



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**

Tuesday 13 July 2026

Monday 5 October 2026

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

| No | Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Action                            |
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| 1  | Meeting started at 13.00 with an opening prayer from Suzie Mutch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                   |
| 2  | Present and apologies. Apologies from Anne-marie and Liz. No others received                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                   |
| 3  | <u>Organisational items</u><br>The minutes of the June meeting were approved.<br>There were no changes to pecuniary interests<br>In terms of the skills audit, SM and JJ are looking at an alternative, easier, skills audit for governors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                   |
| 4  | <u>Standing matters</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding - GL talked through her report. GL asked whether we should consider investing in air conditioning units.</li> </ul> <p>GL was very pleased with all the safeguarding actions taken and that the HT has set good systems in place.</p> <p>SM reported the incident where a child was attempting to leave the school grounds. As a result, SM has approached the diocese for funding for fencing as the county say they won't cover it. HT commented that diocese has set a precedent with providing funding for other schools and so ought to be covering the costs. A Governor raised a point regarding discussions with the parish council. There was general discussion about the practicalities around installing and managing secure fencing and access in and out of the school grounds. HT has visited other schools to see how they manage perimeter security.</p> <p>A governor asked a question about the Showing and Telling presentation and how it would have been nice if the children had spoken a little louder. AL explained that due to the school timetable before the presentation, there hadn't been as much time as usual to prepare. However, the comment was noted.</p> | JJ to look at air cooling options |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Well-being and staff welfare.</u> HT advised that the increase in children next year will have an impact on staff. An advert was placed for a TA. However, the response was poor and so an appointment has not been made. Another ad will be placed in the next few weeks.</li> <li>● SM said that the staff have all been outstanding in coping with the hot weather. HT is pleased that school managed to stay open throughout the heat wave. AL said that Chris George (CG) helped and was brilliant in buying additional fans and coming in earlier to open windows and doors. A governor said that with their contacts at other schools they often hear comments that the pool at Sticklands helps the school to stay open. To some extent it does but the other measures put into place also help as does the support from all staff.</li> <li>● <u>Governor visits</u> - GL and SM had completed Safeguarding and SEND visits. AMc was due to do a maths visit. However, due to the delay with SATS results this will not now happen until September. GL will be in this week to do a Science 'sticky knowledge' visit. AL commented that she needs to review sticky knowledge sheets. as she thinks she may have made it too difficult. AMH - is undertaking a GD visit this week also</li> <li>● <u>External visits</u> - ECL visit report was discussed and it is informing much of next year's SDP.</li> </ul> |  |
| 5 | <p><u>Headteacher's report</u></p> <p>The report was available in the governors folder before the meeting and was 'as read'. HT commented on the increase in numbers of pupils from September. However, the funding will not impact school funds until next academic year. In September the school numbers will increase from 76 to 95, which is excellent. There will be 17 new children in Reception and a further 9 across the school age groups. There was discussion around class numbers, particularly in Kingfishers and the challenges of space in some classrooms and the eventual impact increased numbers will have on staff wellbeing. This will be closely monitored. Intake for 27/28 is also expected to be good. All the children joining Kingfisher came to the transition day and also to meet the teachers and that is evidence that these two activities provide positive outcomes.</p> <p>School has funding for one year to provide a breakfast club and also for an after school club. Breakfast club cover will be provided by an existing member of staff. However, recruitment will be needed to cover the after school club. There was general discussion around the logistics of both.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |

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|   | <p>Stickland's Got talent is on Friday and governors are welcome to attend and if the panel has space, become a judge.</p> <p>The school's attendance records were discussed. HT is liaising with the Attendance Officer regarding 3 children. The Attendance Officer is happy with the approaches that school and parents are making. HT confirmed the Attendance Officer visit was routine. Whilst the attendance may have a small impact on overall attendance, school is still, nationally, in line with average.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 6 | <p><u>Chair's report</u></p> <p>SM has been working with the West Dorset Schools Collaboration and two training sessions are planned to support governors across the Collaboration. The first is in October and will be held at Parrett &amp; Axe school to cover Strategy, School Improvement &amp; keeping up to date with legislation. The second meeting is planned in February to look at finances and will be held at Stickland's. These meetings are both strategic and practical.</p> <p>The Village fete was well attended and a great success. A Governor said that having the school involved helped with the sale of raffle tickets and had a positive impact on footfall to the fete. The fete is a wonderful community activity benefiting all groups involved.</p> <p>SM confirmed that there is a lot of support from other FGB chairs for Powerstock which has decreasing numbers and staff changes.</p> <p>A provisional date of 7 September was set for the Governors Welcome meeting for new parents. This will be an opportunity to recruit new parent governors.</p> <p>SM commented on HT's visit to Buckingham Palace and how this is a reflection of her ability and her contribution to the school.</p> |  |
| 7 | <p><u>Main Focus areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data 25 - 26. It was not possible to produce whole school data due to the delays this year with SATS results. HT explained the data that she had produced (EYFS/phonics/MTC) and that this was available in the governors folder before the meeting. Governors</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |

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|   | <p>discussed the data generally. School is expected to be in line with national results for Phonics and MTC - GLD in EYFS is still below national and this is largely due to poor speaking skills in REception and this is impacting results directly. HT said that speaking skills in reception are challenging. Staff are working really hard to make improvements, including making Kath Will speech and language champion and undertaking ELKLAN training. Staff and children have worked very hard to improve phonics scores and targeted children made excellent progress and passed the PSC - and there is also an understanding and acceptance that the approach for some children may need to be adapted to suit individual needs. The small size of classes does mean that where one or two are challenging that will inevitably impact performance to a greater degree than in larger classes. A Governor asked, where there's a need, how often a speech and language therapist visits. HT explained that there is a termly planning meeting and then schedules are planned in terms of training and delivery. SALT will sometimes work with individuals for blocks of 6 sessions and then hand over to school to deliver and then return to reassess. This is part of the plan-do-review process. HT said that SALT visits are not frequent but staff work with children following the programmes set by the SALT to improve results as much as possible. A Governor said that you would expect the government to realise that there is an increasing problem with children's communication skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SDP - HT had made the 'headlines' available in the governors folder before the meeting. HT talked through and explained that some changes will be made. There was general discussion around the plans going forward.</li> </ul> <p>Those present then talked about economics, use of coinage, use of plastic. A Governor asked whether children are taught about actual money or whether they go straight into swiping etc. HT advised that children do learn how to deal with money, for instance in Maths cafe. AMc added that he does introduce overseas currencies sometimes into his maths visits.</p> <p>There was general discussion around spirituality and how that is approached and included for children. Daniel has offered to take small groups of children to the church to discuss some of the bigger questions.</p> <p>All governors were happy with the report.</p> |  |
| 8 | <p><u>Policies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SEND policy - approved</li> <li>● Staff Code of Conduct policy - approved</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |

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|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intimate Care policy - approved</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 9   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AOB - A planning application is not needed for the SUDS project. Initial works will start in the school holiday. The entire time plan is still to be determined. Wessex Water have answered the questions raised recently. HT showed the plans on the screen and demonstrated that it would create lovely areas. Safety is being taken into account at all stages. Fossa has asked for some help updating their page on the website. June has agreed to do this.</li> <li>CG joined the meeting to talk through the financial report. There were some general questions from governors. SM thanked CG for his hard work with finances. SM also thanked JJ for her work and support and thanked all staff for their hard work during the year.</li> </ul> |  |
| 10. | Date of next meeting - AGM Monday 5 October 13.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |

Meeting closed at 14.33 with a closing prayer from AMc