

# Minutes – Summerhill Academy Council

**Version:** Approved  
**Date** Monday 22 September 2025  
**Location:** Summerhill Academy  
**Time:** 4.30 pm

Type	Name	Link Role/date	Term Expires	In Attendance
Sponsor 1 - Chair	Kerry Francis (KF)		11/07/2026	Y
Sponsor 2	Zuwena Reid-Bailey (ZRB)	PP, LAC & EDI	07/10/2025	Y
Sponsor 3	Mike Eatwell (ME)	SEND	15/11/2027	Y
Sponsor 4	Lydia Mantle (LM)	Safeguarding	04/07/2027	Y
Sponsor 5	Vacancy			
Parent 1	Dominic Smith (DS)		01/02/2028	Y
Parent 2	Kate Strong (KS)		01/02/2028	Y
Teacher	Luke Wilson-Reid (LWR)		13/10/2026	Y
Support Staff	Lily Lowther (LL)		13/10/2026	Y
<b>In Attendance</b>				
Principal	Chris Barratt (CB)		STAFF	Y
Education Director	Kate Richardson (KR)		STAFF	Y
Student Advocate	Kirsty McLeod – Hughes (KMH)			Y
Clerk	Wendy Hellin (WH)		STAFF	Y

Action No	Action	Owner
03.02.25 01	CB to consider introducing bar badges for library monitors. Update: The school is still looking at different roles children have in school. <b>Ongoing</b>	CB

	Description	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Introductions</b>	
1.1	KMH welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies are recorded above.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1	No new declarations were made.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Academy Council Updates</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Membership</b>	
3.1.1	ZRB's term of office comes to an end in October 2025; this will mean there are two sponsor Councillor vacancies at that time. The election for Vice Chair will carry over to the next meeting. Link roles will be confirmed at the next meeting.	<b>KF WH</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
4.1	The minutes of the meeting of 30 June 2025 were agreed as accurate.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
5.1	The action table (above) has been updated. Actions to carry forward are included in a table at the foot of these minutes.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Academy Council Report - Outcomes overview</b>	
6.1	Due to the shorter meeting (to allow for training time) the Academy Council Report has been replaced with a summer results overview. This has been circulated in advance.	
6.2	CB took Governors through the results, highlighting key areas as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are very happy with the results this year.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The combined figure was 89% (against a national average of 62%), slightly lower than the 94% achieved in the last two years, however, it was a quite challenging cohort. There was one child, predicted to have strong results, that was stuck overseas and who could not therefore take the test; the overall combined figure would have been 91% with that child included.</li> <li>This year the overall combined figure is predicted to be over 90%, with greater depth being around 20%.</li> <li>Reading by groups – all ARE measures are above national averages. There is still a PP/non-PP gap, and the closure of this gap is a key target for 2025/26. There is strong SEND data, particularly for SEND K, including for greater depth, and strong EAL data.</li> <li>Writing by groups – all ARE measures are above national averages. Greater depth is in line with national as in previous years.</li> <li>Maths by groups – all ARE measures are above national averages. For greater depth there has been a drop, particularly for the PP cohort. This is cohort specific and is targeted to reverse for 2025/26. There will be a PP gap this year, but it will be narrowed from last year.</li> <li>Results by ethnicity group – There are no outliers, with all groups looking relatively in line with whole school data. There are some small group sizes included – there are 17 different ethnicities represented in the school.</li> <li>Year 4 Multiplication check results – These are above the national average and above the CLF average. There is a small PP/non-PP gap.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Questions from Academy Councillors</b>	
<b>6.3.1</b>	<p><b>The national average data is shown. Have you got regional data for Bristol?</b></p> <p>No, we do not yet have regional data. The DfE is undertaking data checking exercises and league tables should be released in December.</p>	
<b>6.3.2</b>	<p><b>What is SEND E and SEND K?</b></p> <p>SEND E represents those children with an EHCP. SEND K are those children on the SEND register.</p>	
<b>6.3.3</b>	<p><b>How were the results for greater depth?</b></p> <p>Last year was a strong year for greater depth combined which was previously 9%; last year it is 6%. There is cohort variability. The high/low data points for Summerhill Academy are strong, so even when there is a slight dip, we tend to be strong against national averages and CLF data. There was a dip last year, but it is targeted to be stronger this year.</p>	
<b>6.3.4</b>	<p><b>You mentioned the wider PP gap in respect of maths. How will you reduce the PP gap this year?</b></p> <p>We will do this through the Summerhill Way. It is everyone’s priority to make it happen and it is driven through the core team meetings. We look at the data and trends and have conversations around how we can meet need and put things in place. It allows us to be forensic in looking at what each child needs to move them on.</p>	
<b>6.3.5</b>	<p><b>Does the quality of teaching change as you approach the exams? Do you focus on how to pass the assessment?</b></p> <p>No, we definitely do not teach children how to pass the tests, the focus is on helping them to attain. We do have a focus on assessment techniques throughout the year and on SEMH approaches, to ensure children are not additionally challenged in terms of accessing the assessment, and are not unduly stressed by the tests, but the quality of teaching remains right through the year. Reading and writing is taught through the whole curriculum, through being historians or geographers etc. We run the same raising attainment systems through years 3 - 5 as well as in Year 6 to ensure children are introduced gently to the assessment process early on. This helps to build some resilience that will be valuable to them as they face the pressures life will bring. Some anecdotal feedback from colleagues at BBA has been received, that says that students that join them in Year 7, from Summerhill, have powerful voices and that the students are ‘shining stars’.</p>	

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6.3.6	<p><b>In terms of Summerhill being such a diverse school, how does that translate if the child's English is weak or non-existent? How are children supported to learn the emotional language and cultural differences?</b></p> <p>EAL data is stronger than the whole school data across reading writing and maths. We actively teach tier 2 vocabulary words. Many of the children are not just bilingual but can speak three or more languages. This cognitive learning often translates into the rest of the curriculum.</p>	
6.3.7	<p><b>How many children are in the current Year 6 cohort?</b></p> <p>There are 58 children of a possible 60 in Year 6. Year 4 is not quite full, Year 3 is nearly full. The infant school has high numbers in each year group so there are good numbers coming up.</p>	
6.4	<b>Safeguarding</b>	
6.4.1	<p>LM advised that she had met with Louise Dunbar to discuss safeguarding. LM reported that it had been a very positive meeting. The things now in place are taking root and overall, the data shows that the number of safeguarding incidents is dropping. The Year 3 and 6 cohorts are fairly stable; there are some challenges in years 4 and 5. CB confirmed that Year 6 is a relatively settled groups. The Year 3 children coming up from the infant school do not include any children with EHCPs and as yet none are predicted. There are a couple of children that need additional external support and there are some challenges in securing this. The team is getting better and better each year at dealing with those issues, against a background of extremely overstretched external services.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Agenda planning for the year</b>	
7.1	<p>It was confirmed that the governance team have provided template agendas for each meeting, that include all of the annual agenda planning items. There is also space on each agenda for academy specific priorities.</p>	
7.2	<p>CB confirmed that the academy would be in the Ofsted inspection window from March 2026, which was four years since the last inspection. The new Ofsted framework has been introduced and whilst inspectors are trained, there will be no inspections until December. At that point inspections will commence for those schools that had volunteered for early inspection. As such, it is unlikely that Summerhill Academy will be inspected before January 2026. The new framework introduces 5 judgement descriptors: Exceptional, Strong, Expected Standard, Requires Attention and In need of Urgent Attention. The new framework includes seven inspection areas, that include safeguarding, curriculum and teaching, attendance and behaviour, personal development and wellbeing, achievement, leadership and governance, and inclusion.</p>	
7.3	<p>The four areas of the Academy Improvement Plan were confirmed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attendance</li> <li>○ SEND – adaptive teaching</li> <li>○ Achievement across the curriculum</li> <li>○ Partnerships working with key stakeholders/organisations to improve community support offer</li> </ul> <p>It is these headline areas that the Academy Council will focus on, throughout the meetings this year, to ensure progress is being made and actions are on track.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Policies</b>	
8.1	<p>The Academy Council noted the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CLF Health and Safety Policy</li> </ul>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Matters for the attention of the Board / COAC</b>	
9.1	No matters were raised for escalation to the board or COAC.	
<b>10</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
10.1	<p>It was noted that this meeting is ZRB's last meeting. Academy Councillors joined CB in thanking ZRB for her commitment and contribution to the AC over the last four years.</p>	
10.2	<p>Next meeting: CLF Board Strategic meeting – Wednesday 24 September 2025, 5pm – All Academy Councils are invited.</p>	

	Description	Action
<b>11</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	
11.1	Training – Governance Essentials and Safeguarding	
	Staff colleagues and staff Councillors left the meeting. KF, KS, DS and LM remained to complete training on Governance Essentials and Safeguarding.	

**Actions Carried Forward:**

Action No	Action	Owner
03.02.25 01	CB to consider introducing bar badges for library monitors. Update: The school is still looking at different roles children have in school. <b>Ongoing</b>	CB
22.09.25 01	The election for Vice Chair will carry over to the next meeting. Link roles will be confirmed at the next meeting.	KF WH

The following link roles were confirmed:

Safeguarding – Lydia Mantle

SEND – Mike Eatwell

Disadvantaged (inc PP, LAC) and EDI – VACANT