

Minutes – Snowdon Village Academy

Meeting Date: 25 November 2025
Location: Teams
Time: 3.30pm

Brigid Allen (BA)	Sponsor Councillor & Chair
Gary Leleivre (GL)	Teacher Councillor
Hannah Martin (HM)	Sponsor Councillor – Vice Chair
Vacancy	Sponsor Councillor
Deniece Dixon (DD)	Sponsor Councillor (left at 4.45pm)
Vacancy	Teacher Councillor
Vacancy	Parent Councillor
Vacancy	Support Staff Councillor
Vacancy	Parent Councillor

In Attendance:

Sue Burns (SB)	Clerk
Alex Davies (AD)	Principal
Tracy French (TF)	Executive Principal (joined at 4.10pm)
Hope Allen (HA)	Nest Centre Lead
Catherine Hickey (CH)	(Observing)

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	HM welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the staff for all the documents that were prepared and circulated in advance.	
1.2	No apologies were necessary.	
1.3	<i>The quorum is 3 – only one of whom can be a Staff Councillor. If there is less than 3 in the meeting then the meeting cannot make any decisions or approve any policies, or minutes of the last meeting.</i> The meeting was quorate.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	The Academy Councillors confirmed that they had no change to their pecuniary interests.	
3.0	The Nest – Hope Allen	
3.1	We had zero suspensions during Term 1. All of the children returned from summer holiday and settled and engaged. We also welcomed some new pupils.	
3.2	One of our focuses this term is appropriate table manners because that's not always modelled at home.	
3.3	We had a celebratory end of term trip, but Pizza Hut went into administration, so we went into McDonalds and they demonstrated their table manners.	
3.4	A lot of students have received a ruby gem for kindness which is lovely to see.	
3.5	In T1 our topic was Space, and the children enjoyed the Science heavy curriculum. DT was also popular.	
3.6	We've been developing children's Maths skills with weekly skills builders.	

3.7	PSHE has explored relationships and cyber bullying. Life skills include healthy eating, and they have had hockey lessons in PE.	
3.8	We visited We the Curious and the Planetarium and also had a visit to the local library and our local church to celebrate Harvest Festival.	
3.9	We have termly classroom readiness assessments, and the children have worked hard on those skills.	
3.10	How do you track the academic progress of children? We use a range of different assessments including benchmark assessments on arrival. We assess them to see if they can move up book bands and they have Phonics lessons throughout the week if required. English and Maths has tailored targets because not all children are working at ARE.	
3.11	What sort of impact are you seeing in Maths and English? We redesigned the curriculum to ensure they develop skills that they need in a mainstream classroom.	
3.12	Do you track children once they leave The Nest? Yes, we have a tracker where we can record follow-up information.	
3.13	We had an ARV in T1 that focused on Maths which included two children with high needs who struggle to attend Maths lessons. We are going to work with the CLF Maths Lead to see if we can improve our pacing.	
3.14	AR: One of the things that SVA does is to support children outside of the classroom, therefore the ARV was a great opportunity to quality assure a trip and the learning intentions behind it.	
3.15	[REDACTED]	
3.16	[REDACTED]	
3.17	What are your key priorities this year? The ARV indicated that we need to focus on the delivering the right curriculum at the right time. We are also developing our support for pupils who need something a little more specialist whilst awaiting an EHCP.	
3.18	We are also setting expectations for the home schools to accept professional development as well as challenging home schools about why an Ed Psych referral wasn't done earlier.	
3.19	We are continuing to explore how we can change a child's placement as they move towards the end of it to emulate the provision they will get in their mainstream setting.	
3.20	SD: Hope overseas Health and Safety across SVA and the H&S Audit has achieved Outstanding again.	
3.21	I'm very proud that we have been able to retain outstanding at SVA – the team work well together.	
3.22	<i>The Academy Council tanked Hope for her informative report and congratulated her on the Outstanding achievement in the H&S Audit.</i>	
Safeguarding - BA		
3.23	I have a termly safeguarding meeting, and the processes feel robust and embedded.	
3.24	AD: We have a strong safeguarding team, and we held a CLF Safeguarding Culture Day at SVA to identify any areas of additional training, as well as offering an insight into our commissioning arrangements and our requirements for agency staff.	
3.25	Specialised and ALP targets are being developed to reflect that our provision and targets are different. We are working together as a sector and sharing best practice with mainstream schools across the Trust.	

Risk Register		
3.26	<p>What are the top three risks for SVA?</p> <p>Commissioning: We have new leadership in post at the LA which is encouraging.</p> <p>Estates: HQ requires refurbishment. We share estates and that creates issues around heating provision and water at BFA.</p> <p>Recruitment and Retention: We have a strong team, but we are still carrying vacancies.</p>	
3.27	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	
3.28	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	
3.29	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	
4.0 Minutes of the last meeting		
4.1	The minutes of the meeting on 17 th June 2025 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.	
5.0 Actions and Matters Arising		
5.1	<p>AD to arrange for the AC to receive regular updates about the outreach provision at Kingswood – Completed. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] All the Y11 students have been entered for their Maths GCSE and the Y11 mock outcomes will be available next term. Attendance and engagement have been good for the three Y11 students and one Y10 student.</p> <p><i>AD gave individual updates for each student.</i></p> <p>How much support is the new member of staff getting to deliver the AQA exam papers? She meets regularly with our English department and new Associate Assistant Principal because our focus as a school is English. The Trust English Lead is providing moderation for the English team. We plan for the mocks carefully to ensure the children aren't overloaded.</p> <p>GL: Staff at BFA and HQ are appreciating the organised and cohesive structure for the delivery of mocks and the PSHE curriculum following the appointment of the new AAP. Last year the mock process was intimidating for the students and they were dysregulated, but this time the new streamlined process has been empowering.</p> <p>What does success look like for Outreach students? We aspire for all children to leave with a GCSE in English and Maths. If a child has complex needs, then we can look at an entry level paper. But typically, our children are academically able and have experienced turmoil and a lot of missed education.</p> <p>How many questions do students have to answer to get a Grade 1? If we support them with question five which carries 40% of the marks, then they should comfortably be able to achieve a Level 1 as a minimum.</p> <p>How will you evaluate the Y10 child?</p>	

	<p>She has some complex issues outside of school and we are supporting her through that process.</p> <p>Have you started transition arrangements for the next destination for the Y11 students? Yes. We have a celebration evening next week which will be attended by next step providers. Kay Sarpong our previous Vice Principal is going to attend as an alumni inspiration for education and law. The CLF Careers Lead has also met all of our Y11 students at BFA.</p> <p>ACTION: Laura Blacker to present destination data at the next meeting.</p>	
6.0	Policies	
6.1	None.	
7.0	Governance	
7.1	Catherine Hickey's term of office ended on 11 November 2025. She has confirmed that she would like to be re-appointed.	
7.2	Aderonke Faschade resigned wef 11 November 2025. <i>The AC thanked Aderonke for her support and commitment during her term of office.</i>	
7.3	There are two Sponsor AC vacancy, two Parent AC vacancies and a Support Staff AC vacancy.	
8.0	Matters for the attention of the Board	
8.1	None.	
9.0	AOB	
9.1	None	