



LLL 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 23 March 2026 at 1 p.m.

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

No	Item	Action
1	An opening prayer was said by Andy McAney	
2	SM asked JJ to contact Nicky Bower.	JJ
3	<u>Organisational items</u> Apologies were received from Gay Lewis Pecuniary interests - There were no changes Minutes of previous meeting for approval - The minutes of the January meeting were approved Matters arising - There were no matters arising.	
L4	<u>Standing matters</u> • Safeguarding. The report was available to Governors ahead of the meeting. There were no questions or comments. Report as read. • Wellbeing and staff welfare - SM had conducted individual discussions with the staff. SM was pleased to report that staff felt supported and that they felt they work in a happy place. Staff were clear that it was the teaching element of their work that they loved as opposed to the administration. • Governor visits - ER reported on a recent PHSE visit. Her report was available in the Governors folder before the meeting. She said it was a lovely visit with all children clear on what the expectations were. They knew who to turn to if they needed help or support. It was an excellent visit. • External visit reports. - RA reported that ECL will be doing a visit in July. The school has had a visit on science and the report will follow. • Governor skills audit - SM explained that the audit is for internal use only. It will help to identify gaps in knowledge and highlight training needs.	All govs to complete
5	<u>Headteacher's report</u> The Headteachers report was available in the Governors drive ahead of the meeting. The report was recorded as read. RA added that she believes that the reception class will be full in September. There are two more children due to visit. RA said that as a result there will be a need to	

	review in terms of teaching ratios etc. Overall, there is a really positive picture as in September we will gain 17 children but lose only 6. RA advised that staff had completed a lot of training - details on Head teacher's report There were no further questions.	
6	<u>Chair's report</u> • Little Acorns - The proposal to move the site has been submitted to the Parish Council. As far as we know, an application has not yet been submitted to Dorset Council planning. We understand that this will be done once further documents and information has been gathered. A Governor said that they understood that some further funding is required and this may be available from the Diocese. RA said that in theory the works could start during the summer but given the current position it is more likely to be later in the year. RA believes that the groundworks will be the largest cost and that Little Acorns will be doing further fundraising for this. RA said the school will support efforts in terms of communicating to parents as appropriate. RA emphasised how important it is to have Little Acorns on site.. A Governor asked whether Little Acorns would survive in the village hall for another winter. It was agreed it would be difficult. In extremis Stickland's may be able to help on a short term basis • West Dorset Schools Collaboration - the chair had attended a meeting which gave • Fairer funding - RA advised that all schools have been asked by County if they can make a contribution to the central fund to pay off some of County's debts. RA has advised that school is not prepared to do so, governors supported this.	
7	<u>Main Focus areas</u> • <u>Finance - Agree budget and SFVS - Report from Finance Officer</u> Chris George joined the meeting at 13.33. He displayed various reports on the screens regarding SFVS and talked through a number of the lines. Chris asked if there were any questions? There was general discussion around the various costs. Chris then displayed the Benchmarking report. Some of the coding is not ideal, for instance miscellaneous items. A Governor asked whether we should use miscellaneous. Chris explained that he tries to allocate appropriately but there are some costs that are	

	difficult. There was a change in the finance system in the autumn and this had impacted some of the allocation of costs. Hopefully, next year it will be more straightforward. SM asked a question about auxiliary staff. The confusion is due to the split of clerk and admin support hours. Chris explained this. There were no other questions. RA commented that with school numbers going up in September there was a concern that the staff numbers may not look good but in fact they are fine. A Governor commented that the benchmark process is a learning experience, an opportunity to look at whether anything could be done differently and to have assurance that we are working well in areas. CG explained that the support staff costs were for children who are no longer at the school and so those costs will disappear in next year's figures. There were a number of questions from governors and all were answered satisfactorily by CG. A Governor asked about IT costs and CG said that it was challenging sometimes allocating between IT teacher and staff needs and educational, children's needs. There was discussion about the cleaning costs, compared to some other schools. It was noted that some schools have in-house cleaners as opposed to the higher costs of contractors for others. A Governor asked why catering costs did not appear for Sticklands. RA explained that school lunches are provided by Local Food Links with parents paying the company direct. In addition some children have free meals and these are provided by LFL. CG explained the higher insurance costs for last year. A Governor asked whether we should look at alternative providers. A Governor asked about grounds maintenance costs. CG explained that these costs include grass cutting around the site. A Governor asked whether the costs would be impacted if the pre-school project goes ahead. RA advised that the pre-school would not have an impact. The Wessex Water project is still on plan CG spent some time going through the budget for the forthcoming year, displaying details on the screen. He explained that this year there is a governor's checklist, allowing for comments. A Governor asked whether the change in school numbers will impact on the budget. RA said that it will positively impact on the budget. A Governor asked a question about numbers and CG explained that numbers shown in the budget are based on the census completed recently. There was general discussion. CG displayed predictions for the forthcoming year. There was general discussion about the fact that school is being approached by potential pupils. A parent had to be refused recently due to numbers. It is good that the school is so well respected and	
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	popular. There was discussion about whether we would be allowed to increase our PAN. RA said it's unlikely whilst other schools in the area still have capacity. CG explained the SEND budget/figures. SM asked if there was anything with the budget that CG was concerned about. CG said that no, not really. He is confident. A Governor asked whether swimming pool electricity costs are included in the school's budget. CG said, no they are paid separately. RA and CG raised the issue of BMIS and service delivery. We pay a considerable amount to them. RA and CG have had a discussion about pulling away from Beamish and it would be challenging. CG has queried the costs with BMIS. RA and CG have looked at MI systems costs and will continue to review. CG asked if there were any questions. The budget was approved.	
8	<u>Policies</u> ● Pupil premium policy - This was approved. ● Spirituality had been carried forward from January due to queries over some of the terminology. RA and Caroline Hart have had discussions but it needs further review. It will be done and agreed before SIAMS. ● AI policy - This was approved. ● Mobile phone policy. There was discussion around the policy. RA felt that renewing every 3 years was sufficient. - The policy was approved. ● RHSE policy - This was carried forward to July.	
9	<u>Report from children about the Houses of Parliament visit.</u> Two children joined the meeting to talk about the recent visit to the Houses of Parliament. The children obviously had a great time and were very enthused by the experience. They reported that they saw Big Ben, had a tour of the Houses of Parliament and saw the discussions going on. They were surprised that they actually saw some of this. Governors asked lots of questions. One of the children said going to London had been their first time. The children went into the educational workshop. There were lots of different ages visiting. The children described the Kings chair, in gold and they had learned that he goes there once a year. They left at 07.00 and got back at 07.00. They walked around parliament square. Twenty four children went on the trip. They ate a lot of food on the	

	coach. Lots of children were playing games. They thought it was really interesting. They saw where Henry V111 had banquets and also where Queen Elizabeth 11 laid in state in Westminster Hall. Governors thanked the children for sharing their experience.	
10	Date of next meeting 18 May 2026 at 13.00	
11	Closing prayer was led by Andy McAney.	

Meeting closed at 15.00