



Aspirational opportunities for all, through the breath of God”

MINUTES

Purpose: Meeting of the Local Governing Body
Date: Thursday 12th February 2026
Time: 4.15pm – 6.15pm
Location: St George's Church of England Primary School, Chequers Road, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 3QU

Present: Angie Cummings (AC) Foundation Ex-Officio
Howard Fisher (HF) Headteacher
Carol Gardner (CG) Foundation governor
Emma Hill (EH) Staff governor
James Shaw (JS) Vice Chair, Foundation governor – *arrived at 16.28pm*

Attended: Kim Farley (KF) PSHE Lead
Faye Goodwin (FG) MFL Lead
Marc Prentice (MP) Music Lead
Zoe Spoerry (ZS) Associate Member – *arrived at 16.55pm*

Apologies: Nnenna Jones-Agbaje (NJA) Co-opted governor
Abi Oniye (AO) Chair, Co-opted governor
Lucie Wilson (LW) Parent governor

Clerk: Kerry French Local Governance Professional

Unless stated otherwise all papers relevant to the meeting were circulated in advance.
Papers tabled at the meeting will only be considered with the Chair's approval, and noted in the meeting minutes.

Click [here](#) for meeting folder

Item:	Summary Description:	Actions:
1.	Subject Lead Presentations: Due to late arrivals, this item was brought forward. Presentations commenced at 16:15pm. <u>Modern Foreign Languages (FG)</u> • Presentation shared on screen. • Focus on practical communication and understanding spoken and written language. • Children enjoy the subject but find writing challenging. • Children are being encouraged to take pride in their work Q: Do children get confused between French and English phonics? R: Yes, pupils initially apply English sounds when reading. EH noted this had been discussed at a staff meeting; formal French teaching begins at key stage 2, allowing appropriate embedding. <u>PSHE (KF)</u>	

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	• Pupils apply PSHE learning in other contexts (e.g. PE lessons and break times). • They enjoy collaborative group work. • They find reflecting on personal questions more challenging. • Next steps: - Update knowledge organisers - Embed the newly rolled-out PSHE curriculum. • Rock Kidz will not run this year as it has been repeated several times, proved overwhelming for some pupils, and pupils have already completed the activities. <u>Music (MP)</u> • Presentation shared on screen. • Very proud of the children singing in various performances – has increased the profile of music within school. • Will be collaborating with other schools across the Island in Sheppey Sings project. Governors thanked Subject Leaders for their time and comprehensive presentations. FG, KF and MP let the meeting at 16.45pm.	
2.	Welcome, Apologies, Prayer: a) JS chaired the meeting in AO's absence. b) Apologies were received in advance from AO, NAJ and LW and were accepted by all. Governors noted that, while unforeseen absence can occur, governors should notify the clerk and chair in advance where a pre-arranged appointment is known. c) AC led in opening prayer: “Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to meet today, for the privilege of service and for the children and families in our schools; we pray that we may keep them ever central to our thinking. Lord, we ask you to grant us wisdom and insight, grant us courage in our challenging and compassion in our listening. We pray for your guidance and vision in all that we do today and for your grace and love in how we do it. We pray that you will bless our thoughts, our discussions and our decisions and may your blessing be on each and every child whom we seek to serve. In the blessed name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” Action: Clerk to send reminder to governors about the importance of attending meetings and submitting apologies in advance.	
3.	Quorum: The meeting was established as quorate (5/8)	
4.	Declaration of Business Interests: There were no new business interests or conflicts relevant to the agenda declared.	

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5.	Governing Body Business/Membership: a. <u>Governing body update</u> There are 4 x vacancies; 3 x foundation and 1 x parent. Recruitment remains problematic. c. <u>Governor Training</u> Governors are up to date with compliance training. d. <u>Update from Clerk</u> Meeting reflections should be robust, as they are read by the trust board. Schools will be asked to provide a summary of stage one complaints. Clarification around definitions and categorisation will be provided at the Headteachers Forum on the 27th February. e. <u>Letter from Trust Board</u> A letter in response to the chair’s correspondence to the trust board regarding the heating system issues was received.																									
6.	Minutes of the last meeting and Actions Arising: a) The minutes of the LGB Meeting held on 11th December 2025 were agreed for content and accuracy. b) The minutes of the confidential minutes of the LGB Meeting held on 11th December 2025 were agreed for content and accuracy. c) Governing Body actions and matters arising were reviewed as follows; <table><tr><th colspan="5">1. 16th October 2025</th></tr><tr><td>4e</td><td>Governors to complete effectiveness tool on GovHub</td><td>HF, AO, ZS</td><td>12.02.26 Still o/s</td><td>Outstanding</td></tr><tr><th colspan="5">2. 11th December 2025</th></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>Raise concerns around Staff absence pay with the Trust</td><td>HF</td><td>12.02.26</td><td>Complete</td></tr></table>	1. 16th October 2025					4e	Governors to complete effectiveness tool on GovHub	HF, AO, ZS	12.02.26 Still o/s	Outstanding	2. 11th December 2025					17	Raise concerns around Staff absence pay with the Trust	HF	12.02.26	Complete					
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7.	Leadership Team Reports: a) <u>Headteachers Report</u> <table><tr><th colspan="2">School Overview - Cumulative</th></tr><tr><td>Pupil on roll</td><td>385 (a small increase)</td></tr><tr><td>Suspensions this term</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>P. Ex</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Any on rolling 45 days</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Racial Incidents</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Bullying Incidents</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Sexual Harassment incidents</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>FGB Concerns</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Looked after pupils</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>EAL pupils</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Mobility</td><td>2 outgoing and 4 incoming</td></tr></table> Staffing information Parts of the discussions were deemed confidential, and will be recorded under part two of the meeting minutes.	School Overview - Cumulative		Pupil on roll	385 (a small increase)	Suspensions this term	1	P. Ex	0	Any on rolling 45 days	0	Racial Incidents	0	Bullying Incidents	0	Sexual Harassment incidents	0	FGB Concerns	0	Looked after pupils	7	EAL pupils	15	Mobility	2 outgoing and 4 incoming	
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- Capacity severely stretched; SLT covering teaching (including Year 6 maths)
- Reduced capacity for wider interventions
- Risk to staff wellbeing and sustainability.
- Cleaning team: Three recruitment rounds; first unsuccessful, second had two unsuitable applicants; third successful hire (ex-parent) now in post and reliable.
- Year 6 teacher is a strong addition to the team.

Admissions & Mobility

- September 2026 admissions very low (trend across the Island)
- Increased in-year admissions of high-need pupils placed by Local Authority (LA) without associated funding/support.

Attendance

- Current week at 93% – lowest since Covid.
- Term-time holidays, one persistently absent pupil affecting figures.

School performance and standards

- Pupil progress meetings taking place – overall decline in progress.
- SLT are teaching yr6 Maths to help catch up but not enough capacity in other areas.

Pupil Premium

- Number of Pupil Premium Children: 87
- Percentage of Pupil Premium Children: 23%
- Pupil Premium Attendance: 90%

Behavioural Reports

Positive Points		Unexpected Behaviour	
Total Dojo Points:	14,486	Total Slips:	52
50 Dojo Certificates:	341	Yellow Slips:	34
100 Dojo Certificates:	61	Pink Slips:	18
150 Dojo Certificates:	12	Internal Exclusion:	8
200 Dojo Certificates:	2	External Suspension:	1
Headlines			
• Increase in lunch time behaviour slips (due to transitions and cannot spread out into our usual places) • Key year group is Y4: with 2 key pupils currently displaying significant dysregulation • Significant number of children achieving positive rewards and their certificates as a result.		% With an additional need:	52%
		Most common event time of day:	Lunch Time
		Yellow slip event type:	Aggression
		Pink slip event type:	Physical assault (peer)
		Location	Classroom
Summary/Actions Points			
1. When the Adult Changes Everything Changes - Whole School Training			
2. Strategic Action Plans for Key Pupils in Yr4 and Yr2 - with some adult redeployment			
3. Behaviour Rewards Taking Place			
4. Share analysis of weekly breakdown for a strategic approach rather than reactive			

SEND

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	- EHCP annual reviews pushed back until after Easter; concern that EHCP funding may end (uncertainty over impact/contingencies). Wellbeing (Staff & Pupils) - SLT exhausted; doing more with fewer staff; impact visible in results. - Staff wellbeing a significant concern; HT expressed lowest morale in career regarding current system pressures.	
8.	School Improvement Plan a) <u>Identify, in priority order, focus areas for this year</u> Nothing of note outstanding. b) <u>Notes of visit</u> None.	
9.	Christian Distinctiveness/SIAMS - Staff attended an INSET day where staff focused on the school's vision and values, including worship, wellbeing, spiritual development and nurturing pupils. - Staff reflected on what the vision means in their roles, how it is lived across the school and its impact on pupils. - The school enters another year without a vicar. - AO and HF carried out a learning walk on RE and worship. - AO and AC reviewed RE teaching across the school with SLT.	
10.	Governor Monitoring and other Reports & Visits a) <u>Receive monitoring reports:</u> - Celebrations – Harvest (AC 171025) - Celebrations – Christmas (AC 191225) - Curriculum – Christmas Workshop (AC 15.12.25) - PSHE – Therapy Dogs (GC Jan 2026) - Pupil Progress (AC 161225) b) <u>Agree monitoring visits:</u>	

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11.	Finance: a) <u>To review Governor Report December 2025</u> b) <u>Consolidated cash flow</u> c) <u>To review Financial Report</u> • Overall surplus of £332,581. • Includes in-year deficit of £25,419. • Overall budget remains healthy. • School receives income for acting as a central venue. • Income no longer appears in detailed reports, making scrutiny difficult. • Ongoing temporary boiler costs are being met by Aquila, and will not impact the school budget. • September 2026 admissions very low (trend across the Island); significant budget impact anticipated Q: Although detail is not visible, can more be requested? R: The school can request further detail on individual budgets if needed, but current reporting does not present it routinely.																									
12.	Safeguarding a) <u>Annual Safeguarding review report</u> School have completed their annual safeguarding audit with some minor elements for DSLs to continue to develop. LW supported this and undertook her own interview in her role as governor. Full report will be presented at the next meeting. b) <u>Any issues or concerns for Governors to be made aware of</u>																									

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	None. c) <u>Safeguarding outcomes</u> No families subject to Child Protection Three families who are Child in Need No families under Early Help.	
13.	Health & Safety a) <u>Any issues or concerns for Governors to be made aware of</u> Aquila is financing temporary boiler hire and diesel; monthly costs are high. Q: Are other schools experiencing similar issues? R: Yes – two other schools with the same system report similar problems. Q: Can costs be reclaimed from the original contractor? R: No – system was installed through a DfE/government incentive; installation deemed not fit for purpose and school was not properly surveyed prior to installation. b) <u>Premises update</u> Nothing of note reported. c) <u>Review of Health & Safety and report on incidents recorded</u> Discussions deemed confidential, and will be recorded under part two of the meeting minutes. d) <u>Progress towards General Risk Assessment priorities</u> Site Manager and Year 4 teacher undertaking minibuss training. Fire service training officer visit – minor actions identified regarding fire doors.	
14.	Riskmate Risk Register a) <u>Update from Headteacher regarding Riskmate Register</u> Heating system and seasonal weather risks. Attracting and sustaining quality provision for after-school and breakfast clubs. b) <u>Assess Riskmate return for current strategic risks and ensure appropriate mitigations are considered</u> Report circulated ahead of the meeting. c) <u>GDPR</u> No breaches.	
15.	Compliance Tracey Howard completed a compliance audit – no issues reported. a) <u>Single Central Register</u> Up to date and accurate. Note: There have been multiple issues encountered with the Trust in getting this completed. b) <u>Website</u> School website rated top within the trust at 96%.	
16.	Policy Review a) <u>Aquila Trust Policies</u> - adopted • Suspension & Permanent Exclusion (Valid to July 2026)	

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	• Governance Succession & Development Plan (2025-28) • Health & Safety Policy Handbook 2026 • Health & Safety Policy Manual 2026 • Early Career Teacher Entitlement (2025-26) • Behaviour (with reasonable force addition) 2025/26 • Safeguarding Policy Checklist • Risk Management (2025-26) • ICT Acceptable Use (2025-26) • ICT Security & Email • Online Safety (2025-26) b) <u>School Based Policies</u> – approved. • Accessibility (2026-27) • Remote Learning (2026-27)	
17.	Confidentiality: <i>Recorded under part two of the meeting minutes.</i>	
18.	Future Dates and Agenda Plans a) Agree the next meeting date as 26 th March 2026 at 4.15pm b) Agree important items to be included on the next agenda; • Subject leader presentations • Safeguarding audit	
19.	Closing Reflections & Meeting Summary a) <u>What was the theme of the key discussion during the meeting and what is the impact for the pupils?</u> Operational pressures (staffing gaps, heating issues, wraparound provision) placing significant strain on SLT and wider staff. Reduced capacity for interventions and catch-up contributing to a decline in progress in some areas. b) <u>What was the key challenge facing the School/Trust during this discussion?</u> Sustaining staff wellbeing and operational capacity to deliver core education and support functions, while navigating SEND placement/funding challenges. b) <u>What are the areas for celebration in this discussion?</u> Strong pupil participation and celebration of creative work. Recent audits successful; website compliance high. Daisy the therapy dog supporting wellbeing. The meeting closed with the following Prayer; Almighty God, we thank You for bringing us together today and for guiding our discussions. We are grateful for the wisdom shared and the spirit of collaboration that united us. As we leave this meeting, we entrust all our plans and actions to Your divine will. Help us to carry forward what we have learned here	

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	with faith and humility, and may Your Holy Spirit continue to guide us in all we do. Bless each of us as we go forth and keep us safe under Your care. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen	
	Meeting closed at 17.31pm	

Actions Arising:

1. 16th October 2025

4e	Governors to complete effectiveness tool on GovHub	HF, AO, ZS	12.02.26 Still o/s	Ongoing
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3. 12th February 2026

2	Send reminder to governors about the importance of attending meetings and submitting apologies in advance.	Clerk	03.03.26	Complete
10b	Governors to book in monitoring visits in accordance with schedule	All		

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