





Woolhampton C of E Primary School

Built on the rock of Christian faith, we work as a community to create an environment which enables all to flourish. Jesus welcomed all and we embrace diversity, celebrating our different gifts and successes. Like St Peter, we are motivated by our values, learn from our mistakes and strive for the best outcome for everyone.

Minutes of the Full Governing Body (FGB) held virtually on Thursday 22nd May at 6.30 pm

The meeting was quorate with 8 governors.

Note: Items were not necessarily discussed in agenda order.

PRESENT: Nikki Jordan **NJ** (Chair, Local Authority Governor), Rebecca Cox **RC** (Head Teacher, Ex-officio), Kate Moir **KM** (Foundation Governor, PCC – Parochial Church Council), Kelly Mitchell **KMI** (Parent Governor), Kim Wyrley-Birch **KWB** (Vice Chair, Foundation Governor, Diocese), Rev. Jane Manley **Rev.JM** (Ex-offico Foundation Governor), Fiona Smith **FS** (Staff Governor), Adrian Dean **AD** (Foundation Governor, PCC), Cynthia James **CJ** (Foundation Governor (Foundation Governor, PCC) – *Part Attendance*.

APOLOGIES: Martin Harding **MH** (Parent Governor), Terry Webster **TW** (Foundation Governor, Diocese), Carly Madders **CM** (Foundation Governor, Diocese), Rachael House Gemmell **RHG** (Governance Professional/Clerk to the Governing Board).

ABSENT: None.

IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Lowther **JL** (School Business Manager).

CLERK: Kate Moir (Foundation Governor).

ITEM	PART 1 MINUTES	ACTION
1.1	Welcome NJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was a virtual meeting held via Zoom, governors were aware a sound recording was being made to assist with minute taking.	
1.2	Opening Prayer This was led by Rev.JM.	
1.3	Apologies and Absences Apologies MH, TW, CM – all accepted. The Clerk was unable to attend this meeting, notes for the minutes were taken by KM.	
1.4	Any Other Business (AOB) items (urgent) One item.	
1.5	Declarations of Interest for Agenda items or AOB No new declarations.	
2.	Class Structure & Staffing Feedback SAT's (Standard Assessment Tests) week had gone well, as did the monitoring visit. NJ also did Governor Monitoring visit. The results will be out in July. Phonics screening and multiplication tests will take place after half term. Work ongoing for the restructuring of classes, with much consideration being given	

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to the curriculum so that teachers are well prepared for the start of the Autumn Term.

Staffing updates.

- An ECT (Early Career Teacher) will start in September.
- The Year 4/5 teacher has resigned (she has been promoted within her other school). She will leave at the end of the year. A current Year 5/6 teacher with many years of experience and an interest in maths and computing has been recruited, will be starting in September.
- A new TA (Teaching Assistant) has been recruited for one-to-one support.
 Hopefully to start before end of term.

A letter regarding staff updates will be sent to parents on Friday morning before half term. There have been some complaints from parents that letters announcing changes went out at the end of term in the afternoon, not giving parents a chance to respond.

Question: How was the year group re-structuring letter received by parents? **Response:** RC said she had met with five of the Year 5 parents, they understood that this was the right thing for the school but not for their children, and questioned whether teachers would be able to teach Year 5/6 together. RC tried to reassure them that their children will have the same advantages as previous Year 6 classes, and that our staff are more than capable of teaching this particular mixed year group. RC believe they left understanding the reasoning behind the decision, and there have been no further comments on this.

RC said that the main concern of parents is the behaviour of a couple of children. Woolhampton is no different from any other school in terms of the number of children with special needs. Woolhampton is an inclusive school and try the best to meet the needs of all the children and do everything to minimise disruption within the school. RC said she and the other staff have done all they can do, and are in a better position than some schools, but the situation is not going to change, so it is about managing parents' expectations and concerns. RC was thanked for coping with the challenges with composure and compassion, keeping these children at the centre of her approach. RC said the Behaviour Team complimented the school on the progress one child had made, and the way the school has done everything to keep them within the school rather than exclude them. When things have settled down, RC would like to speak to parents about why things are done as they are.

Comment: A point raised that children will have to meet challenging behaviour throughout their lives, and the school's kind and positive approach will give them a solid understanding of this. RC said adults had much to learn about the way children accepted those who have issues.

RC will send out a letter to parents regarding staffing updates for September.

3. Feedback from Finance & Resources Committee Workshop Held on 1st May 2025

This focused on the SRMA (School Resource Management Advisors) report and its headline recommendations. It was a positive way of working together and the committee scrutinised items in detail, whilst not taking at face value everything in the report.

4. Budget 2025 – 26

JL said there was a deficit of £38.5000 which was bigger than anticipated, generally due to staffing situation costs.

Revised Draft Budget Fund 01 Main School

Will remain in a deficit position of £22,778.15. There has been an in-year saving of just over £15,000. Around £10,000 saving is due to the recruitment of a ECT which

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was a recommendation from the SRMA. The majority of other savings was due to a more advantageous insurance policy for staff absence. These in year savings cannot be maintained. For the next year budget although JL had made recommendations around savings on the minibus, a number of staff will likely be moving onto UPS (Upper Pay Scale) salary banding, so any savings are off set by salary increases. JL said the School Deficit Team will probably not like the budget plans as it does not show the school coming out of deficit within the next five years. JL was hoping they would appreciate is that possibly by year 3 there will be increased funding.

The school's pupil numbers have dropped with children moving away, JL explained, projecting the time they would have spent within the school this was a loss in the region of £12,000 per annum. Without this, JL said there would not have been an in-year deficit and she would have been able to make in-roads to the overall deficit. There have had some enquiries about children joining the school so hopefully the number on roll can increase before October census. At present JL said she could not see any other way of further reducing the budget.

Fund 13 Sports Premium

JL said schools have been led to believe the grant will not continue, but Schools Accountancy have said to plan for it to be there and it is therefore in the budget as a credit £4,960.43. However, should the fund not be granted this amount will have to be moved to the main school budget.

Fund 99 After School Club

Really successful last year, however the rent charged is less due to staffing costs which have increased. The Finance & Resources Committee need to consider an increase in charges from September.

Action:- Finance & Resources Committee to consider increase to rental charges for the After School Club.

Clerk (RHG) & JL

Also changes regarding the minibus could affect attendance at the After School Club by Bucklebury C of E Primary children and could mean a loss of around £4,000. Not forecast within budget as JL believed this could be mitigated.

Fund 08 Pupil Premium Grant

All spent except for £24.59. JL said this recognized what certain staff members did within the school and apportioning some of their salaries. Money was also available for accessing resources within this as well.

Further discussion was recorded under Confidential Part 2 Minutes.

Comment: It would be good to have some form of publicity drive for vacant spaces. RC said it does say on the website, but she was not sure how many people see this. As far as social media was concerned, Instagram could be a good option. JL said she hoped pupil numbers would be up to 101 in the Autumn as there was currently a small Year 6 cohort.

Question: Does the school have an Instagram account?

Response: RC said it did not.

KWB offered to research how to set up Instagram for the school and liaise with CJ for how this is successfully used in the marketing department at Elstree.

Action:- KWB to research setting up an Instagram account for the school and to work with CJ on liaising with the marketing department at Elstree School.

KWB & CJ

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	<u>Decision:- The governors approved the budget (including the deficit budget position of £22,778.15 in Main School for 2025 – 26).</u>	
	The governors thanked JL for all her hard work on putting the draft budget together.	
5.	AOB (Any Other Business) Urgent	
3.	JL formally requested approval to withdraw £25,000 from the James Blythe Trust account to put towards the playground renovations. NJ said the Finance & Resources Committee had also discussed this at length during their Working Party session. NJ asked if anyone who had not been present at that Working Pary had any questions, there were no comments or queries.	
	<u>Decision:- The governors approved the withdrawal of £25,000 from the James</u> <u>Blythe Trust account for the playground renovations.</u>	
	Governors felt it was very positive the school hall was being freshened up over the summer holidays. Along with plans for the playground and restructuring of the class year groups governors agreed it would be an exciting and positive start to the Autumn Term.	
6.	Dates of next meetings Wednesday 16 th July 2025 at 6.30 pm	

The meeting closed at 7.08 pm.

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