

Alumnis Multi Academy Trust

Board of Directors Minutes

Date:	10.02.2026	Venue:	Teams - Online
--------------	------------	---------------	----------------

Minute Taker:	Jac Robilliard	Chair:	Sian Jenkins
----------------------	----------------	---------------	--------------

Start	17.45	End:	
--------------	-------	-------------	--

Directors in Attendance	Initials	Category	Agenda
Sian Jenkins	SJ	Foundation Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Reflection 2. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies 3. Confidentiality Reminder 4. Declarations of Business Interests 5. Minutes of the Last Meetings 6. Matters arising 7. Educational Update 8. Policies 9. Admissions 2027 10. Trust Update 11. Safeguarding Update 12. Items brought forward at the discretion of the Chair 13. Date of next meeting
Leo Mackenzie	LM	Foundation Director	
Apologies			
David Chaplin	DC	Foundation Director	
Matthew Shanks	MS	Foundation Director	
Absent			
Ignacio Gonzalez-Paramo	IGP	Co-Opted Director	
Also Present			
Mark Blackman	MB	Trust Lead	
Jo Evans	JE	Trust Support	
Jac Robilliard	JR	Trust Business Manager	
Nick Hind	NH	ACE Representative (item 7 only)	

Item	Minutes
1.	<p>Opening Reflections</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present and thanked directors for their continued time and commitment to the children across the Trust.</p>
2.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Chaplin - Annual Leave • Matthew Shanks - Ofsted <p>Ignacio Gonzalez-Paramo - Absent</p> <p>The meeting is not quorate.</p>
3.	<p>Confidentiality Reminder</p> <p>All in attendance were reminded that any information provided and/or discussions undertaken / advice given in the course of part 2 must remain strictly confidential.</p>
4.	<p>Declaration of Business / Pecuniary Business Interests</p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p> <p>Trustees were reminded to raise any relevant interests should they arise during the meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Minutes of the last meetings</p> <p>The Minutes 16.12.2025 and of the Pay Committee Minutes 18/11/2025 & 16/12/2025 were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Not able to be agreed - not quorate.</p>
6.	<p>Matters arising from previous Board minutes above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounts and Letter of Representation to be issued for signature via DocuSign and filed by the auditors. Complete. • Pay Awards to be applied. Complete. <p>No further matters arising.</p>



7.	<p>Education Update</p> <p>Nick Hind and Billy Jawowski from ACE joined the meeting.</p> <p>NH provided a summary of the support provided by ACE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-step induction programme (curriculum, teaching & learning). • Leadership integration into ACE executive leadership meetings. • Alumnis staff visits to ACE schools. • Curriculum documentation shared (on agreement to return if transfer does not proceed). • Joint book scrutiny and curriculum showcase events. • Ofsted framework preparation support. • Regular school visits by ACE leadership team. <p>SJ confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement has been described as highly positive. • Schools feel integrated and supported. • Parents reporting visible improvements (Combe Martin). <p>The Chair expressed formal gratitude to ACE for swift and comprehensive support.</p> <p>NH confirmed that a seconded headteacher is leading both Burlescombe and Webbers schools. He reported the following impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive parent and staff response. • Improved stability. • Reduced parental withdrawals. <p>Risks Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing of leadership decisions. • Staffing stability. • Financial implications. • Need for proactive succession planning. <p><i>LM - Are there significant risks the Board should be aware of?</i></p> <p>NH - Timing, staffing capacity, pupil numbers and estate condition remain primary risks.</p> <p><i>LM - Is there risk of pupil number decline?</i></p> <p>NH - Currently stabilised, but remains a watchpoint.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Board to discuss leadership stability and staffing planning with ACE/LAP at next meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Policies</p> <p>The following Policies had been circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Policies • Intimate Care Policy • Behaviour Policy



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusions • Anti Bullying • Lettings <p>Deferred to next meeting due to lack of quorum for decisions.</p>
9.	<p>Admissions Policies 2027</p> <p>The Admissions Policies 2027 had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes from previous year (apart from date update). • Consultation completed. • No feedback received. <p><i>Can the policy be treated as adopted given no substantive changes?</i></p> <p>JR - Although unchanged, DCC requires formal board ratification with a current date.</p> <p>JR to convene a short additional meeting to formally ratify admissions and outstanding policies.</p>
10.	<p>Trust Update</p> <p>The following documentation had been circulated prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumnis Cashflow Monitoring Jan 26 • Finance Report Dec 25 • Radon Mitigation Design Reports - Clinton and Dolton <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Terms and Conditions of Contract Properteco Nov 2020.pdf 2. Recommendations Dolton C of E Primary School, EX19 8QF.pdf 3. Recommendations Clinton Primary School, EX20 3EQ.pdf • Webbers School Account with Natwest • ELS Visit notes <p>MB shared the current financial position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current cash flow approximately £500k+. • Previous year at same point: £47,200. • £250k DfE loan being repaid (£13k/month). • Second £250k tranche currently repayable; request made to convert to non-repayable grant. <p>SJ - Is the cash surplus due to reduced central services or deferred maintenance?</p> <p>MB - Maintenance ongoing where essential. Surplus due to improved financial management and restructuring.</p> <p>MB shared the current estates and capital position. The key issue is the estate condition across schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incoming trusts unlikely to receive capital allocation for upto 18 months post-transfer. • Urgent Capital Support (UCS) bids required. • Estimated need: up to £3m per trust (ambitious; likely partial award). • Priority focus: roofs and structural issues. • Heating systems less likely to qualify unless failed. • Radon mitigation required. <p>The Directors discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If funding not secured, incoming Trusts may withdraw.



- Alternative Trusts unlikely.
- Closure not considered viable.
- Delay to summer transfer preferable to secure capital.

The Directors were in favour of pursuing urgent capital support bids robustly.

Actions:

- Surveyors to prepare bids.
- MB to continue negotiations with DfE.
- SJ to consider engagement with Regional Director if necessary.

MB raised Radon levels requiring attention - a compliance issue requiring action.

Decision to be deferred to next meeting due to lack of quorum.

JR - A dormant school fund account at Webbers school has been identified.

The Board requested further information - in particular not to close the account until identification of the origin of the funds have been identified. MB to investigate payment source with CFO and finance team.

Safeguarding:

MB reported:

- No significant safeguarding incidents reported.
- DSL oversight in place.
- Section 157/175 audits submitted to Local Authority.
- SCR checks undertaken.

Request from Board - Regular safeguarding and H&S summary report to Board. Head Teachers to provide headline safeguarding and H&S KPIs at next meeting.

Health & Safety

- Radon ongoing.
- Compliance monitored.
- Site Supervisor (Andrew Barrett) acknowledged for work.

School Improvement and Ofsted

MB reported that the Support is being delivered by ACE and LAP.

Board Reflection:

- Written reports required to evidence impact.
- Need measurable indicators of progress.

Action:

- LAP to provide written school improvement update at next meeting.
- ACE to be requested to provide written summary of impact.
- Mid-year progress report requested from Head Teachers.



	<p>The Chair agreed to write to Head Teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanking them for their commitment. • Acknowledging estate challenges. • Recognising positive feedback from ACE/LAP. <p>LSC Membership</p> <p>Gail Morris wishes to remain on Torridge LSC.</p> <p>Decision: Deferred to next quorate meeting.</p>
11.	<p>Safeguarding Updated</p> <p>Covered in above agenda item.</p>
12.	<p>Items brought forward at the discretion of the Chair</p>
13.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Calendar</p> <p>Additional meeting to be scheduled late February (for policies, admissions, urgent approvals). Full Board meeting: 31 March (5:45pm). Chair and Vice Chair to arrange meetings with Kevin (Finance) and Andrew (Estates).</p>

