



GOVERNING BODY TO VERNHAM DEAN GILLUMS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting held on 16th July 2026 at 4:00pm

Present

Mr Paul Nicoll (Chair) Mrs Rachel Miller (RM)
Mrs Kate Taylor (KT) Ms Anna Hall (AH)
Mrs Holly Bulpitt (HB) Miss Siobhan McCullagh (SM)
Felicity Stock (FS)

In Attendance

Mr Ian Hickman (IH) - Executive Headteacher
Miss Nikki Pauk (NP) - Clerk

Apologies

Brian McDonough (BM)

Absent without apologies

Rev Carol Dunk (CD)

Red font denotes - Ensuring the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Green font denotes - Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

Blue font denotes - overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Ref	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Prayer The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Brian McDonough. Rev Carol Dunk was noted as absent. The meeting opened with a prayer.
2.	Declaration of Pecuniary Interest No declarations were made.
3.	Review and sign off the minutes from the meeting 14th May 2026 Amendment/Action: It was noted that text needs to be added to clarify the cyclical nature of why residential trip costs increase during specific academic years as discussed at that meeting.
4.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair Mr Paul Nicoll was formally nominated and elected to continue as Chair of the Governing Body Mrs Kate Taylor was formally nominated and elected to continue as Vice Chair of the Governing Body.

5.	Headteacher Report The Executive Headteacher presented his report, noting that the school year was concluding positively with excellent feedback received from parents. Student number projections over the next few years look stable and positive. SATS & Educational Moderation: A Governor queried the recent SATS results. IH explained that the data had only been released that morning due to national delays in SATS marking. Results are broadly as expected. IH informed governors that the school is moderated for writing via Local Authority (LA) teacher assessment every four years to quality-assurance consistency across schools. Where marginal borderline grading decisions occur, the school can submit further work evidence. HB submitted supplementary evidence for one pupil this year, which was accepted by the moderators. Small Cohorts & Data Publication: Because the Year 6 cohort was very small (3 pupils), results will not be published publicly to ensure individual children remain unidentifiable. Governors discussed the challenges of identifying trends and patterns within small cohorts. IH noted that these dynamics were reviewed with the Local Learning Partner (LLP) during her annual visit, which provides an objective view of learning, staff engagement, and leadership. The feedback will inform the next scheduled LLP visit in March 2027. Writing Frameworks: In response to questions regarding the Key Stage 2 writing teacher assessments, IH explained that pupils must meet a rigid set of statements to achieve the "Expected Standard." Meeting all expected criteria plus advanced indicators achieves "Greater Depth." It was noted that the three pupils arrived late in their primary education cycle, impacting the overall statutory cohort data. Capital Works & Financial Control: The school has initiated crucial playground and external environment developments, including refurbishing the bandstand, with future plans for new fencing. The play area works are supported by external fundraising, while the bandstand and fencing are funded via school. Governors questioned if this expenditure was outside the pre-approved budget. IH confirmed that some unexpected additional works proved costly. Governors challenged the visibility of current financial controls, noting that spending outside of the agreed budget without prior notification presents a risk. It was agreed that a transparent process for approving additional expenditure over a set threshold must be established. Establishment of Finance Committee: To improve transparency, a Finance Committee was formed. KT, AH, and SM volunteered to join. It was agreed as good practice for committee members to visit the school to liaise directly with the Finance Officer. The committee will report directly back to the FGB. Attendance: It was celebrated that three children achieved 100% attendance for the academic year. Wraparound Care: The new wraparound care provision is fully operational. Its long-term financial sustainability will be monitored closely as the new academic year progresses. A formal review is scheduled for Easter 2027, with the ultimate strategic goal of the provision becoming completely self-funding. Premises: Quotes for line markings are being obtain. PN suggested contacting Sports Hall Markings.
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	Staffing & Strategic Structure: The long-term strategic staffing plan focuses on optimizing the skill sets of current staff rather than adapting to shifting pupil numbers. The school maintains a high staff-to-pupil ratio compared to average schools. Governors questioned if there is sufficient professional capacity; IH confirmed Miss Richards is a fully qualified teacher. A letter outlining the new Key Stage 1 class structure is being sent to parents tomorrow.
6.	Safeguarding Internal Capacity: The school has introduced several changes to internal safeguarding processes and capacity this year. To resolve past capacity concerns, the school now has 4 trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), ensuring robust, full-time coverage across the school week. One or two outstanding administrative actions will be finalized by the end of this term or the start of the next. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026: The updated statutory KCSIE guidance has been published and comes into force on 1st September 2026. The update introduces various policy amendments and reading requirements for staff and Governors regarding new indicators of harm. Action: IH to circulate the updated guidance to all Governors highlighting their specific legal responsibilities. School policies will be updated to ensure total compliance. Family Help Updates: Under the new guidance, "Early Help" is being replaced by "Family Help." This shifts the responsibility onto schools to take a leading role in organizing family support frameworks. Governors noted with concern that this places additional statutory pressure on school capacity without accompanying resource allocations.
7.	School Development Plan Curriculum: HB and IH have been developing the upcoming School Development Plan. This year's focus has targeted foundational skills, specifically within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), ensuring staff clearly map what children should achieve by the end of reception and how this transitions into Year 1. Key Stage Interventions: While Key Stage 1 attainment remains strong, the current Key Stage 2 cohort is weaker. Teachers are utilizing new targeted resources to bridge these learning gaps. It was noted that the recent Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) results did not meet internal expectations. Strategic Planning: A primary focus for the next academic year will be reviewing and adapting the curriculum management model across Key Stage 2. As the school enters the final year of its current 4-year rolling curriculum cycle, strategic planning is required for the 2027/28 cycle onwards to accommodate potentially larger cohorts. Collaborative Opportunities: Governors asked if the school could collaborate with the Skylark Federation on curriculum design. IH confirmed this is a viable path, but noted the school must remain smart as a 4-year cycle is still required due to mixed-age classes. The school currently utilizes a flexible 2-year cycle that can be expanded to a 4-year cycle. The team has a year to finalize this strategy. The Reception (YR) class will continue to run on its own distinct EYFS curriculum. Staff have also spent valuable development time collaborating with peers at other schools.
8.	Health & Safety Compliance & Maintenance: IH attended local authority briefing sessions regarding school Health & Safety and updated risk assessment procedures, following recent high-profile compliance incidents in other Hampshire schools. The school is in a strong position following the appointment of Dave

	(Caretaker), who is systematically maintaining compliance records, including asbestos logs, fire management plans, legionella testing, and general school maintenance. Accidental Injury: A minor workplace accident was recorded where a member of staff tripped over a train track toy and fell into a box of drums.
8.	Inset Days • Tuesday 1st September 2026 • Wednesday 2nd September 2026 • Monday 2nd November 2026 • Monday 4th January 2027 • Monday 5th July 2027
9.	AOB End-of-Term Events: Governors were reminded of the school play on Tuesday at 4:30 pm and the Year 6 Leavers Service on Wednesday at 2:30 pm. The planned end-of-year Governor BBQ was cancelled due to a lack of availability. Governor Training [Strategic Direction]: KT looked into group training opportunities via the NGA (National Governance Association) Learning Link. The NGA does not offer whole-governing-body live sessions, focusing instead on individual online modules. No formal group training has been completed by governors recently; individual uptake is encouraged. Year 6 Leavers Gifts: AH to order the traditional leavers' pens for the Year 6 pupils. Staff Recognition: The Chair expressed his formal thanks to the entire staff team for their hard work during what has been a remarkably calm, positive, and successful school year. PN shared that he had met informally with several school parents during the week, and their feedback regarding the school and staff was universally excellent. Governor Vacancies [Strategic Direction]: The board currently has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. A local resident, Carol Ward, has expressed an interest in joining the board. Action: The appointment must go through the Parochial Church Council (PCC) process. PN to forward Carol Ward's details to Rev Carol Dunk to initiate the process.

The meeting closed at 17:35

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th July 2026 at 16:00

Signed (confirmed): \

Chair of Governors

Date: \

	Action / Task Description	Owner	Deadline	Status
1.	Amend previous minutes to include explicit explanation regarding the cyclical cost increases for residential trips	Clerk (NP)	Next FGB	In progress
2.	Establish clear financial control measurements and approval processes for unexpected expenditure over an agreed threshold	Finance Committee	Autumn Term 2026	New

3.	Arrange initial committee visits to the school to meet and liaise with the Finance Officer	KT / AH / SM	Autumn Term 2026	New
4.	Review long-term financial sustainability and self-funding statues of the new Wraparound Care provision	FBH / IH	Easter 2027	Scheduled
5.	Finalise the remaining outstanding administrative safeguarding actions	Headteacher (IH)	Autumn Term	In progress
6.	Circulate the statutory Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026 document to all Governors, highlighting their legal responsibilities	Headteacher (IH)	Prior to 1 st Sept 2026	New
7.	Finalise the Y4 curriculum adaptations and evaluate rolling curriculum collaboration modes with the Skylark Federation	Headteacher (IH) / HB	July 2027 (ongoing)	In progress
8.	Place order for the traditional Y6 leavers' pens	Anna Hall (AH)	Immediate	Urgent
9.	Forward contact details of prospective Foundation Governor Carol Ward to Rev Carol Dunk to initiate the PCC application process	Chair (PN)	Autumn Term	New
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