



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 14 July 2025 at 11.00

Agreed as accurate

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	AA
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	AA
AnneMarie Henham	Governor	AH	Y
Elizabeth Rendell	Governor	ER	Y

No	Item	Action
1	Meeting started at 11.05 with an opening prayer from Ruth Adler	
2	<p>Present:</p> <p>Please note the following advised prior to the meeting</p> <p>Andy McAney - arrived at 11.38</p> <p>Nicky Bower - arrived at 11.38</p> <p>Chris George (for Finance report) attended for Finance and budget reports</p> <p>Apologies : Suzie Mutch</p>	
3	<p><u>Organisational items</u></p> <p>Pecuniary interests - no changes</p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting for approval (May). These were agreed</p> <p>Matters arising. There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Standing matters</u></p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>A Governor asked whether there are any new concerns. RA explained the new information feed regarding a police report that related to a domestic incident. Due to Data Protection, there is now no information provided. The school's role is simply to check that the child has arrived for school. If the child does not turn up then school will follow through, reporting as appropriate.</p>	

A Governor asked about online safeguarding. RA advised that the Police will come in if we request it, though this would only be for Ravens.

RA shared details of governor training that is free from National College. She encouraged governors to have a look. These are online courses that can be done at times to suit. Governors are able to book courses themselves though JJ is happy to help if needed.

Wellbeing

RA advised that everyone is tired as it's been a long half term. RA is aware of schools that have small wins and/or awards for staff. Another school has a 'free' raffle. RA will find out if the number of inset days are flexible. She suggested small wins such as better quality coffee/tea. Staff have 'jacket potato' Fridays. There is a rota for staff to take runs providing jackets and fillings and, where possible, all staff lunch together. Small wellbeing wins could be for staff and governors and RA would like ideas please. JC offered to make a cake every month and that was gratefully accepted by all present.

AMcA had a session with children from year 2. The session included discussions on their enjoyment of school. There was very positive feedback from children. The questions asked by AMcA were based on a set list. One child had some suggestions for improvements but these were minimal. The overall feedback was very positive. The report has yet to be posted and AMcA will liaise with JJ to facilitate this.

RA has offered a workshop for parents on dealing with challenging behaviour. RA will advise how these go and how much uptake there is.

RA wants to create an information system for parents signposting them to services and support they may need outside of school, rather than directing their queries to school.

External visit reports

	<p>The external visit report was very good. There were just a couple of minor things to explore. RA and AL will be visiting another school next term. There was also a report also from Beth in which nothing was flagged up.</p> <p><u>Governor visits</u></p> <p>Nicky conducted an early years visit and that was excellent, she was really impressed. Mechele and Mrs Wills have made a few changes and improvements in the classroom. These have made a positive difference.</p> <p>JC and GL conducted a Sticky Learning observation at very short notice. The visit was really good. A set of questions were used and the children pretty much knew all the answers. The children worked well as individuals and as a group. JC suggested that this should be repeated with the same group of children to see what they have retained. There was clear evidence of retention.</p> <p>A Governor said that it's clear since the Ofsted report that school is introducing new practices, particularly the sticky learning and evidencing the benefit. AL explained that it is difficult with mixed year classes. A way needs to be found to deal with this challenge.</p> <p>A Governor said that it's really good for the children to have the chance to talk to more adults.</p> <p><u>Governor Code of Conduct update</u></p> <p>All Governors present confirmed their acceptance of the Governor Code of Conduct for 2025 and signed confirmation.</p> <p><u>Training Questions</u></p> <p>RA asked if Governors wanted more safeguarding training. RA explained the approach with contractors.</p>	
5	<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 and RA presented her report as read. Discussion followed relating to absenteeism and the impact on data for persistent absenteeism. A Governor asked whether the award certificates for attendance have helped. RA said that it's a little early to say but she hopes so. There are some children's attendance that will</p>	

	<p>never improve for various reasons.</p> <p>RA talked about the SUDS proposal and at this point Chris George joined the meeting. To go forward, the school needs the governor's approval. RA gave an overview of the proposal. Wessex water had given a presentation of the proposal to both Chris George and Mrs Wills. A Governor asked whether there should be an independent survey, paid for by Wessex Water and general discussion followed on this point. A Governor said that as a science subject the project will provide great opportunities. A Governor asked whether the proposal has been run past the Diocese. A Governor said that accepting would not have a negative impact on the school. In terms of water processing, the benefits would be outside of the school boundaries. CG explained that Wessex Water are working with Dfe and similar projects have been carried out at many other schools. There were further discussions and it was agreed to advise Wessex Water that Governors agreed in principle, pending confirmation of approval by Dorset County, Diocese and any other agencies with an interest. CH will contact Wessex Water.</p>	
6	<p><u>Chairs report</u></p> <p>GL asked for it to be minuted to endorse what Sarah had said in her report. There was excellent feedback. GL offered a huge thank you to Ruth and Suzie. A Governor asked what it was that made the school so good. RA said there's a really good culture of inclusivity. Children all tracked more regularly and we're lucky that the TAs are so good. There are 20 SEND children. 3 of these children come with additional funding. RA explained the funding rules and guidelines. Governors contributed to the discussion and there was further clarification of the funding from RA. A Governor asked whether other children are disadvantaged because of the amount of resources dedicated to SEND needs. RA and AL explained that this is not the case and that the school has good staff and the budget for staffing is well managed. A Governor asked how Sticklands manages so well when it is not necessarily the case in all schools and general discussion followed. A Governor asked whether this is why the budget sometimes shows a disproportionate amount of staffing resources being used. RA confirmed. School does not have huge behavioural issues at present and this helps to manage overall. A Governor asked whether the fact that the school is small helps. AL said that everyone pulls together. All staff have good knowledge of individual children.</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p><u>Main Focus areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Data 24-25 - RA talked through the data shown on the screen and also available in documents before the meeting. A Governor asked for RA to talk through one of the areas that is not as good. A Governor said it really relates to the cohort. In some cases, there were children who dropped a mark or two. There is no downward trend. There are no significant areas of concern. For next year Maths will be a focus area as will spelling. There was general discussion. RA explained that perhaps this data shows that PP children have not performed so well in Yr 6 maths and Yr 1 phonics - this to be an area of focus whilst realising that these are 4 children in total. A Governor asked why the science results are better. RA and AL said that the questions are better presented to the children and that this is teacher assessed. RA said that there is funding for the online portal for phonics. RA advised that Reception children are overtaking Year 1 children. There are a number of issues with the year 1 cohort and it's not unusual to have cohorts occasionally that are a challenge. Discussion followed about children who struggle to show improvements. There are attempts being made to get more parents to come into school events but it is very difficult. The particular problem is with parents whose children come in and go home on the bus as parental engagement can be minimal. Parents have a greater tendency to come in for performances and sports day. 	
<p>8</p>	<p><u>SDP - School Development plan and monitoring groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safeguarding - Audit & Action plan - update/monitoring visit DSL ● Staff welfare ● EYFS - Provision and intake for September 2025. Profile & learning journey. There are quite a lot of speech and language challenges coming in. RA has carried out some additional training in preparation. ● SEN - End of year prediction & closing the gap ● Parental engagement - consider questionnaire responses to link to next years SDP ● Curriculum - Key messages to consider for following years SDP (emphasis on core areas of Maths & English) RA said that SIAMS will go back on although it's not expected for next year. 	

9	<p><u>Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance report - CG talked through his report. This included an update on the new cleaning contractor, Bloom. Bloom are due to start in September, replacing Glen Cleaning, the current contractor. There is a slight cost increase but this is justified given the huge problems experienced with the existing contract and the amount of office time taken to resolve the many cleaning issues. CG talked through the other points. ● Little Acorns update. There is a meeting scheduled to 15 July following which further information should be available. Mrs Townsend is supportive of the proposal. 	
10.	<p><u>Policies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff pay policy - This is carried forward pending further information from County ● Health & safety policy - approved ● Single equality policy - approved 	
11.	<p><u>Forthcoming events.</u></p> <p>Leavers service - 23 July at 11.00 to 12.00. This will just be year 6s and their families. Governors are welcome.</p> <p>The Cinderella performance is tomorrow, 15 July and Governors are welcome to attend.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Proposed meeting dates for 2025/2026</u></p> <p>There was general discussion about Mondays for meetings and the timing as Nicky's work commitments are changing from September. Tuesdays would work and this will be further considered once NB has her new work pattern. A final decision will be made well before the October meeting. For now the dates are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGM Monday 6 October 2. Monday 24 November 3. Monday 26 January 4. Monday 16 March - reserve date 23 March in case of budget deadline changes 5. Monday 18 May 	

	6. Monday 13 July	
	<p>On her retirement, RA and the Governors thanked Jax Comyn for her time as Governor. Her valued work and support has been very much appreciated.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 13.25</p> <p>Next meeting - Provisionally - AGM Monday 6 October 2025 tbc</p>	