



**RICHARD HUISH TRUST
AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING**

4th March 2025 at 5:00pm

Virtual only via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members present: Dan Maycock (Chair)
Jade Renville
Olivia Salaman

In attendance: John Abbott (CEO)
Paul Lonsdale (CFO)
Richard Anderson (IT & Facilities Director)
Jessica Doyle (Finance Manager)
Helen Morley (Headteacher)

Clerk: Helen Wells (Governance Specialist)

MINUTES

AUD 24/95	1. MEETING FORMALITIES This followed item 2.1.	Action
	1.1 Welcome and apologies for absence The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, Apologies were received from Pat Flaherty. The meeting was quorate.	
AUD 24/96	1.2 Declaration of interests None of the committee members present had declarations to make in relation to items on the agenda.	
AUD 24/97	1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting Directors agreed the minutes of the previous meeting on 14 th January 2025 were accurate and the Chair consented for his electronic signature to be used to formally sign them off.	
AUD 24/98	1.4 Matters arising Directors discussed the matters arising report noting all items as complete or pending with the context outlined in the paper as appropriate.	
	2. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW	
AUD 24/99	2.1 Overview of risk - North Curry Primary School This was taken as the first item.	
	The Chair welcomed Helen Morley to the meeting.	
AUD 24/100	The Nursery remains a risk financially, the aim is to increase numbers and to extend the contractual hours for the children attending. Different models to expand the nursery provision are being investigated to address the deficit. The Nursery Manager is now line managed by the Director of Nurseries, the oversight of the nursery finances and operations remains the responsibility of the headteacher.	

Signed:.....*Dan Maycock*..... Date:....7th May 2025.....

AUD 24/101	<p>Will there be children all year round in the nursery?</p> <p>The nursery is now open all year round 8am-6pm, the existing contracts for other children were kept as they were for the first year, all new children and from this September will be on the new 8am-6pm contract.</p>
AUD 24/102	<p>Has this had any detrimental impact on recruitment to the nursery?</p> <p>There remains good demand for the provision with working families who need the 8am to 6pm service.</p>
AUD 24/103	<p>Teaching at Key Stage 2 (KS2) is an emerging area of risk due to the resignation last year of a very experienced long-standing KS2 teacher. To mitigate the risk the progress of children in the upper end of KS2 has been tracked very closely with timely interventions put in place; initial indicators show that the children should perform very well in their SATs. Directors noted that this is very encouraging. Directors discussed the movement of children into and out of the school and whether this could be a risk to KS2 outcomes.</p>
AUD 24/104	<p>The staffing and class structure remains a risk due to the size of the school and the flux of class sizes across year groups within the facilities available. This can impact on the tracking of the curriculum pupils have covered over the years, this risk is now being mitigated through the use of a software programme that helps address this more efficiently. Directors noted the challenges of working with the tight margins within the school.</p>
AUD 24/105	<p>The school buildings consist of a main structure and several temporary classrooms, this remains a risk financially due to the cost of maintaining them. There may be additional funds available if there are new houses built in the village, directors discussed how this might work. The ideal would be to replace the temporary classrooms with permanent facilities in the long term. There are not currently any plans to increase the PAN above 25 but this will be reviewed in line with recruitment at the nursery.</p>
AUD 24/106	<p>There is a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection due next year which is led by the diocese which is important to achieve a good outcome from. There is also the ongoing risk of not achieving a positive Ofsted outcome at the next inspection. This is tied into the perception of parents and potential parents of existing/future pupils in the village. Directors discussed the approach of the SIAMS inspection, noting similarities and differences with Ofsted.</p>
AUD 24/107	<p>Is there much need for SEND funding for pupils at North Curry?</p> <p>There are very low numbers of children with SEND at North Curry compared to other Huish academies, but they do have experience of working to ensure funding is in place for pupils.</p> <p>The chair thanked the headteacher for attending.</p> <p>Helen Morley left the meeting.</p>
AUD 24/108	<p>2.2 Strategic risks and risk register</p> <p>Directors noted changes and updates to the risk register and potential areas of increased risk with the latest emerging themes. Directors noted that the Finance & General Purposes Committee will be reviewing areas of potential financial impact at their next meeting.</p>
AUD 24/109	<p>Would the wider stakeholders in the organisation recognise the risks within the strategic risk register?</p> <p>The CFO assured directors that they would recognise this and that risks emerging through each of the academy's local risk register that sit in their quality improvement plans are aggregated into the areas considered. There is a sector relevant report of common risks that MATs face which are a helpful benchmark to provide assurance that key areas are being considered, risks at Huish are reflective of this.</p>

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- AUD 24/110** **2.3 Progress against Strategic Driver 4**
Strategic Driver 4 - "Work with all stakeholders to reduce our impact on the climate and to secure a sustainable future."
The CFO presented an update of progress made against the strategic driver. Progress against the driver is progressing, although there is always opportunity to do more with this area of activity. The college has put in place a qualification for students to achieve in relation to this which is an exciting development. The area of focus now needs to be increasing the educational element across Huish of moving to a more sustainable future. Directors discussed approaches to help move this agenda forward.
- AUD 24/111** **2.4 Cases of fraud and whistleblowing**
There were no cases reported.
- 3. AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS**
- AUD 24/112** **3.1 Audit tracking database**
The CFO noted that there has been progress around addressing issues raised in relation to the organisation and consistency of approach of the nurseries but there remain some areas to resolve fully. Directors observed that this is positive overall but areas yet to be completed need to be kept under close review, providing support where needed and further development of existing practice and approaches.
- AUD 24/113** **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
4.1 Agenda for next meeting
Directors noted the agenda.
- AUD 24/114** **4.2 Confidential items**
There were no confidential items, but papers marked as such would remain confidential.
- AUD 24/115** **4.3 Any other business**
There was no further business.
- AUD 24/116** **4.4 Dates of future meetings**
Directors noted the dates of the next meetings.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.30pm

Signed:.....*Dan Maycock*..... Date:....7th May 2025.....