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

Tuesday 10 March 2026 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
John Glahome (JG)	Co-Opted Governor
Amanda Hastings (AH)	Parent Governor
Dean Higham (DH)	Staff Governor
Justine Collie (JC)	Associate Governor
In attendance	

Chris West (CW)	SRMA Consultant
Jon Norden (JN)	Principal Advisor - NYC
Chris Walker (CWa)	Senior Governance Officer and Clerk to the Governors (NYC)

No.	***Item***
	PART 'A:' – Procedural
1.	**Welcome and Apologies for Absence and to determine whether any absences should be consented to.** NH welcomed everyone to the meeting. **Associate Governor Election** JC left the room in order to allow governors to consider her application to join as an Associate Governor. A vote was taken and JC was elected as an Associate Governor with immediate effect. JC rejoined the meeting.
2.	**SRMA Review** DH was not present for this item as it contained confidential staffing information. This item has been recorded in a separate confidential minute. DH joined the meeting at 5.40pm
3.	**Premises/ Health and Safety Update** The Climate Action Plan and Health and Safety Inspection Report had been shared in advance of the meeting. LG confirmed that Jamie Fox had not been able to attend the meeting to present. And reported that: • There had been a further full site health and safety visit since this report. Further actions had been identified and were being addressed. **Action:** LG to share the report at the next meeting. NH highlighted the positive impact that Jamie Fox had had since his appointment particularly in improving the condition of the premises. **Action**: To arrange a site walk around at a future meeting. Governor questions Q: In the report the outstanding high priority items do not appear to have a deadline date? A: This is something we will address. It's also important to flag up the fact that there are too many actions to address at this time – we don't have the resource. There will be a process of prioritization. **Climate Action Plan** LG reported that the plan had been drafted in consultation with staff and students. It was a starting point and the aim was for more ownership by the students. Governor questions Q: How is this plan financed ? A: From the budget – all schools must have a plan. It will need some investment which is

	going to be a challenge. There might be some grants available to help and this is something we are actively exploring. Governors noted that there might be some longer term financial gains to be made arising from the implementation of the plan. Governors suggested that it might be helpful if two additional columns could be added to the plan to include a cost and funding source. Q: Is the Emergency Plan now in place? A: Progress has been made but there are still some unresolved issues regarding the alarm bells. We have been working with suppliers to sort this out but has not been straightforward and has not yet been resolved.
4.	**Apologies for absence and to determine whether any absences should be consented to.** Lara Vinson had sent her apologies in advance of the meeting which were consented to. Ray Nyambira did not attend the meeting. CA reported that he would not be available for around 4 months due to work commitments. AH and KM confirmed that they would need to step down as governors from the end of the summer term.
5.	**To remind Governors of the need to declare interests, pecuniary or non-pecuniary.** There were no declarations of interest or hospitality at this meeting.
6.	**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.** Item 2
7.	**Notification of urgent other business previously notified to the Chair.** None
8.	**To approve the minutes and confidential minutes from the meeting on 3 February 2026.** The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record to be signed by the Chair. All actions had been completed or included on the agenda for this meeting other than: • Any outstanding Prevent training to be completed as soon as possible and notified to the school. LV, RN and JC to complete outstanding forms at the next face to face meeting.
9.	**Headteacher Report** LG provided a verbal update and highlighted the following: • A significant amount of work had been done to improve admissions and the accuracy of the numbers of students likely to join the school in September. The current figure was 85. • This work included liaising closely with the feeder primaries to have informal discussions about the numbers of students likely to join Risedale. This information can then be compared to the census data. • Anecdotal feedback indicated that the reputation of the school in the community was getting better year on year and was having a positive impact on admissions. KM left the meeting for 5 mins at 6.10pm

Governor questions
Q: What do you need to do to hold on to the 85 students to make sure they join in September?
A: We do a lot of work which includes communicating with the families directly, we use social media platforms and undertake our usual planned visits to the local primary schools. There are two transition days as well as extra sessions for the SEND and vulnerable groups of students. The uptake on these has not been as high as we would have expected and feedback has shown that transport has been a key factor. We also work closely with the Y5 cohorts which includes inviting them into the school at various points in the year.

Attendance
Currently at 89.6% which is 0.5% better than at the same point last year.
Persistent Absence (PA) is at 26.3% (27% at the same point last year)
Severely Absent (SA) was 4.5% (6.9% previous year)

The improvement in all categories evidenced the impact of the attendance strategy. The use of rewards had been a key element. The school was on track to exceed its DfE target.

JN reported that the attendance data at most schools at this point was down on the previous year due to national trends in flu and other illness. Risedale was therefore an outlier in this regard.

Suspensions/Exclusions
LG highlighted her concerns with the current levels of suspensions and exclusions which showed a current suspension rate of 34%. Numbers had reduced in recent weeks and it was hoped that this was as a result of the new approach being taken by pastoral leads who were now much more proactive. This approach had had a positive impact at Carr Manor. There had been 200 fewer behaviour incidents logged following this new approach.

Work was ongoing to develop a more systematic approach to the ladder of intervention.

The majority of the suspensions/exclusions were in the current Y11 cohort.

Governor questions
Q: Was this linked to Covid?
A: No – it is a complex picture.

LG reported that every permanent exclusion had only been taken as a last resort after all other options had been explored.

Leadership Capacity
Support was now being provided by Donna Mitchell and Gabby Ireland. Both were experienced senior leaders and were providing support on a part time basis currently with the aim that GL would provide full time support after Easter. The support was covering a range of areas including Behaviour and Data and was helping to address the capacity pressures arising from the vacant Deputy Head position.

Safeguarding
A full report would be shared at the next meeting. LG reported that there continued to be an increase in the number of students with social care involvement and that the capacity of the team was being stretched as there was no Safeguarding Officer in post currently.

Staffing
Appointments included:

- An Attendance Officer who would start September 2026.
- A Head of Food Technology and a Food and Art Technician
- A Finance Officer to start on 1 June.

Timetable changes had been made since the last meeting which had had a positive impact by releasing some teaching capacity and reducing the supply cost.

	Whilst there would be no issues from September, there were some issues in Maths capacity currently. Governor questions Q: How have these changes impacted the SEN students? A: We made sure we undertook all necessary preparations in advance and planned everything carefully with the parents and the students. The Team Teaching approach also means there is always another adult in the classroom. Q: How have staff reacted to the changes? A: DH reported that the impact has been positive for both staff and students and helped to settle the students especially where there are bigger class sizes. LG reported that the key had been the change in the culture with much more attention to detail.
10.	**Quality of Education** The Y11 Term Two data summary had been shared in advance of the meeting. LG reported that she was concerned at the data. This cohort of students had been challenging in previous years and had high levels of poor attendance and behaviour as well as students with high needs. There was a need to improve outcomes rapidly for this cohort but there were concerns about how this could be done with the current staffing pressures and with the lack of consistency in teaching practice in some areas. Work was ongoing to improve forecasting. Governor questions Q: Can we ask for the data to be presented in a way that would be meaningful to us and by subject - for the next DHT to pick up? A: Yes. Q: How much CPD had been put in place for teaching staff and middle leaders? A: We are in the middle of the sessions for middle leaders and will then take to the rest of the staff. Q: How are you monitoring that this training will be effective? A: We are working on this currently – it will be part of the responsibilities of the new DHT once appointed. Q: How are you using the data to drive interventions and how can we be assured that this is being done effectively? A: The LA have provided an extra ten day support from our SEA and this will be a key focus of her work. LG left the meeting at this point for 5 minutes. (7pm) JN also left the meeting for 5 minutes. NH reported that there continued to be significant challenges and pressures but that significant progress was being made. Seventeen significant steps forward had been made since the last meeting for example. NH reported that there had been 14 applications for the DHT position with a number of experienced applicants. Interviews to take place 19th/20th March. Governors agreed to defer the remainder of the agenda items to the next meeting. The meeting closed at 7.15pm

11.	**Looked After Children/Post Looked After Children** Annual Report – item deferred.
12.	**Chair's Update** **Item deferred**
13.	**Finance** **Item deferred**
14.	**Policies** **None**
15.	**External Reports** **Item deferred**
16.	**Governor** **Item deferred**
17.	**Safeguarding / Health and Safety** **Item deferred – item 9 refers.**

18.	**AOB** **None**
19.	**Date of next meeting** **21 April 2026.**

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

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Dates of 2025-26 Full Governing Board Meetings

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.

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*
	Actions from 4 November meeting	
6	Review the results from the Student Survey at December meeting.	Clerk/LG
6	Update on Staff Survey to be discussed at December meeting.	Clerk/LG
11	Update on Governor Action Plan to be discussed at December meeting.	Clerk/NH
	Actions from 14 January meeting	
6	NH to arrange link visit on Quality of Education	NH
6	LG/NH/JN to consider leadership capacity challenges	NH/LG/NH

	Actions from 3 February Meeting	
6	Any outstanding Prevent training to be completed asap.	All
11	To consider the publication of FGB diversity data at next meeting	All
13	Add section on Staff well-being to monitoring template	LG
13	Governor training and Action Plan deferred to next meeting	Clerk
	Actions from 10 March meeting	
3	LG to share Health and Safety Inspection Report at next meeting	LG
3	To arrange a site walk at next face to face meeting	NH