

Ad Meliora Academy Trust

Academy Committee Newsletter

Summer term 2026



Welcome to our Summer Term Academy Committee newsletter for parents and carers. In this edition, we share an overview of the outcomes from our spring term monitoring, outline the key areas we will be focusing on this term, and report on the findings from our recent governance self-evaluation. We also highlight two further areas of responsibility delegated to Academy Committees by the Directors: the effectiveness of the curriculum and the systems in place to support pupils' wellbeing.

Welcome from our Chairs of the Academy Committees

As Academy Committee members, our role is to work with the headteacher and senior leadership team to ensure that the academies provide the best possible education, care and opportunities for all pupils. This newsletter is one way we aim to keep parents and carers informed about our work and priorities.



Chairs of our Academy Committees



Mike Douglass



Tommy Goode



Richard Curtis

Spring term monitoring – what we found out

During the spring term, Academy Committee members spent time in each academy monitoring a key priority from the Academy Improvement Plan. This involved meeting with leaders, looking at evidence of impact and gaining a first-hand understanding of how planned actions are supporting pupils' learning, well-being and overall academy improvement.



Blenheim Park Academy – Academy Committee members recently reviewed the teaching of spelling across the academy and were pleased to see a strong and well-thought-out approach to spelling.

The English Lead has introduced a revised spelling scheme which is carefully designed around pupils' needs and informed by the outcomes of the most recent writing audit.



Lesson visits confirmed that spelling is being taught consistently in line with this approach, supported by ongoing professional development and individual guidance for teachers. We also saw evidence in pupils' work of a broader and more confident use of vocabulary, and noted that the teaching of phonics was strong in the classes observed. Lessons were appropriately differentiated to meet the needs of pupils with different abilities.



Greenpark Academy – Academy Committee members recently reviewed challenge in mathematics lessons and were pleased with what was seen. Curriculum leaders are confident, proactive and passionate about their subjects, with a clear understanding of what has been achieved and the next steps for improvement.

We saw strong evidence of progress in maths this year, including well-prepared lessons with a wide range of resources available for pupils. Pupils were engaged in their learning and making good use of resources. It was noted that more able pupils were appropriately challenged and did not have to wait for others before moving on.

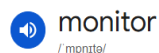
Reffley Academy – Academy Committee members recently reviewed provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and identified a number of strengths.

Staff throughout the academy demonstrate a strong and inclusive ethos and are knowledgeable about SEND, supported by effective leadership from the Headteacher and SENDCo. Pupils spoke positively about the support they receive in lessons, expressed pride in their work and achievements, and felt that help is available when they need it.



Summer term monitoring

This term we are monitoring the following things:



/ˈmɒnɪtə/

verb

gerund or present participle: **monitoring**

observe and check the progress or quality of (something) over a period of time; keep under systematic review.

1. Safeguarding

We will do our third check of the academy's Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is a statutory document that all schools in the UK must maintain and keep up to date. It records the required pre-employment checks for all staff and volunteers who work in the academy, helping to ensure that everyone is suitable to work with children. Our role is to provide assurance that the SCR is complete, accurate and regularly updated, so that safeguarding remains robust.





2. Pupil Premium – the Academy Committee includes a committee member who acts as a champion for pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding. This role involves overseeing how the funding is spent and ensuring it is used effectively to support pupils' learning, well-being and wider opportunities. We monitor the impact of this funding to confirm that it is making a positive difference to the educational and social outcomes for the pupils who are eligible.

3. Parent and carer surveys - we carry out an annual parent and carer survey to gather your views and experiences of the academies and to ensure that these help inform our work. The survey provides valuable feedback on what is working well and highlights any areas where improvements could be made.



4. Academy improvement – This term we are looking at the third priority within the academy improvement plans. As part of our monitoring, we will spend time talking to leaders, spending time in classrooms, talking to pupils and looking at their work.

Blenheim Park Academy



Developing outdoor learning opportunities

Greenpark Academy



The teaching of spelling

Reffley Academy



To evaluate and expand the effective use of ICT for staff and pupils

Governance self-evaluation

Academy Committee members across the Trust have recently completed a self-evaluation of the work of each Academy Committee to reflect on how effectively members support and challenge their academies. Overall, responses from all three academies were very positive, with the large majority of Academy Committee members agreeing or strongly agreeing that they are effective in their role.



Academy Committee members reported that they understand their responsibilities, including how they assure themselves that the Trust remains compliant, that they have sufficient time to carry out their role, and that they regularly take part in training to further develop their skills. Across all academies, Academy Committee members feel respected, confident to share their views, and able to ask challenging questions when needed. The evaluation confirmed a strong understanding of each academy's vision, values and ethos, and a shared belief that Academy Committee members make a positive difference to their academy communities.

The self-evaluations also showed that all Academy Committees benefit from a broad and balanced range of skills, with no significant gaps identified.

A small number of development points were highlighted and are already being addressed through targeted training and tailored support, ensuring Academy Committee members continue to strengthen their impact.



SEND training was the most frequently requested area and has been prioritised for the summer term. To support continuous improvement, the governance effectiveness evaluation will be repeated in Spring 2027, allowing Academy Committees to track progress over time and identify any emerging priorities

Delegated responsibilities 3 and 4

One of the key areas Academy Committees focus on is the effectiveness of the curriculum, as this directly impacts what children learn and how well they are prepared for the next stage of their education. Academy Committees look at whether the curriculum is well sequenced, inclusive and ambitious for all pupils, and whether it meets the needs of different learners. This helps ensure that pupils develop the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to achieve well and enjoy their learning.



Academy Committees also place great importance on the systems in place to support pupils' well-being. Children who feel safe, supported and valued are better able to learn and thrive.

By monitoring how the academy promotes emotional well-being, behaviour, attendance and personal development, Academy Committees help to ensure that pupils are supported not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. This balanced focus supports pupils to grow into confident, resilient learners.

Academy Committee vacancies.

We are currently looking for 1 community member and 1 parent/carer Academy Committee member to join our friendly Academy Committees.



1 community member
vacancy



No vacancies



1 parent/carer
vacancy



No vacancies

If you are interested or know of somebody else who would be then please get in touch with our Governance Manager who will be pleased to give you more information – penny.folkard@admtrust.org.uk