



Waterton Academy Trust
The Grove
Walton
Wakefield
WF2 6LD

Waterton Academy Trust

Children's Parliament Meeting Minutes

DATE: 22nd January 2026

TIME: 1:30pm-2:30pm

LOCATION: Barnsley Innovation Centre

Present

Parliament SLT:	Prime Minister: Scarlett-Olivia (CTA)	Deputy: Isaac (WRA)	Speaker: Scarlett (SCS)
Chair	Marie-Claire Bretherton, Waterton Academy Trust		
Attending:	Amy-Grace (MP) from Ackworth Mill Dam School Vera (MP) from Cherry Tree Academy Jax (MP) from Churchfield Primary School Ruby (MP) from Crofton Infants' School Dylan (MP) from King's Meadow Academy Aleksandra (MP) from Kings Oak Primary Olivia (MP) from Lee Brigg Infant & Nursery Jaxon (MP) from Newstead Academy Violet (MP) from Normanton Common Primary Academy Evie (MP) from Normanton Junior Academy Sophie (MP) from Sharlston Community School Georgie (MP) from South Kirkby Academy William (MP) from Walton Primary Academy Chase (MP) from West End Academy Toby (MP) from Wrenthorpe Academy		
Special Guest:	Neil Heslop (Caterlink), Andy Goudie (Trustee), Claire Love (Waterton Academy Trust)		
Clerk:	Bethany Martin		
Apologies:	Mr Dickinson, Ali Martin		

ITEM		ACTION
1.	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES	
	Mrs Bretherton welcomes MPs to the meeting and thanks accompanying adults for travelling to the BIC to be in attendance for meeting 2. Mrs Bretherton introduces herself to parliament members and welcomes Neil Heslop from Caterlink and Andrew Goudie, WAT Trustee. Apologies were received from Mr Dickinson.	

ITEM	ACTION
All schools were in attendance, in person and happy to accept Mr Dickinson's apologies.	
2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING	
Miss Martin had successfully removed the right for staff to take part in voting processes within parliament meetings from S2.2 of the Terms of Reference (ToR). The Code of Conduct (CoC) section was updated, and each point was individually read out by MPs and approved. Version 2 of ToR can now be signed off. Pins to be discussed in item 7.	
3. CATERLINK DISCUSSION	
Neil Heslop gave apologies for Ali Martin (Caterlink). Neil then began by introducing himself to the MPs and outlining his role within Caterlink. He then delivered a presentation covering topics including the importance of healthy nutrition, statistics relating to school meals in the UK, and the positive impact that high-quality school meals have on children. Neil also introduced the new <i>Caterlink Food Ambassador</i> role, which pupils can apply for within the school. Prior to the meeting, MPs were asked to speak with their school councils and come up with some questions to ask Neil at the upcoming parliament meeting. Parliament Speaker, Scarlett, kicked off the Q&A with: 'Please can you describe the role of Caterlink Food Ambassador' The role included Food Quality Tester, Waste Reduction Leader, Peer Advocate, Nutrition Champion and Experience Enhancer. Other questions were asked in regard to the portion sizes being the same for reception children and year 6 children. Neil explained that portion sizes are based off guidelines given to them to prevent obesity in children. The Deputy Prime Minister, Isaac, raised a question regarding the absence of a Halal option on the school menu. Neil responded by explaining that Halal is a religious dietary requirement and noted that there are two types of Halal provision. He further explained that offering Halal meals would be more costly and would result in an increase in dinner prices. Neil concluded by stating that, should a majority of pupils require Halal provision in the future, the school would consider introducing Halal options. ACTION: MPs to send all questions to Miss Martin for Neil to go through and provide responses. ACTION: Clerk to send MP's questions to Neil.	MPs Clerk
4. CHARITY OF THE YEAR 25-26	
Miss Martin described each of the four chosen charities that were up for selection to the MPs. MPs then discussed between one another which charity they would like to raise money for. The results of the vote were:	

ITEM	ACTION
VOTE: 1. Phys Cap Children's Charity in Yorkshire received five votes. 2. Barnsley Animal Rescue Charity received eleven votes. 3. Grimm & Co in South Yorkshire received zero votes. 4. Barnsley Foodbank Partnership received two votes. Mrs Bretherton then proposed that the funds raised by the children be divided equally between the two charities receiving the highest number of votes, to which the MPs agreed. The selected charities for the 2025-26 year are Barnsley Animal Rescue Charity and Phys Cap Children's Charity. MPs were then asked to discuss potential fundraising ideas for the two chosen charities. The MPs ideas consisted of: - Sponsored runs - Colour run - Bake sale - Summer fair - Fancy dress - dress favourite animal - Toy donation - Sponsored walk with an animal - Raffles - Donate pet food - Own clothes days - Easter raffle - Sponsored picnic - Donation boxes - Pyjama day - Raise a pound - Sports competitions - Sponsored reading ACTION: Determine which activities each school will undertake to raise funds.	Mr Dickinson / Clerk
5. WGT GROUP SONG	
It was announced that Waterton's Got Talent will return in March 2026. Miss Martin shared several suggestions within the presentation for a potential group song to be used at the event. The MPs were then invited to propose any additional song suggestions that they felt would be popular and appropriate for the occasion. Some of the suggestions are as follows: - Million Dreams - The Greatest Showman - Golden - K-Pop Demon Hunters - Carry You Home - Alex Warren - Ordinary - Alex Warren - Naughty - Matilda	

ITEM	ACTION
After all acts have been submitted for WGT, the group song will be determined to avoid any duplication of songs.	
6. Minibus	
The minibus was formally introduced to the MPs. Mrs Bretherton explained that it will be used to transport Members of Parliament to meetings throughout the year, as well as for other school trips as required. MPs were asked to consider whether they would feel comfortable attending meetings without a staff member from their own school, while being accompanied by staff from other schools. The MPs agreed to confirm their views with their Parliament leads. ACTION: MPs to discuss their views on attending meetings without Parliament lead.	MPs
7. A.O.B	
Mr Dickinson requested that Mrs Bretherton revisit the heritage monument project introduced at the previous Parliament meeting. MPs were shown two proposed layout designs for the monument and were asked to vote for their preferred option. VOTE: 1. 13 2. 6 ACTION: Inform Mr Dickinson which design the MPs preferred. Mr Dickinson also proposed the idea of using the Trust video camera to circulate among schools, allowing pupils to create short videos showcasing school activities. The MPs quickly expressed their support for this initiative. Chase, Scarlett, and Evie agreed that it would be beneficial for schools to observe activities at other schools and share ideas. VOTE: MPS agree to do the video camera initiative. Pins were distributed to the MPs, who were informed that these may be worn in school to help pupils identify who they can approach with issues they wish to raise in Parliament. MPs were advised to keep their pins safe and were informed that they may retain them at the end of the academic year as a keepsake in recognition of their service in Parliament.	Clerk
8. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING	
Children's Parliament meeting 3 will take place on Thursday 30th April 2026, location TBC.	
MEETING ENDED: 2:25pm	

Actions Table		
ACTON 1	MPs to send all questions to Miss Martin for Neil to go through and provide responses	MPs
ACTON 2	Clerk to send MP's questions to Neil	Clerk
ACTON 3	Determine which activities each school will undertake to raise funds.	Mr Dickinson/ Clerk
ACTON 4	MPs to discuss their views on attending meetings without Parliament lead.	MPs
ACTON 5	Inform Mr Dickinson which design the MPs preferred	Clerk
ACTON 6		
ACTION 7		
ACTION 8		
ACTION 9		
ACTION 10		