significant'. Specifically, did this fit a statistical definition and, if not, what was this judgement based on.

Estimated Progress Gaps

- Overall there had been a closing of the gap between outcomes for the disadvantaged students and the rest across most curriculum areas.
- However, whilst there had been improved attainment for SEND students overall, the gap had actually increased as compared to the other students. This would continue to be a priority for the school.

Subject summary

- A key priority had been to ensure that the data was as accurate as possible and as part of this process to ensure that forecasts and predictions were also as accurate as possible. The report (at p11) detailed the outcomes compared to the forecasts and PPE results.
- The data showed that more work needed to be done to improve the accuracy of the forecasting process in some subject areas. This has been a key area of focus - CPD had been provided for staff and a new assessment calendar had been put in place.

Governor question
Q: How are things being done differently now as compared to last year?
A: The new assessment calendar is much more rigorous this year, there is also a more effective QA system in place. We will also be looking to review the forecasts throughout the year. (JY)

There have been some concerns about the consistency of teaching practice across the school and we have taken a fresh approach to QA and monitoring. We have introduced the new assessment calendar and provided CPD, particularly to middle leaders. SLT will help to support the process of driving up standards. We will be looking at improving standardization and looking at exam board methodologies as part of this. It is a big piece of work. We recognise that this is an ongoing piece of work and will need embedding. (LG)

Q: Are there any subject areas you could use as exemplars of good practise ?
A: Yes

Q: Is there evidence in the results of the impact of good teaching practice?
A: Yes. Although the outcomes in History were disappointing and unexpected as the teaching practise in this subject is strong.

Q: Are there any red flags that you would look for in the predictions?
A: We don't just look at the predictions in isolation. We analyse all the various data which would include the QA, classroom monitoring, data etc and triangulate to then take a view on the predictions.

Governors suggested that it would be helpful to include comparisons to national data within future reports.

	LG reported that part of the process were regular accountability meetings with subject leaders at which would include discussions on data and on the predictions, which would include discussions on any red flags. Another key area of focus had been identified as the need to increase parental engagement. Q: Is the attitude of the student taken into account when the predictions are made – i.e. if they ‘ cant be bothered ‘ etc? A: Yes – we do consider all aspects. LG reported that developing a culture of learning was a key priority not only with the students but also with parental buy-in. Governors suggested that it would be helpful if future reports included more narrative which: • Reflected on the key messages to be drawn from the data • Set out next steps • Included more information on evaluation Governors thanked JY for the report and detailed presentation. JY left the meeting at 6.25pm.
7.	**Completion of Key Documents** Governors completed and signed the following key documents at the meeting: • Register of business interests’ form • Declaration of any gifts or hospitality • Online acceptable Use form • Adopted the Code of Conduct **Action**: LV and RN to complete the above forms at the next availability opportunity.
8.	**Standing Orders 2025-26** The Standing Orders were adopted. Governors agreed to a term of office of 1 year for the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair, that the role should be limited to 4 years and that a meeting would be reconvened within 28 days if no chair was available.
9.	**Headteacher Delegation** LG reported that she had sought advice from the NYC Bursar, with regards to the HTs delegated limit, and had been advised that the thresholds within the current Budget Management Policy were consistent with other schools. Governors approved the limits as set out in the policy – as follows: ‘*the Headteacher shall not vire from one budget head to another any sum exceeding 0.5%* of the delegated budget or £30,000* whichever is the lesser, without the consent of the Governing Body or, in the case of an urgent matter, the Chair thereof’*
10.	**Membership of the Ad Hoc Committees** **The Headteacher Performance Management Panel (HTPM) was agreed as NH, BB, KM** **Pay Review Committee membership– BB, AH, JG – to meet at 1.30pm on 4th November** All other committees would be supported by governors based on availability, eligibility and experience.
11.	**LV left the meeting at 7pm. PMc left the meeting at 7.10pm** The Terms of Reference for each committee were approved. Governors agreed that no changes needed to be made to the Instrument of Government. The Policy Schedule was circulated and noted by governors. The Schedule of Business was circulated and noted by governors.
12.	**Link Governors** All governors were content to retain the same responsibilities as for 2024-25 as follows: CA – Service Children and PP Service Children

	BB – SEND, Stakeholder Engagement JG – Finance, Mental Health and Well-being, Health and Safety AH – Finance, Pupil Premium DH- Governor Training and Development, Behaviour and Attitudes NH – Curriculum, Teaching and Achievement PMc – Equalities KM- Safeguarding, Attendance, Looked After Children RN – Personal Development (inc careers), Behaviour and Attitudes LV - SEND A new folder for 2025-26 had been set up on the shared drive which included the monitoring schedule and updated visit report template. Governors agreed to also assign a link role for each of the 3 priority areas within the new School Development Plan as follows: • Stakeholder Engagement – BB • Evaluative Practice – PMc • Removal of Barriers to Learning – NH LG reminded governors of the various training links that would help support them in these roles – including NGA and Modern Governor.
13.	**Headteacher's Report** LG provided a verbal update and highlighted the following: • There had been a good start to the new academic year with things being generally settled and calm. • Students had welcomed the introduction of the new pupil planners • The Y7 numbers had been significantly lower than expected – 74 instead of 96. The cohort also included higher numbers than normal of students with higher prior attainment. • There had been a noticeable improvement in the wearing of the school uniform. Governor questions Q: What proportion of the new intake were SEND? A: A high proportion. Q: How is the Year 11 cohort ? A: They are a challenging cohort. There are attendance concerns, high levels of need, behavioural challenges and parental engagement is lacking. • Attendance continued to be a priority. One area of concern had been the drop off in attendance in Year 8. Actions had been taken to address this. Q: Have you recruited an Attendance Officer? A: Yes. We are doing everything we can to address attendance including issuing fines when we have to. Annual Safeguarding Report The Report had been shared in advance of the meeting. Governors thanked LG for the detailed report and asked when they would be able to see the plan for this year. LG confirmed that it would be shared at the next meeting. **Action:** Safeguarding Plan for 2025-26 to be shared at the next meeting. **Action:** All governors were reminded to ensure that they completed all mandatory safeguarding training as soon as possible. Pupil Numbers

	LG reported that overall pupil numbers were around 100 lower than last year and that this would have a significant impact on the budget. 481 were on roll currently as compared to 578 at the same time last year. Q: Why did the 20 students who you anticipated would join not come in the end? A: Most of them told us in the holidays that they were moving to other areas. The rest we did not hear from and don't know. LG reported that, on a positive note, a record number of parents attended the open evening in the previous week. The lack of facilities and reputation of the school were things that needed to be addressed if numbers were to increase. LG reported that a Facilities Manager had been appointed and was pro-active in addressing the smaller jobs that needed to be done on site. Recruitment for a caretaker/groundsman was ongoing. <u>Staff Appraisals</u> LG confirmed that staff appraisals were currently being undertaken with a deadline of 24th October for completion. The SEF and SDP had been shared in advance of the meeting. <u>SEF</u> LG explained that the format had been aligned with the new Ofsted Framework and with the School Development Plan and had been shared with the LA at the Autumn Term Planning Meeting. Governors thanked LG for the level of detail in the document which clearly articulated where the school was. <u>SDP</u> LG reported that the SDP was in the process of being finalised and would be shared with governors once completed. The 3 key priorities set out in the SDP were identified as : • Evaluative Practice • Stakeholder Voice • Removal of Barriers to Learning LG confirmed that information about those students already known to social care was stored on the school's management information system. There was a need to improve the systems for identifying any other students who might potentially need support.
14.	**Chair's Update** Item deferred to next meeting.
15.	**Finance** Budget monitoring reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Item deferred to next meeting.
16.	**Policies** Governors approved the following policies subject to a number of small amendments. • Appraisal Policy • Attendance Policy • Behaviour Policy • Child Protection Policy • Health & Safety Policy • Pay Policy • SEND Policy • SEND Information Report • Suspension & Permanent Exclusion Policy

	And noted that the following policies had been approved by the Headteacher • Acceptable Use Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Curriculum Policy • Early Career Teacher Policy • For the Education of Looked After Children • Online Safety Policy • Bereavement Policy (new) **Action:** Governors agreed to defer the consideration of the Charging and Remissions Policy to the next meeting.
17.	**External Reports**. The reports had been shared in advance of the meeting. The item was deferred to the next meeting.
18.	**Governor** All governors confirmed that they had read the 2025 update to Keeping Children Safe in Education. **Statutory Training** All governors were reminded that they needed to complete any outstanding mandatory safeguarding training as a matter of urgency. **Action:** DH agreed to check if any mandatory safeguarding training was outstanding and email each governor individually to confirm. **Remaining items were deferred to the next meeting:** - Link governor reports - Governor Strategic Plan - Governance Healthcheck
19.	**Safeguarding / Health and Safety** No concerns to report.
20.	**AOB** None
21.	**Date of next meeting** **Tuesday 4 November - with training to start at 5pm**

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

<u>Dates of 2025-26 Full Governing Board Meetings</u>
Wednesday 1 October 5pm at the school
Tuesday 4 November 6pm via Teams
Wednesday 17 December 5pm at the school
Tuesday 3 February 6pm via Teams
Tuesday 10 March 5pm at the school
Tuesday 21 April 6pm via Teams
Wednesday 20 May 5pm at the school
Tuesday 30 June 5pm at the school.

Chair:

Date:

Action Log 2025-26

Item	***Actions***	***Lead***
	Actions from 17th June Meeting	
2	*Academisation to be added to autumn term agenda*	*Clerk*
2	*Premises update in autumn term*	*Clerk*
	Actions from 25th June meeting	
5	*To consider whether to write to local MP re premises funding deferred to autumn term.*	*NH*
	Actions from 10th July meeting	
13	*BB to keep a record of governor attendance at future events. (ongoing)*	*BB*
13	*Governors agreed to evaluate the Governor Action Plan at the first meeting in the autumn term.*	*All*
13	*NH to complete the report in the agreed format and to share in advance of the next meeting.*	*NH*
5	*AH/JG/SBM + Bursar meeting deferred to the autumn term – to also review SFVS*	*AH/JG/SBM*
6	*Add a section on the link monitoring visit report template to ask governors to review any relevant priorities in the School Development Plan.*	*LG*
8	*LG to undertake pupil questionnaire in September..* *PM to undertake a further pupil voice on the equality issues on her next visit.*	*LG* *PM*
9	*NH reported that there had been no further progress with regards to the SRMA Review. NH to pick up in September.* *AH/JG/SBM to meet with bursar and review SFVS*	*NH* *AH/JG/SBM*
11	*LG to clarify which policy contained data retention deadlines.*	*LG*
	Actions from 1 October Meeting	
6	Add feedback from the staff health and well-being survey to November meeting agenda. All governors to let BB know when they undertake a school visit to enable BB to maintain the record of visits. (ongoing)	*Clerk* *All*
7	LV and RN to complete the statutory forms at the next availability opportunity.	*LV/RN*
13	Safeguarding Plan for 2025-26 to be shared at the next meeting. All governors were reminded to ensure that they completed all mandatory safeguarding training as soon as possible.	*LG* *ALL*
16	*Review Charging and Remissions Policy at next meeting*	*LG*
18	*DH to email governors detailing any outstanding safeguarding training.*	*DH*