

Governing Board

Agenda & Minutes



Date	Time	Location
28 th January 2026	6pm	WHJS

<p>Member Present</p> <p>Paul Davies (HT)</p> <p>Chris McGowan (Chair)</p> <p>Gemma Duff</p> <p>Jo Lubbers</p> <p>Jon Strefford</p> <p>Danny Millington</p> <p>Nicola Weeks (arrived at 6.40pm)</p> <p>Fiona Ashworth</p> <p>Lisa Rodrigues</p> <p><i>In attendance:</i></p> <p>Kathryn Knapp</p> <p>Sarah Allchurch (Clerk)</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Lynsey Cooper</p> <p>Jo Jones</p> <p>Meeting was quorate.</p> <p>Meeting started at 6.05pm</p>
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TOPIC	NOTES
Welcome and Opening Prayer, Apologies	Welcome from Chair. Apologies from JJ and LC. Prayer from LR.
Pecuniary interests	None declared.
Minutes from previous meeting (25 th November 2025)	Minutes were approved.
Chair's comments	The Ofsted inspection is now coming into focus and from the GB's point of view, the GB is very much part of the process and will be vetted. Feedback from Alison Rhodes following the

	<p>recent LLPR at the juniors was very good regarding the GB. Ofsted will look at the GB minutes therefore it is important to keep the challenging questions coming ahead of the LLPR visit at the infants in March. The WGB training is coming up next week on 5th February on using data to improve outcomes and following on from this, there will be another training session in October on Ofsted, so that the GB can keep updated on developments and be prepared ahead of the next inspection.</p>
<p>Ofsted update and IDSR reports</p>	<p>HT ran through the same Ofsted new framework presentation that he had done at the recent T&L meeting. The framework has been out since September 2025, and schools have started to be inspected under this new framework from November 2025. Ashford Hill is the most local school which has been inspected under the new framework and HT has talked to the leads there to see how it went: apparently very well.</p> <p>The last inspections for WH took place in January 2023, and therefore the window for the next inspection opens in September 2026. Inspections will likely be in spring 2027. The SIAMS inspection at the infants will be next academic year too. We need to understand what we need to do as a school to be ready for this, and how the GB can support the school in achieving this.</p> <p>The new framework 2025 introduces report cards and new gradings and removes the overall effectiveness grade. New gradings are exceptional (very rare), strong standard, expected standard, needs attention, and urgent improvement. It is very difficult to compare the new gradings to the old. Expected is not the equivalent of ordinary or normal which might be the presumption; it is closer to a high 'good' under the old regime and will apply to the most able children in the class. Needs attention is not RI or failure; urgent improvement is more aligned to RI. Ofsted always up the bar in setting out their new frameworks.</p>

Q: Exceptional sounds like it will be very hard to achieve.

Yes, it will only be the top 2% in the country who will achieve this and is very rare. It denotes national excellence and is close to outstanding.

Areas of inspection include safeguarding, inclusion, curriculum and teaching, achievement, behaviour and attendance, early years, personal development, wellbeing, and leadership and management. Ofsted will initially only look at the expected standard and will only delve deeper below or above this category if further evidence proves this to be necessary. Grading is on a 'must have all' basis, therefore proving the expected standard in itself is a high standard. If all criteria in the expected standard are met, the strong standard will be looked at; if some of the criteria are not met within the expected standard, the needs attention criteria will be assessed. A follow-up monitoring visit might look for some of the missing criteria within the expected standard, but this does not affect the cycle of future inspections.

As there are two schools within the federation, there will be two Ofsted inspections; the infants one includes the pre-school. The inspection focus will be on a strong foundation which ensures the basics are taught well; emphasis on vulnerable pupils and inclusion; communication and language and effective assessment. However, it is highly likely that Ofsted will ask to see other areas in addition to the ones deemed needing improvement.

There has been improvement in certain areas since the last inspections; the strong standard is predicted for Early Years at the infants as well as for diverse cultures. There has also been improvement in the variation of the foundation curriculum at the juniors.

HT and KK looked at the books today and the standard within them seems stronger than before, but consistency does remain an issue. Timetable management is important.

Q: The school needs confidence to challenge on the day.

Yes, this is extremely important, and it is up to the leaders to drive this. At the end of the first day of inspection, Ofsted will make preliminary judgements in the areas of inspection, and if the school is unhappy with these judgements, it can challenge them, but it is important to be aware that this can result in a deep dive ending in a decrease in grading.

Parents, staff and the SLT all need to be aware of the standards Ofsted is looking for. Preparation is key and things have to be completely embedded by the time of the inspection; change therefore needs to happen before the summer holidays allowing for this change to be embedded fully.

Q: How can the GB help with this?

It can help by engaging with various documents:

- The two IDSR reports which are data packages on both schools. Any red areas need to be addressed, and case studies need to be produced in advance showing that these areas are being dealt with positively.
- The Ofsted toolkit, which identifies the criteria that Ofsted is inspecting against.
- The SEF (Self-Evaluation Form): the junior SEF has been done and the infants one is to come. The SEF is linked to the new Ofsted framework, and it has been a huge job writing it. It will be reviewed again after the SATs in the summer.
- The safeguarding criteria is either 'met' or 'not met', whereas other areas are graded.
- Governor minutes will also be looked at, and the GB needs to ensure sufficient challenge of the leadership team are evidenced in these minutes.

Q: Can all leaders get to a level of confident leadership?

Yes, they can. Staff have had practice interviews, so they have had more training and are more confident now than at the last inspection. Staff have also been in roles longer and time has allowed for embedding change.

	<p>Q: Disadvantaged pupils appear to be flagged in the IDSR reports.</p> <p>Yes, and this will be case studied closely and presented to Ofsted. There will be a good chance to explore these reports with Alison Rhodes next week. Staff will shortly be receiving training on the IDSR, as the current ones will not be used for the next inspection.</p>
<p>Headteacher's report (written)</p> <p>LLPR visit at St Thomas' (5th March)</p> <p>Education Catering update</p> <p>SBN update</p>	<p><u>Applications.</u></p> <p>The deadline for applications for Year R and Year 3 has now passed. The numbers are on the portal. HT is very disappointed that only 18 children have put St Thomas' down as their first choice for Year R (it was 25 last year and 29 the year before that). We were warned that numbers were down this year, but turnout at the recent open days was very good and feedback was positive, so these numbers are disappointing. There are likely lots of visitors out of catchment who have visited several schools. Second and third choices cannot be relied upon.</p> <p>Q: Is this a trend that first choices are happening less?</p> <p>Yes, it is. HT is hoping numbers may have reached 20 by September and one of the reasons for setting up the nursery was to help local families. Final numbers will be received in April including second and third choices. The process will have to be reviewed next year to attract more pupils. The good news is that the year 3 intake will be at full capacity at 30 pupils. (Gaining two and one going to private school.)</p> <p>Q: Will you be modelling what this will do to the budget?</p> <p>Yes, this will be covered in the resourcing meeting. It will certainly impact staffing.</p> <p>Q: What is the catchment for secondary school in Woolton Hill?</p>

The Clere is the catchment school, although most pupils go to Park House. Only four went to The Clere last year. Park House has turned a massive corner and is now getting great results. *(NW arrived at 6.40pm.)*

Year 6 predictions.

Year 6 has done another round of mock SATs and Tom and JJ have released year 6 predictions following a pupil progress meeting last night. Predictions have usually been accurate or even below the final results, and Tom and JJ are confident in these predictions. HT is slightly less so. Results are similar to last year's mocks data.

Q: What precedent do we have for converting children with scores in the 90s to the 100s plus?

These are standardised scores, so each point is a significant shift. There has been a shift in the raw scores. There are six children in maths who are not on track for expected but should be and therefore need to make more progress. Last year was a different case, where the children were either at expected level or were not going to reach expected level. This year, there is a job to do in boosting those children who need it. Liz Wellings has been coming in to do reading boosters.

Parents' evening is coming up (this has been brought forward by a month), but the children will be spoken to first to see how they can be supported. Most children want to attend the booster sessions, but overall, this cohort seems a bit apathetic in their attitude to the tests; there is not a huge amount of effort going into their learning. However, some children have been disappointed with their mock results, and it is hoped this competitive spirit can be used to an advantage. Governors noted that there was a big decrease from last year in the

number of children achieving 110 plus and an increase in those achieving less than 90. Small groups will be working together each week going forwards, perhaps an hour a week in maths to ready these pupils for the SATs in the summer. Writing looks ok at this point.

Q: Were the children less nervous doing the mocks this time?

It seems to have gone the other way now and the child were too blasé about them. A balance needs to be found.

Little Pioneers.

Stacey was appointed on a TLR3 basis to lead the provision for the SBN until its opening. She is very effective in this role.

Interviews to appoint a nursery manager are taking place on Monday and an advert for a nursery assistant is about to go out. The latter will be appointed once the manager is in place. There have been more registrations this week and more are pending. Twelve families have signed up so far, with another three or four to come.

Q: Are other schools doing the same?

There are a couple in Basingstoke and one in Overton and another in Kintbury who are also setting up pre-schools.

A lot of those who have signed up already have siblings at the school, whilst others have signed up as they have no local pre-school but might end up going elsewhere for school.

The external work is being done in the February half term and then it will be easier to show people what they will be getting rather than having to envisage what it will look like at the moment. Little Pioneers is set to be up and running by April with the hours of 8.45am until 5pm during termtime. There has been no take up for breakfast club. One assistant will be needed with 16 pupils, but two will be needed if there are 17 or more pupils.

The library books were tonight moved from the existing library to the new library in Badgers classroom. The library will be the new Year 1 classroom. The eventual library will look great and will be a big achievement.

The LA has not contributed towards the cost of the pre-school, therefore various ways of fundraising have had to be thought of. There will be no registration fee payable by disadvantaged families and this needs to be flagged up in the promotional material.

Catering.

The new provider started at the beginning of January, but it has not been the smoothest transition. The provider takes a very difficult approach to different diets: one pupil who has a dairy intolerance is on a gluten-free diet and is not happy about this.

(See confidential minutes for further discussions here.)

Q: Regarding the difference data, is there always a correlation between those on the SEN register and those in other groups?

Yes. The group of disadvantaged, non-SEN children are being targeted to improve their outcomes and achieve the expected standards.

Q: Is the SEN register boy-heavy?

Yes, two-thirds are boys.

Q: Is the gap widening between girls and boys and if so, is anything being done to address this?

Boys outstrip girls in maths, and this is a challenge of HCC to address this. HIAS is particularly focusing on girls within the maths environment and the language being used around this to encourage girls to perform well and feel less pressured and more confident about making mistakes in the subject. In year 6, there is only one girl working at GD in maths versus 11 boys, whereas 79% of girls in year 6 are at the expected level versus 70% of boys. This is frustrating as good work has been done in trying to close the gap. Ongoing conversations on this will take place to ensure girls are motivated as much as boys.

The EM non-white category is made up of mainly pupils on the SEN register which might skew the data and explain the data difference.

Q: What is the national position regarding girls and boys?

The trends are the same, but our gap is wider.

There are issues around the two schools being at separate sites, and important conversations are not being had between staff as a result. Following on from the recent T&L meeting, HT has had some frank conversations with staff at the infant school and has come up with a successful solution. He has set up maths and English standards teams. The first meeting with the teaching staff has taken place. TAs will follow. It is a challenge to come up with solutions to the problems that have arisen, but this has been well-received and the KS1 staff have given good and constructive feedback and have felt that they have been listened to.

Q: Is the sense of community improving year on year?

It was but has recently declined again, in part due to JJ going back to teaching at the juniors. The two schools had separate Christmas parties and do not spend much time together. On inset days, they sit in their teams and do not integrate. Ice breaker exercises have not improved the situation.

All Hampshire schools have been asked to do a review of their TLR points in English and maths. EPS have had to define what

	<p>levels of TLR should be paid. HT does not think that this will affect WH at first glance and on reading the guidance but will report on the result of the review at the next meeting.</p> <p>HM needs to file the SFVS by the end of March and it will need to be presented at the resourcing meeting in March and then at the March FGB. Preparation is underway.</p>
<p>Committee Update</p> <p>a. Resourcing and Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies to review: <p>b. Teaching & Learning</p> <p>c. Safeguarding</p>	<p>a) LC is not here to report on resourcing. However, since the budget was signed off, there has not been any significant changes. The Chair received a letter from HCC regarding strengthening financial matters, particularly effective financial management, complying with the SFVS requirements and with benchmarking. A lot of schools are struggling. The three-year accounts will need to be signed off in March. There are no policies for review.</p> <p>b) Most of the T&L update was discussed at the recent T&L meeting. Updates primarily concern KSI, where one of the teachers has had support in assessment, especially in writing and visited a local primary school for comparison. The monitoring focus for spring is writing. GD has a focus plan which she will be writing up shortly. Caroline is flexible on dates for a monitoring visit. GD and JS will carry out a visit before Easter. JS will liaise with GD on suitable dates. JL and NW could both possibly do the visit too.</p> <p>c) NW did the SCR check today at the infants. Outstanding actions at the juniors have now been completed since the check there in December. HM is aware of updates and will issue a report. There have been two safeguarding incidents to note, one has been dealt with, and the other has been previously discussed, and a huge improvement in behaviour has been seen.</p>

	<i>(See confidential minutes for further discussions here.)</i>
Staffing update/wellbeing	<p>There has been a couple of resignations and a couple of new appointments. Claire Villis is leaving at half term. She is a TA and has also been doing PPA cover at the juniors. Her role has been filled this week.</p> <p>Cheryl Sturridge has been appointed as a 1:1 TA in Hazel class. Her contract is linked to the child. Jade Stimpson has been appointed as a permanent TA in Rowan class. Sophie Walker has been appointed as a 1:1 TA in Hedgehogs for a child starting after half term on a parttime timetable, having been decelerated. Sophie has been appointed on a fulltime basis, so can help out in other classes until the child reaches a fulltime timetable. Her appointment is also linked to the child.</p> <p>Laura is due back on 4th February after a foot operation. She is a 1:1 TA in Rowan class. Rowan and Ash are sharing a TA at the moment, so there are times when one class has no TA present. TAs currently are predominantly supporting SEN register pupils. Following these appointments, staffing capacity is back up to what it should be.</p> <p><i>(See confidential minutes for further discussions here.)</i></p>
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The WGB training is next Thursday 5th February at school. It's being given by Alison Rhodes on using data to improve outcomes. A session on Ofsted will follow in October which will also be run by Alison. b) The renewal of the HGS clerking contract was approved for another year on the basis of the same meeting hours as last year, 6 FGBs, 4 T&Ls and 3 resourcing. The form will be completed by the Clerk and submitted by 13th February. ACTION. c) FA's four-year tenure as a governor is up in May. There is a possible person interested in the role and the Chair will liaise with them. However, FA has volunteered to stay on for another year until the SIAMs inspection has

	<p>been completed. The governors were grateful to her for offering this and accepted this. Clerk will look at extending her term or starting a new term. ACTION.</p>
<p>Next meeting(s)</p> <p>12th March 2026 Resources - 9.30am, WHJS</p> <p>FGB 19th March 2026 – 6pm, St Thomas’</p> <p>15th April 2026 T&L 2026 – 4pm, St Thomas’</p>	<p>Meeting ended at 7.57pm.</p>