

Alumnis Multi Academy Trust

Board of Directors Minutes



Date:	23.06.2026	Venue:	Teams - Online
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Minute Taker:	Jac Robilliard	Chair:	Sian Jenkins
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Start	17.45	End:	
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Directors in Attendance	Initials	Category	Agenda
David Chaplin	DC	Foundation Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Reflection 2. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies 3. Confidentiality Reminder 4. Declaration of Business Interests 5. Minutes 6. Matters Arising 7. Education Update 8. Policies 9. Operations and Finance Update 10. Safeguarding Update 11. Committee Reports 12. Items brought forward by the Chair 13. Date and time of next meeting
Leo Mackenzie	LM	Foundation Director	
Matthew Shanks	MS	Foundation Director	
Absent/Apologies			
Sian Jenkins	SJ	Foundation Director	
Mark Blackman	MB	Trust Lead	
Also Present			
Jac Robilliard	JR	Trust Business Manager	
Jo Evans	JE	Consultant	



Item	Minutes
1.	Opening Reflections
2.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>SJ - On a flight (delayed) MB - Medical appointment</p> <div> <p>Decision</p> <p>The Board approved the Application from Susan Carey to sit as a Director on the Board (Coopted) subject to Diocean approval.</p> </div>
3.	Confidentiality Reminder
4.	Declaration of Business Interests
5.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting on 19.5.2026. Directors queried progress on the bespoke support arrangements with ACE and the development of individualised support plans for schools.</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding the use of full names within the minutes, with members preferring the use of initials or roles to maintain confidentiality.</p> <p>MS - Has there been any progress regarding the personalised support arrangements and SLA with ACE?</p> <p>JR - The revised SLA has been received and MB has confirmed that previous feedback from directors has been incorporated, including greater flexibility in the support offer.</p> <p>MS - Can directors review the revised SLA?</p> <p>JR agreed to request that the document be shared with the Board.</p> <div> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous minutes approved subject to amendments regarding removing names in Minutes and replacing them with job title/initials. </div> <div> <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JR to amend references to individuals within the minutes. </div>



- JR to request circulation of the revised ACE SLA to directors.

6. Matters Arising

The Board reviewed outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

Work relating to the policy framework and the distinction between Trust-level and school-level policies remains ongoing.

Actions from last meeting:

- Minor amendment identified: correct "rewrite ink" to "Read Write Inc." Complete
- Publish on website, along with approved Minutes. Complete
- Discuss bespoke support requirements with ACE.

The revised ACE SLA had been completed, although directors requested visibility of the final version to ensure support is tailored to individual schools.

- Ensure Jo Evans attends future review visits where possible.

MS - Will JE continue to support future review visits?

JE - Regular work is nearing completion, but she would be available if further support is required.

- Report back to the Board on revised support arrangements.

The Board discussed arrangements for future review visits and the importance of maintaining independent assurance regarding the quality of support provided by external partners.

- Produce a schedule identifying policies that should remain at Trust level and those to be devolved to schools - Carry forward
- Support schools in adopting appropriate policies from partner trusts where required - Carry forward
- Update the LSC School Visits Policy to remove named individuals and replace with role titled - Complete
- Review references to the outdated Ofsted terminology within policy documentation - Review again
- Bring a revised policy framework proposal to next Board meeting - Carry forward
- Prepare detailed financial forecasts showing future liabilities, assumptions and projected cash positions - Later Agenda item
- Present draft budgets for Board approval at the next budget-setting meeting - Later agenda item
- Confirm governance calendar and provisional ELS meeting dates - Complete
- Consider whether future financial reports should separately identify DfE-supported -KG

LM - What was the intention behind identifying DfE-supported funding separately within financial reports?



The Board wished to understand which funds were genuinely discretionary and which had already been allocated to specific purposes, including loan repayments and redundancy costs.

Decision

- Outstanding policy work will continue and be reported back at the next meeting.
- The Board requested clearer reporting on earmarked and discretionary reserves.

Action

- JR to discuss future review arrangements with MB
- JR to request that the ACE SLA be shared with directors.
- Outstanding policy actions to be carried forward.

7. Educational Update

JE provided a verbal update on educational matters across the schools. No further Ofsted concerns had arisen since the previous meeting.

A parental complaint at St Helen's had prompted additional safeguarding scrutiny. A detailed review had been undertaken, including checking records relating to vulnerable pupils and triangulating evidence with staff accounts. No significant safeguarding failures were identified, although opportunities to strengthen practice were noted.

The Board reflected on the reduced visibility of safeguarding matters since responsibilities had transferred to receiving trusts and expressed a desire for more regular reporting.

LM - Why are safeguarding matters no longer routinely reported to the Board?

JE - Safeguarding responsibilities now sit within the Trust support arrangements and SLAs. Regular reports should therefore form part of those agreements.

MS - Should trust representatives provide formal updates at Board meetings?

Members agreed that this should become standard practice, particularly for safeguarding and school improvement matters.

Decision

- Safeguarding and school improvement reports from trusts should become standing agenda items.



	<p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure future SLAs include requirements for regular Board reporting. • Add trust improvement and safeguarding updates to future agendas.
8.	<p>Policies</p> <p>The revised LSC Visits Policy (updated) was presented following amendments requested at the previous meeting.</p> <p>One remaining reference to outdated Ofsted terminology was identified.</p> <p>DC - Can the policy be approved subject to this final amendment?</p> <p>Members agreed that approval could proceed once the terminology had been updated.</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Visits Policy approved, subject to amendment. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JR to remove remaining outdated Ofsted references.
9.	<p>Operations and Finance Update</p> <p>Finance Report May 2026 and Cash Flow Monitoring May 2026</p> <p>KG presented the financial position to the end of May.</p> <p>The Trust is forecasting an in-year surplus of £393,000, although redundancy costs of approximately £170,000 have not yet been incorporated.</p> <p>The Board discussed whether available reserves should be used to address urgent maintenance needs in schools, particularly given ongoing delays in academy transfers. Members expressed concern that pupils and staff had experienced prolonged uncertainty and questioned whether maintaining the status quo remained appropriate.</p> <p>Significant discussion focused on expectations that Alumnis should undertake capital works requested by ACE prior to transfer.</p> <p>LM - Are the reported reserves genuinely available for discretionary spending?</p>



KG - Some funds are already committed, including DfE loan repayments and redundancy costs. Further work is needed to distinguish discretionary funds from committed expenditure.

How will reserves be divided if schools transfer to different trusts?

KG - The likely approach would be proportional allocation, potentially based on pupil numbers, although historical investment may also need consideration.

MS - Should the Board consider funding urgent repairs itself?

Members agreed that a clearer picture of priority repairs and available discretionary funding was required before any decisions could be made.

[MAT internal audit final report](#)

Kevin reported that the internal audit undertaken by Devon Audit Partnership had concluded with a rating of Substantial Assurance.

No recommendations for improvement had been made.

The Board acknowledged the work undertaken by both KG and the Finance Lead (SC) in strengthening financial systems and controls.

JR provided an update on the proposed transfer of schools to receiving trusts.

LAP schools are currently expected to transfer on 1 October; queries in relation to the recent CIF applications have delayed the transfer date.

ACE has submitted revised capital proposals to the DfE, which include ACE's expectations that Alumnis fund certain works before transfer. Directors expressed significant concern regarding this position.

A broader discussion took place regarding whether all schools should instead transfer to LAP, given the continued delays and perceived differences in approach between the two trusts.

MS - Could LAP take all nine schools?

JR - Previous DfE advice indicated this would not be supported, although members acknowledged that circumstances may have changed since those discussions took place.

LM - Are ACE's requirements realistic given the Trust's current resources?

JR - MB has indicated that current expectations exceed the financial resources available to Alumnis and further discussions will be required.

[3 Year draft budget](#)

KG presented the draft three-year budget.

Year 1 shows a projected surplus, although Years 2 and 3 indicate deficits due to declining pupil numbers and associated funding reductions.

Members discussed the importance of maintaining sufficient contingency to support pupils requiring alternative provision and transport, particularly where local authority funding is not immediately available.



JE - Is there sufficient contingency for alternative provision and transport costs?

KG - Contingency funding has been included for unknown costs, although further consideration may be required depending on future needs.

Decisions

- Greater visibility of discretionary reserves and priority maintenance requirements is required before future decisions are made.
- The Board noted and welcomed the positive audit outcome.
- The Board agreed that alternative transfer arrangements should be explored informally prior to the next meeting.
- The final three-year budget will be presented for approval at the July meeting.

Actions

- KG to provide a breakdown of discretionary and committed reserves.
- KG to identify priority maintenance requirements and associated costs.
- LM and SJ to explore options regarding transfer arrangements and report back.
- KG to prepare information regarding available reserves and urgent maintenance priorities.
- KG to consider whether additional contingency provision is required within future budgets.

10. Safeguarding Update

Provided by JE above.

11. Committee Reports

The Board discussed the purpose and focus of review visits scheduled for September.

Decisions

The Board agreed that the focus of future visits should be:

- The nature and quality of support provided by receiving trusts.
- Evidence of the impact of that support within schools.

Actions



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David to prepare the visit programme accordingly.
12.	Items brought forward by the Chair
13.	<p>Date and time of next meetings</p> <p>14/07/2026 - MS to attend via telephone.</p>

