



STICKLAND'S C.E. V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Aspire, Believe, Belong and Achieve.

Let Your Light Shine Matthew 5:16

Full Governing Body Meeting Minutes

Monday 19 May 2025

Governors	Position	Initials	Present
Ruth Adler	Headteacher	RA	Y
Nicky Bower	Parent Governor	NB	Y
Jax Comyn	Foundation Governor	JC	Y
Daniel Ingles	Foundation Governor	DI	A
June Jach	Clerk to the Governors	JJ	Y
Gay Lewis	Foundation Governor	GL	Y
Andy McAney	Local Authority Governor	AM	Y
Suzie Mutch	Foundation Governor (Chair)	SM	AA
Anna Low	Staff Governor	AL	Y
Emma Hodgkinson	Parent Governor	EH	Y
AnneMarie Henham	Governor	AH	Y
Elizabeth Rendell	Governor	ER	Y

No	Item	Action
1	Meeting started at 1 p.m with an opening prayer from Andy McAney	
2	<p>Present</p> <p>Andy McAney - Acting chair Nicky Bower Liz Rendell Emma Hodgkinson Gay Lewis Anne-Marie Henham Ruth Adler Anna Low Chris George (for Finance report) Jax Comyn joined at 13.28 with apologies for lateness</p> <p>See register above. Apologies were received from Suzie Mutch</p>	
3	<p><u>Organisational items</u></p> <p>Apologies - none received Pecuniary interests - no changes Minutes of previous meeting for approval (March) agreed Matters arising</p>	
4.	<p><u>Standing matters</u></p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>Safeguarding report as read and with no comments. AMc thanked GL for the report. GL asked whether she should give a judgement as she can only give a neutral judgement. All agreed that the current format is fine. AMc commented that it was good to see results from reception. He also asked whether there is a rotation of classes she visits. GL said that it really depends on what classes are available.</p>	

Wellbeing

There was nothing in particular to report at this time. The questionnaire from parents evening is not back yet. As soon as it is, information will be made available.

There are some issues and these will be covered later in the meeting.

A governor asked whether wellbeing talks by governors with children should continue. Two governors currently perform this but the (acting) chair is happy for more to join. Two governors said they would be interested. General discussion followed regarding possible future arrangements.

External visit reports

There was an English monitoring visit by the ESL. The report is to follow. The inspector was here to look at what's in place, to give ideas and advice. It was a very positive visit. Although she felt there wasn't much more she could suggest, over and above what we already do, there will be some suggestions in the report.

Governor visits

Report as read.

A very positive report following the reading visit. The children had lots of 'likes' including the library and the book corner. They clearly remembered a lot from the teacher's reading and seemed keen to have more reading time. Some children preferred the class stories. Some of the children are reluctant readers but still enjoy sessions. There was general discussion around reading, reading time and support provided from home. AL is considering opening the library for half an hour after school, aimed at parents. A Governor thought it was a good idea and is worth a try. There was further discussion about parents reading with their children and the difficulty that some parents claim in finding the time to do this. It should be possible to find time, even briefly, to do and it's important that school drives the expectation that parents will find the time for reading outside of school.

	<p><u>Governor Code of Conduct update</u></p> <p>Governors present were in agreement that they comply with the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p><i>JJ will update, print and obtain signature of acceptance for 2025</i></p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Headteacher's report</u></p> <p>The relevant documents were made available to Governors in advance of the meeting via the Governors' folder.</p> <p>RA said that the key point is around staffing issues with some of these relating to sickness absence of Caroline Hart. This will have an impact on workload for staff and an emotional impact on everyone. Caroline will need a long recovery period. A Governor asked about pay for any absence, in terms of the individual's pay and in terms of the school budget. RA explained that school has insurance to cover and therefore financially the impact is minimal. AMc commented that Caroline covers many other things in addition to her main teaching role, including RE and collective worship, drama and music. RA advised that some of those additional tasks will be picked up by her. A Governor asked whether we could ask the Diocese for support in terms of SIAMs. A Governor asked what is looked at during a Siams visit. RA confirmed that SIAMS tends to look at Christian values within the school environment. RE is covered by staff but the higher knowledge comes from Caroline. RA will be covering some of the teaching. RA is confident that there are robust plans in place to ensure good and consistent teaching regardless of the staffing changes. A letter will be going out to parents later this week explaining the situation. A general discussion followed regarding support for RA as she will be covering some teaching. Governors offered to help if required.</p> <p>With Eleanor's retirement, plans have been put in place to cover her work. RA said that Governors are welcome to the farewell event for Eleanor which is on Friday lunchtime/afternoon.</p> <p>Governors asked that their best wishes be forwarded to Caroline.</p>	

	<p>AMc asked if there were any questions on the HD report.</p> <p>AMc asked if RA is happy with school attendance and RA said it has improved. Persistent absentees are lower and some of the persistent absentees will be leaving at the end of the academic year. One child has left, having moved to another area.</p> <p>Numbers for the forthcoming academic year, 2025/26, are down. Though for 2026/27 as rough guide numbers are expected to be higher. AMc said he believed that we are doing everything possible to keep numbers healthy.</p>	
6	<p><u>Chairs report</u></p> <p>AMc said (on behalf of SM) that they are very happy with the lovely attendance certificates. RA said that it is time consuming. Several Governors offered to help with this task.</p>	
7	<p><u>Main Focus areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>RA displayed the Data review spreadsheet</u> from Arbor on the screen. The Arbor data is an excellent tool and RA is hoping to find a way to be able to print off the data in future for each FGB meeting. The details available on Arbor are comprehensive. RA will find out if there is a way of sharing this data. Good discussion about the data shared. What you can't do with the Arbor report is look back on previous months. There was general discussion about the impact of covid on results. RA said that the Arbor data, now set up, is much easier to view and review. It's also possible to look behind the statistics to identify children who are not achieving. ● <u>Review of parental questionnaires.</u> To follow once results have been received. ● <u>GB Learning walk.</u> None undertaken recently. RA invited Governors to talk to children about what they have learned this term. AL said that staff could help with a list of prompts etc. RA 	<p><i>JJ will see if there's a way to extract the details to be able to show governors before each meeting</i></p>

	<p>will provide a whole school list. Governors GL, JC, AMC and EH, NB volunteered for this task.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Governor SDP annual review.</u> RA and SM have drawn up a preliminary document. RA showed the draft document on the screen for discussion. Both RA and AL are pleased that there has been far more engagement from governors. 	
8	<p><u>SDP - School Development plan and monitoring groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>SDP focus groups</u> - RA suggested that there were no specific areas for governors. AMc is happy for SIAMS to be in the governor's areas and others can be decided at a later date. A general discussion followed. A Governor asked for a description of 'recall'. From the suggestions submitted by RA, affirmative yes for 1 & 2. 3 to be discussed at a later stage ● <u>Parental forum</u> - RA suggested that going forward parents are given the opportunity to raise any questions ahead of FGBs. All Governors agreed that this is a good idea. ● <u>Staff welfare</u> - As previously discussed. ● <u>Training questions</u> - There was nothing to report or discuss. AMc will submit some questions for next time ● <u>EYFS Provision and intake September 2025</u> - covered above. The first meeting for new children is scheduled for Tuesday 20 May and this will cover a range of information. JC hopes to attend. 	Governor strategic suggestions 25/26
9	<p><u>Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Budget</u> - The finance report was made available before the meeting. CG spent time explaining some of the detail. From 2026 the figures are expected to improve due to higher intakes. When looking at the figures it's important to note that some expenditure is ring-fenced e.g painter & decorator, school trips. A Governor asked whether CG is confident that this year's overspend will be balanced out in the forthcoming year(s). CG said that he was confident. ● <u>Finance report</u> As read. The report was available before the meeting. AMc asked a question relating to Little Acorns and the proposed move to a purpose built building. County and Diocese are aware of the proposals. AMc asked whether the Ilchester Estate been approached and a discussion followed relating to the village hall, funding etc. AMc feels that the Ilchester estate does need to be made aware. RA says that she's happy to discuss with Mrs Townsend, but at the moment there is nothing back from county and RA would prefer to wait until more is known. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Little Acorns update.</u> There was much discussion about access, risk assessments and health and safety, should Little Acorns move to the rear of Stickland's. RA said that she, and the staff, would like to support Little Acorns in their proposed move. 	
10.	<p><u>Policies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Lettings policy.</u> This was agreed • <u>Grievance policy.</u> This was agreed • Staff pay policy was carried forward to the July FGB meeting 	
11.	<p>Forthcoming events.</p> <p><u>Sports day</u> Several Governors offered to help at the Sports Day. AMc, JC, EH and AH will confirm nearer the time.</p> <p><u>School Fete</u> School will be involved and will offer various stalls and activities</p>	
	<p>The meeting ended at 15.17</p> <p>Next meeting Monday 14 July 2025 at 13.00</p>	