

Governing Board

Agenda & Minutes



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| Date 10 th July 2025 | Time 6pm | Location WHJS |
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Let Your Light Shine

Matthew 5

We believe in a child focused approach which aims to challenge, support and engage all pupils and their families from our community

We offer exciting learning opportunities to unleash the creative minds of our school community

We aspire to create the minds of the future through innovation, passion and enthusiasm

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| <p>Member Present</p> <p>Chris McGowan (Chair)</p> <p>Paul Davies</p> <p>Gemma Duff</p> <p>Jo Jones</p> <p>Jo Lubbers</p> <p>Jon Strefford</p> <p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Sarah Allchurch (clerk)</p> | <p>Apologies</p> <p>Alice Maclean</p> <p>Nicola Weeks</p> <p>Fiona Ashworth</p> <p>Lynsey Cooper</p> <p>Absent:</p> <p>Danny Millington</p> <p>Lisa Rodrigues</p> <p>Quorate: yes</p> |
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| TOPIC | NOTES |
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| 1. Welcome and Apologies | Meeting started at 6.10pm. Apologies accepted from AM, LC, FA and NW. DM and LR were absent. Welcome from Chair. |

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| 2. Pecuniary interests | No pecuniary interests declared. |
| 3. Minutes from previous meeting | Approved. (Minutes from 21 st May 2025) |
| 4. Chairman's comments | <p>The Chair thanked everyone for coming. It had been a busy year, and he appreciated all the support from the GB. AM has resigned as she is moving to Cambridge imminently and so could not attend tonight.</p> <p>The Chair attended a governors' seminar recently and came away with an appreciation of how good the Woolton School Federation is, and of the great relationship between the school and the GB. One point of note was the required balance of parent and staff governors who need to ensure when acting in their capacity as governors, their roles as staff or parents are not having an influence. If wearing a lanyard, that member of the GB is acting in their governor capacity. HT also noted that parent governors should email the office if they have a concern regarding their child but should email him in their capacity as a governor. This ensures there is no crossover between roles.</p> |
| 5. Headteacher's report (verbal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of key stage outcomes | <p>End of key stage outcomes:</p> <p>The end of key stage results of July 2025 had been shared with the GB ahead of the meeting. HT was very pleased that 70% of EYFS met GLD, a fantastic outcome.</p> |

- Staff wellbeing
- Approval of FIP 25/26
- SBN update

Q: what provisions are there for these children moving into year 1 to continue this progress?

An extra TA has been appointed yesterday for year 1. This cohort will also have access to outdoor space, continuing the play-based model.

Q: How suitable is comparison to the national average?

HT always looks to exceed the national average. The higher-level national standard is always a bit ambiguous, so the national average is the only comparison data available. Local schools are unwilling to divulge their data. The county average will be released however, which is usually a couple of points above the national. The Fischer Family Trust is also used.

The phonics results were also fantastic this year. 86% met the standard in year 1 (up from 80% in 2024 and 63% in 2023), which is exceptional. The multiplication check is on an upward trend as well.

It was acknowledged that these results are especially impressive given the higher numbers of SEND in these cohorts, which is seemingly a national trend.

Staff are really pleased with these results and know that it requires a team effort to achieve these, through high-quality teaching over a number of years.

The data drop for the T&L committee meeting is coming out tomorrow.

HT is confident of the accuracy of the KS2 writing as this was moderated this year. The teacher assessments were

submitted on the Thursday for the Monday moderator. The percentages did not change for the expected and GD judgements which were both agreed. The issue arose where children were working below the expected standard; the first and second books were not agreed, but luckily the third, fourth and fifth were agreed, but this caused some concern within the SLT. As a result, the SLT have carried out the most extensive moderation yet of all KS2 writing, looking at the majority of the pupils' books.

When looking at the year 6 books, the SLT realised it needed to be 'tighter' on pushing consistencies, such as spelling and punctuation. Having now got the most accurate data it has had to date, it is clear writing is harder to moderate than other areas such as maths or even reading. When looking at the latter and carrying out comparisons on book bands, some of these changed, but overall were accurate. It is harder for teachers to give accurate assessments of the levels of writing.

Q: The maths higher level was not above the national average.

This may well change, bearing in mind each child represents 3%. We are largely in line here but do need to be above the national average. There will be a focus on the differentiation of high achieving children. Tom Scott has just been appointed as the new maths manager and will be focusing on this.

Approval of FIP 2025/2026:

The writing plan within the FIP has now changed and this will be discussed at the T&L meeting next week. There will be a focus on maths in term 1 and on writing in term 2. The next step is to share this FIP with the SLT and then the parents. The variation of tasks within the foundation subjects is a key focus, as is the introduction of more formal opportunities to recall learning.

There will be continuing development of SIAMS. Woolton Hill schools are not going to be inspected next year, therefore it is expected it will be the following year.

Diversity focuses on reestablishing links with Uganda and on the Global Neighbours scheme and the Global Bronze Award. There will also be a project on sustainability and climate protection.

Q: Is this comprehensive?

Yes. The only tweaks to be made to the FIP are to the writing areas which have come to light since publication of the FIP.

Q: The diversity section talks about the children recognising their rights, but it is important that they realise this goes hand in hand with recognising their responsibilities as well. Rights are built on responsibilities.

Q: It might be beneficial to add another 'governor' column into the FIP for an overview of the various areas within it.

The FIP is not going to be approved at this meeting, as there are further tweaks to be made to the writing section. Approval can be done at the next FGB in September.

Q: How do we strengthen leadership within the federation?

Mr Scott is now the maths manager. He has a strong vision. The other candidate for the maths manager position was also a strong candidate and has been recruited to the role of science co-ordinator.

Jo Jones is now the inclusion co-ordinator and will be teaching upper KS2. When HT and KK are away, Jo Jones will be in charge and will have release time for her new role in addition to PPA time. KK will do half a day a week of SENCO at Ecchinswell.

Q: How have the visits to Ecchinswell gone?

HT concedes it is a bigger job than he initially was led to believe. In terms of the GB, there are no committee meetings, just FGBs, so the additional governance work will not be too onerous.

Staff wellbeing:

The mental health team have put out a survey and there are a lot of positives to take from this. There is also a staff night out the following night.

SBN update:

The LA consultation period runs until the end of the following week. Responses have generally been very

positive. There have been concerns about parking at St Thomas' and of the impact on budget and quality of teaching. PD reached out to the Parish Council and was subsequently invited to a Parish Council meeting which proved very positive. Basingstoke BC have offered assistance, as has Tom Thacker, Conservative councillor and Kit Malthouse, MP.

There are 280 new homes going up in Wash Water, so the demand is there, despite this being one of the LA's arguments against this proposal going ahead. These new homes will be in catchment and of the 280, approximately 80 will be affordable housing. The first properties will be going up in August.

Q: Is there any section 206 money being paid as a result of this development?

HT is not aware of this. But this development is going ahead and the demand for the SBN is there. All the information regarding this development is on the Bewley Homes website.

There is also a traveller site in Enborne called Hippo Camp, near Enborne Primary school, which is planning to expand quite significantly. This development has been passed by West Berkshire council and will no doubt saturate local facilities and amenities.

The SBN proposal is on track. Rebecca Clarkson pointed out a couple of errors in the business plan, although was positive about the proposal. After the consultation period ends, HT will seek to correct these errors.

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| | <p>In any event, the SBN could be set up regardless of LA backing. It has the backing of the community and of local politicians, so is in a good place to proceed.</p> <p>Q: How did the SEND provision meeting go with Helen Ley and Joseph Woodward?</p> <p>This meeting was very positive and resulted in two outcome options: the first being a resources provision at the junior school for school refusers; this would be for children with emotional needs rather than SEN or high needs. The second option would be a satellite school for Maple Ridge, who would pay the federation for the use of the classrooms, but it would be separate educations. Option 1 is the preferred outcome.</p> |
| 6. Financials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petty Cash Review: <p>No issues here. There was no formal petty cash policy in place. Having done the review, LC has now written a very comprehensive petty cash policy which outlines the processes that are already carried out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of year financial update: <p>The financials are now looking in a far healthier position due to the interim headship at Ecchinswell going ahead. For 2025/2026, there will be a surplus of £29,186 at St Thomas' and £51,500 at the juniors. This is a big improvement. The budget stays in surplus until 2027/2028, when there will be a projected year 3 deficit of £9k at St Thomas' and £50k at the juniors. The financials are currently looking very healthy and include all the additional costs of sharing the interim headship.</p> <p>Q: Is there a plan for the upcoming deficit?</p> |

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| | <p>Staffing costs will be looked at. TAs are on fixed term contracts. The new ECT is on a two-year contract to fulfil her induction period. There may also be the flexibility to reduce to the two classes going forward. The projected deficit can be justified as there may be a restructuring in a couple of years. Staff costs are 85% of the budget and the NI contributions increase is only partially funded. The main problem is insufficient funding; Hampshire is one of the lowest funded counties in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT upgrade: <p>The PTA have raised £4k from Woolfest and HT is hoping to persuade the PTA to contribute to the purchase of the new laptops and tablets. Renting the devices does not work out cheaper. The server upgrade took a significant amount of the budget, so the PTA money is needed to progress with this.</p> |
| <p>7. Committee Update</p> <p>a. Resourcing and Compliance</p> <p>b. Teaching & Learning</p> <p>c. Safeguarding</p> <p>d. Feedback from any governor visits</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing: <p>See above. Nothing further to add.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T&L: <p>Nothing new to report at this meeting. Data drop expected at the end of the week in time for the T&L committee meeting on 16th July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding: <p>The approval of the safeguarding audit was overlooked, so this will be put on the agenda for the September FGB in time for submission at the end of September. ACTION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor visits: <p>The SATS monitoring was carried out in compliance with all the requirements and regulations. Governor reports are stored at school. AM has done lots of visits but is now sadly leaving the GB. She will therefore need to be replaced as a foundation governor, the appointment for</p> |

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| | <p>which will pass through the Church as the first channel and then through the usual school channels. JL could carry out a maths visit in October along with GD and JS and this could be linked to the FIP. NW carries out safeguarding visits.</p> |
| <p>8. GB procedural matters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting schedule for next academic year: The version HT sent out with dates beginning 18th September for the first FGB at the juniors is the correct version. However, the Chair cannot make this date, as he is on holiday. • Agree key governor roles for next academic year: T&L – GD (Chair), NW (Safeguarding), FA (SEND), JJ and JL. (AM has left). Resources: LC (Chair), DM and CM HTPM: FA (Lead), CM (to be replaced by JS in September), plus a member of the Ecchinswell GB will be joining in September. The next HTPM is on 4th November at 9am. There will also be reviews through the year. There is a vacancy on the resources committee and for a foundation governor to replace AM. Garry Larcombe would be an ideal candidate for resources, therefore the Chair will chat to him about this. So, at present, there are two co-opted vacancies, two foundation vacancies and one LA vacancy, although the Chair is keener on filling the co-opted and foundation vacancies first. The Chair has concerns with getting the right balance, so everyone has responsibilities and is able to use their relevant skillsets. • Agree WGB training: After consideration of various topics including Ofsted and safeguarding, it was agreed that the Chair would book module GS103 – Understanding Data in Primary Schools |

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| | <p>as the next WGB training session. This needs to be booked by the end of December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB development plan: <p>As there currently is no GB development plan, it was decided that one would be put in place in time for the second meeting of the next academic year. This enables monitoring of the work of the GB and allows benchmarking of progress at each meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governing Body yearly review will take place on 18th July at 4.15pm. • Governors are also invited to a safeguarding training session led by KK on the 3rd September, an inset day, at 9am. The Chair will follow up with an email on this. |
| 9. AOB | Update on Debbie West: see separate minute. |
| 10. Next meeting | Chair thanked the GB for coming and for their input. Meeting finished at 7.42pm. |

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

| ACTION | TO BE ACTIONED BY | AGENDA ITEM |
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| 1. Approval of Safeguarding Audit to be put on the September FGB agenda | Clerk | 7. |
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