



# GOVERNING BODY TO VERNHAM DEAN GILLUMS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 4:30pm

### Present

Mr Paul Nicoll (Chair)

Mrs Kate Taylor (KT)

Mrs Holly Bulpitt (HB)

Mrs Rachel Miller (RM)

Mrs Anna Hall (AH)

Ms Siobhain McCullagh (SM)

### In Attendance

Mr Ian Hickman (IH) - Executive Headteacher

Miss Nikki Pauk (NP) - Clerk

### Apologies

None received

### Absent with no apologies

Mr Matthew Leavesley (ML)

Mr Steve Bocock (SB)

RG – Parent Governor Vacancy

**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.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Prayer</b> PN welcomed all to the meeting.
2.	<b>Declaration of Pecuniary Interest</b> None
3.	<b>Review and sign off the minutes from the meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b> Approved and signed off.
4.	<b>HT Report (Written)</b> All Governors were provided with a copy of the HT report prior to the meeting.  A child from Hurstbourne started with us in YR on Tuesday taking our numbers up to 36.

	<p>Wraparound care – from aspirational point of view this would be great. IH said that he had a new provider starting up at his other schools. He did say that the provider does work with schools who have nothing / tiny numbers. For wraparound care we need sustainability as the care needs to self-fund. School to look into grants to cover the cost for a year.</p> <p>There is a possibility of starting Forest School here. Need to fence the pond off completely so the wooded area can be opened and used safely.</p> <p>To take Forest School the lead has to have completed forest school training so there would be a cost implication to this. The training takes time but we can run sessions whilst in training. IH has two staff members at each of his other schools trained up for Forest School as if somebody is off sick or employee leaves they will still be able to provide this. Governor question: when you provide wraparound care does it have to be a certain type or can you ask providers to come in and do certain classes. No it does not have to be a certain type of care. Looking around there is a mix of local schools that provide the care themselves or through a third party. Some of the care is sports heavy activities, some use the Scott Centre and the new provider at Skylark provides a mixture of activities across the week. What is offered all comes down to funding. If we can secure funding that would cover the costs for 12 months this would give room for growth and an opportunity to advertise making prospective parents aware.</p> <p>School improvement target is ongoing. We have had really positive visits from the LA. Our school improvement targets were created earlier in the year on the basis of the previous LLP reports and the information we knew about the school at the time. IH and HB to look at over the summer to review going forward. Actions from the LLP report can be fed in over the next term and into next year as well. We have received a lot of useful input from LA within the last 6 months. Mostly pleased about the recognised progress.</p> <p>Parent communication is more consolidated. One of challenges was the issue surrounding information being given to parents in a timely fashion. A lot of this was around the staff changes. This has more settled since September.</p> <p>Cloud back up costs are high for 1TB. Governor asked if this was something we could negotiate? Can we query what other options are available for back up? Governor said that she would speak to her son about the cloud back up costs as he is in this profession. NP to go back to Harrap to query the cloud back up cost <b>(A12)</b>.</p>
5.	<p><b>School Development Plan Update</b> This was discussed in the HT Report.</p> <p>HB has recently had a visit from the English Advisor and a visit with the Maths Advisor is booked in for next Thursday.</p>
6.	<p><b>Safeguarding Report</b> On Inset Day (28<sup>th</sup> February) the school undertook trauma and mental health informed schools training which linked in well with safeguarding. The training equips staff with the knowledge and skills to understand the impact of trauma on students'</p>

	<p>learning and behaviour, enabling them to create safer, more supportive, and inclusive learning environments. The training provided detailed information around how the brain works and how it is related to trauma.</p> <p>LLP visit gave us an opportunity to talk through some cases, looked at examples of how we use CPOMS.</p>
7.	<p><b>Budget Report - Outturn</b>  Not much movement from last meeting. Budget planner updated. Currently carrying over £89,000. Governor asked if we are still paying SC along with paying Moores Cleaning? IH confirmed that this was correct. We have a rolling contract with Moores so if we want to cancel we only have to provide 1 week's notice.</p> <p>Governor asked how the situation with shared costs across the three schools is working? IH confirmed that NP will be meeting with the Skylark Business Manager next Wednesday.</p> <p>There are 166 Andover Rural places and around 145 children in the system. Forecast is for this to pick up. Funding is now based on pupil numbers whereas you used to receive block funding and then a cost per pupil. This helped rural schools.</p>
8.	<p><b>Benchmarking</b>  Benchmarking is a useful activity for Governors to undertake. Helps look at costs across a range of elements across the school and how this compares with similar schools. NP to share website link with Governors <b>(A13)</b>. This links in with the SFVS which is an activity undertaken over a year and is a self-audit for schools to run through. Deadlines for questions to be submitted is the end of March. NP to send details to CofG for completion <b>(A14)</b>. County check to ensure this has been done.</p>
9.	<p><b>SFVS</b>  Last year's document to share with Governors.</p>
10.	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety</b>  Borrowing time from Skylark's Site Manager to do urgent health &amp; safety checks. Site Manager to do visual check of grounds.</p> <p>We have a child who shows aggressive behaviour towards adults. We have changed strategies use with this child and log incidents to spot patterns and trigger points.</p> <p>Lots of input on CPOMS.</p> <p>Educational Psychologist coming into school next week to visit a child. Has other outside agencies involved as well. Child has made a lot of progress since starting with us.</p>
11.	<p><b>AOB</b>  AH requested to take control of article for focus magazine. All agreed.</p> <p>The fundraising quiz night raised £731 each for our school and Little Fingers Pre-School. Our thanks go to Mr Bulpitt for his duty as Quiz Master! Thinking of organising a race night in the Autumn.</p>

Conholt – funding. Conholt want to put money into schools. Governor’s partner to speak to trustee next week. Conholt have recently purchased the Conholt Row houses for their employees.

RM to come into school for a Governor visit.

Skills Audit. Currently KT has only received three. By the next meeting she will have them all pulled together so we will know what we are lacking in. Awaiting completed skills audit from ML, SB and RM. SB said at a previous meeting that he would like to take on the role of Health & safety Governor as this is where we are vulnerable at the moment.

Governor hub will be ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March. NP to speak with Harrap to create a shared drive for Governors. From 1<sup>st</sup> April we will be using the National Governance Association. This will be a saving of £1,300 per year. The service provides tools, information for Governors, advice, templates for report visits, questions to ask. Skylark Governors have found this really useful.

PN has recently met with Peter who is CofG at Skylark to discuss the odd collaboration between Governors. Main reason for this is if there is a disciplinary we would have a pool of Governors. This has been agreed in principal.

Thank you to those who have donated prizes for the Easter Raffle.

The meeting closed at 17:33

**Date of next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Signed (confirmed): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair of Governors**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who by</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
1.	School Development plan to be drafted	IH/PN	25/10/24
2.	School Article to be published in village magazine	AH	
3.	Information to be sent to AH in order for her to prepare something for Focus Magazine	HB	
4.	New Governor monitoring form to be devised	PN	On hold
5.	KCSIE 2024 updates to be read	ALL	
6.	Email to be sent to IH with details of what Governor believes is not being done.	AH	Completed
7.	KCSIE update document to be sent to Governors	IH/NP	Completed

8.	Slides from Affordable Schools Network meeting to be shared with Governors	IH	
9.	LLPR report to be shared with Governors once received	IH	
10.	IT comparison costs to be sent to Governors	IH/NP	
11.	Governor Skills Audit to be completed and returned to KT	ALL	
12.	Cloud backup cost to be raised with Harrap	NP	
13.	Benchmarking link to be sent to Governors	NP	
14.	SFVS Checklist to be sent to PN for completion	NP	

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who by</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.	Budget Revision Agreed	ALL	21/11/24