



**Minutes**  
**Full Governing Body Meeting**  
**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**6.00 pm on Teams**

**Requested Attendees:**

Karen Wrixon (Headteacher), Chris Jones (Chair), Maria Dixon-Amphlett (Vice-Chair), Rachel Barbet, Russell Field, Yvonne Pitman, Emma Smith, Gilford Sweetenham, Janine Wagner-Hale, Annabel Smith, and Catherine Dunkley-Jones (Clerk)

Agenda Item
<p><b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>            The chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from MDA, EM, and JWH and were accepted.</p>
<p><b>2. Notification of Any Urgent Business</b>            -</p>
<p><b>3. Declaration of any business interests</b>            3.1 Governors were reminded of their obligation to declare any business, pecuniary or prejudicial interests.</p>
<p><b>4. Minutes of Last Meetings and Matters Arising (Chair)</b>            4.1 To approve the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for accuracy and adopt.            4.2 To identify any matters arising not addressed by this agenda and agree an appropriate time for addressing.            All agreed they were an accurate record. The chair thanked AS for chairing the meeting.            CC minutes were also approved.</p>
<p><b>5. Committee Report(s)</b>  <b>A brief update on the last committee meeting:</b>            The Curriculum Committee met on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – minutes sent out            AS summarised the meeting; the minutes were lengthy. The current Y3 needs a watchful eye – this year group will be in Y6 when OFSTED is next expected and is a low attaining group with high levels of SEN.            What are the financial implications of this year – does anything more need to be put in place for Y3 at this point?            TA support was already adjusted to meet the needs of this year group. Just to closely monitor going forward.            F &amp; P to meet next week.</p>
<p><b>6. To confirm appointment of a staff governor</b>            RF confirmed as staff governor and was elected unopposed. His term of office as staff governor will start from the closing date of the notice of election which was 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.</p>
<p><b>7. Headteacher's Report (KW)</b> to include any updates on academisation</p>



KW presented the report which was shared to governors before the meeting. Numbers on roll is 175, which has been pretty constant. Danielle Maynard is now fully taking on the role of SENCO fully and led a staff meeting tonight.

TA cover has been required in Y2 since the beginning of October. Phyllis Johns has been helping out as they do need the extra support with preparation for the voluntary SATS. Hoping to recover some money from absence insurance.

Roz, our education challenge lead has been very good at setting up a North Dorset Heads Collaboration group, so all the schools which aren't in MATS at the moment are now meeting regularly for collaboration purposes and we are going to start doing some peer assessments between the schools. This is a really good option going forward because we're not being isolated, we're working and liaising with the other schools – so staff aren't missing out on accessing support by not being part of a MAT, and there are also no financial or resource benefits to joining a MAT. Collaboration would be the only potential reason to join, and this is actually starting to work really well under the new North Dorset heads collaboration.

*The ECL's report seems a bit short on actions?*

It was more again a summary of where we are – I think if we hadn't been doing so well with our Ofsted targets, things there might be more in the way of objectives. Working with the collaboration and then self-evaluation will be the next step forward looking towards peer testing between schools and targets. Data from last year was very pleasing, other than the Y2 class which is now Y3 class which will need support going forward.

Governors noted that the External Challenge Consultant Geoff Pike's report contained some lovely comments about KW's headship which were well deserved.

The chair thanked KW for her report.

#### **8. Pupil Premium Update (KW)**

The Pupil Premium strategy statement has been updated.

KW explained the thinking behind of some of the spending, such as the need for some children support with emotional literacy and outdoor experiences.

Governors looked at the progress outcomes – writing and maths was good. Progress with reading was slightly lower and RF has it in his action plan to address. However, the differences between progress between pupil premium and non-pupil premium pupils are only generally a bit lower percentage wise, but not significantly low enough to cause concern. It's something we are always mindful of and again looking what support we can put into the children.

The chair expressed surprise that 25% of the school's pupils were entitled to PP, a large amount. So it seems like using the TA support does benefit a lot of the children so the funding can be used to support as many pupils as possible.

#### **9. Safeguarding Update**



MDA and KW met to look at single central record and plan to do so regularly as the office are in the process of switching to a new LA template.

MDA and KW also did the safeguarding audit. One issue identified was the need to have more governors to have completed safer recruitment training. On an interview panel, there needs to be at least one person to have done the training and ideally to. The clerk has details of various SR courses for governors interested in doing it.

GS has completed secondary SR training.

#### **10. Link Governor Visit Reports**

- Questions/ discussion arising from any governor visits

Governors received YP's attendance visit report of 10<sup>th</sup> November. It is clear that everything possible is being done to support attendance. KW did a home visit last Wednesday - all about building relationships with families and encouraging attendance rather than adopting a punitive approach, which is advocated by the LA and the DoE. YP also attended an online seminar about attendance which confirmed this.

Governors asked what the average attendance was nationally last year and how WB compared?  
93/93% and we just got to 95%

Geoff Pike feels it is unlikely that attendance will return to pre covid levels and that our school is probably doing better than most.

#### **11. Policies**

Child Protection (updated)

To formally approve the following policies reviewed at the CC meeting:

E-safety, History, Planning for Learning, French, Tapestry, RE and Collective Worship, PE, and Single Equality

Brief discussion over whether the Tapestry policy was really necessary. It is as it relates to specific picture sharing with the early years so is needed to comply with KCSIE.

All the above policies were approved.

#### **12. Chair's Actions:**

Summary of actions taken re: recruitment of a new headteacher

Governors briefly discussed the actions taken to recruit a new HT being mindful of confidentiality. The advert is live and has another week to run. Two people have looked around the school.

#### **13. Clerk's Briefing**

Governor vacancies - two co-opted governor vacancies soon to be three as AS term of office ends in January.

#### **14. Any Other Urgent Business**

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**Dates of next meetings:**

**FGB**

- Monday 25th March
- Monday 1st July

**Curriculum Committee**

- Monday 15th January
- Monday 10th June

**Finance and Personnel/ Environment Committee (5.30pm start)**

- **Monday 27th November (6pm)**
- Monday 19th February
- Tuesday 23rd April (Budget-setting, all invited)
- Monday 24th June