

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Minutes of the Education Committee held virtually on Wednesday 22nd September 2025 at 3pm.

Trustees: Mr S Spry (Chair of Committee) and Mrs A Firth

Also Present: Mr L Sargeant (Headteacher, Devonport High School for Girls), Ms J Fieldwick (CEO, Brunel Academies Trust). Mrs J Blunden (Chief Executive Officer), Mrs B Couch (Head of Corporate Governance), Mr C Gould (Director of Education), Mrs J Woodhouse (Secondary Education Lead).

Mrs M Lock (Hayle Academy Headteacher) and Mrs R Nile (Nanpean School Headteacher) for item 4.

Apologies: None

Item	Decision	Action
1.	Apologies No apologies were received; all members were in attendance.	
2.	Governance business <u>Education Committee Terms of Reference</u> The committee terms of reference previously approved by the full Trust board were DISCUSSED, clarification was sought regarding the quorum and membership. The current committee quorum of one Trustee was DISCUSSED and it was NOTED that this is due to the committee consisting of professionals external to the Trust and not just Trustees. It was AGREED that this would be highlighted to Trustees at the next full board meeting for discussion. <u>Election of chair of committee</u> Mr Simon Spry was elected as Chair of the Committee. <u>Declaration of interests</u> Those present in the meeting DISCUSSED declaration of interests and NOTED forms will be circulated to all members. Mr S Spry disclosed his child attends Mr L Sargeant's school. No other relevant declarations were made.	Head of CG Head of CG

3.	Director of Education Report The previously circulated report was NOTED with the following highlighted discussion: <u>Primary Outcomes</u> The committee reviewed the summer 2025 results. Some schools showed improvement, notably St Dennis however the number of schools gaining national year on year had not increased dramatically. The trust average for RWM was again above national and had increased slightly on the previous year. Writing was in a very positive position as a result of the focus on moderation but reading remained a focus. A detailed breakdown of schools not meeting the combined measure was presented, with contextual data on cohort sizes and SEND proportions. Questions were raised about the impact of small cohort sizes and SEND on performance. It was acknowledged that while context matters, aspirations must remain high. A new data system (Insight) has been adopted to improve reporting and analysis. Half-termly pupil progress meetings and standardised formats are being introduced so there is much more rigour and consistency. <u>Secondary Outcomes</u> Key Stage 4 outcomes were discussed, with improvements noted in some schools, particularly Helston. Challenges included teacher absence, curriculum ambition, and engagement of disadvantaged pupils. Strategies such as centralised curriculum planning, targeted interventions, and increased school improvement capacity were outlined. Questions focused on the accuracy of predictions, support for high-attaining pupils, and the impact of cultural shifts in schools. The Director of Secondary emphasised the work of their new expanded team ADEs and what the impact of these roles would be.	
4.	<u>Tier 3 School Discussions</u> The committee DISCUSSED the tier 3 schools being those priority school currently receiving intensive Trust support. Mrs M Lock, Headteacher at Hayle Academy, joined the meeting: Discussions were had surrounding the discrepancies between predicted and actual outcomes with Mrs Lock responding to questions and outlining the	

	measures to improve accuracy, including removing prediction bias and enhancing moderation. Mrs Lock outlined the targeted interventions for disadvantaged pupils, including mentoring and staff briefings. Questions and discussions included exploring support for non-disadvantaged and higher-attaining pupils. The school is embedding exemplars and scaffolding strategies to raise ambition. The committee THANKED Mrs Lock for her attendance and input. Mrs R Nile, Headteacher at Nanpean School, joined the meeting. Mrs Nile outlined the actions that have been taken since her appointment as Headteacher, including curriculum development, lesson structure improvements, and cultural change. The support from cluster schools and Trust leaders was outlined and described as effective and focused. Mrs Nile answered questions around the prioritisation of support and staff engagement. It was confirmed that HR processes are in place to manage staffing issues, where necessary. It was reported that year 6 provision has been strengthened with additional staffing, and early signs of improvement are evident. This was a result of the secondment of a teacher from a trust school. The committee THANKED Mrs Nile for her attendance and input. Following the attendance of both Headteacher, the committee reflected on the structure of the meeting and found the inclusion of headteachers valuable for triangulating data and understanding school-level strategies. The committee NOTED that the virtual meeting format helped maintain a supportive and non-intimidating environment.	
5.	Date of Next Meeting Friday 16th January 2026, 1pm – Microsoft Teams.	