





## **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 21st March 2024 at 7.00 pm

The meeting was quorate with at least 8 governors at any one time. The meeting began at 7.06 pm. Note: Items were not necessarily discussed in agenda order.

PRESENT: Nikki Jordan NJ (Chair, Local Authority Governor), Kim Wyrley-Birch KWB (Vice Chair, Foundation Governor, Diocese), Rebecca Cox RC (Staff Governor & Temporary Acting Head), Kate Moir KM (Foundation Governor, PCC - Parochial Church Council), Rev. Jane Manley Rev.JM (Ex-offico, Foundation Governor), Terry Webster TW (Foundation Governor, Diocese), Carly Madders CM (Foundation Governor, Diocese), Kelly Mitchell KMI (Parent Governor), Martin Harding MH (Parent Governor) - Majority Attendance.

**APOLOGIES:** Kath Burns **KB** (Head Teacher, Ex-officio), Cynthia James **CJ** (Foundation Governor, PCC).

**ABSENT:** None.

IN ATTENDANCE: Nik Allen NA (School Leadership Support).

CLERK:	CLERK: Rachael House Gemmell RHG (Clerk to Governors).		
ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION	
1.1	Welcome  NJ welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
1.2	Opening Prayer This was led by Rev.JM, who especially prayed for KB.		
1.3	Governing Body Membership  NJ confirmed Anna Partridge's (AP) term as Foundation Governor had ended on 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024. NJ had met with AP earlier this week to pass on a gift and say thank you on behalf of all the governors for AP's work and contributions over her two governor terms.  NJ also reported Sarah Fenwick-Stubbs (SFS) had resigned from her post as Foundation Governor on 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024. NJ had also passed on thanks to SFS for her time as governor.  This had left two PCC appointed foundation governor vacancies. However, NJ had recently been able to meet with someone who was interested in becoming a governor. NJ and RC had been happy to recommend the nomination of Cynthia James (CJ) to the PCC who had given approval for her appointment. CJ brings both education and financial knowledge and will become a member of the Finance & Resources Committee. CJ was unable to attend the current FGB meeting.  One vacancy for a PPC appointed foundation governor now remains.  NJ was also grateful to NA for attending this evening's FGB meeting (and committee meetings held in March) and for all his support of RC and the school during his time with Woolhampton.		
1.4	Apologies and Absences		

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Apologies for KB and CJ – both accepted. MH would be joining the meeting later.  Any Other Business (AOB) items (urgent) None.  2.1	A A			
1.6 Declarations of Interest for Agenda items or AOB None.  2.1 Acknowledgement of completion of the Reconstitution process and Governor Membership number The Clerk explained the new Instrument of Government had been received from WBC (West Berkshire Council) Legal Department confirming the change from 14 to 12 members of the Governing Body. The Governing Body has therefore reconstituted from 21st March 2024 and is now operating under their new Instrument of Government (in line with School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012).  2.2 Election of Chair of Governors The Clerk confirmed as part of reconstituting it is necessary to elect new terms of office for a Chair and Vice Chair of Governors. From discussions at the last FGB meeting, nominations had been received for NJ to continue as Chair of Governors. NI confirmed she was happy to stand. The Clerk asked if there were any other nominations or self-nominations, there were not. The term of office was confirmed as until the July 2025 FGB meeting. The governors unanimously elected NJ with a show of hands.  Decision:- The governors elected NJ as Chair of Governors until the FGB meeting that will be held in July 2025.  2.3 Election of Vice Chair of Governors The Clerk asked if there were any nominations or self-nominations for the Vice Chair of Governors position. There were two nominations for KWB. KWB said she was happy to stand. There were no other nominations or self-nominations. The term of office was confirmed as until the July 2025 FGB meeting. The governors unanimously elected KWB with a show of hands.  Decision:- The governors elected KWB as Vice Chair of Governors until the FGB meeting that will be held in July 2025.  The Clerk passed the chairing of the meeting to NJ.  STRATEGIC FOCUS  3. Governing Body Priorities Priority 1 — Monitoring Strategy Priority 2 — Christian Distinctiveness Priority 3 — Communication Strategy Priority 4 — Learning Environment & Resources  NJ said some adaptation is needed to the link governor roles and named li		Apologies for KB and CJ – both accepted. MH would be joining the meeting later.		
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Monitoring is also important for all governors and NJ reminded governors of the		governors with the changes to governor membership.  The Governing Body continues to be mindful of the school's Christian distinctiveness and this will be further taken forward in relation to the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools) inspection.		

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monitoring visits timetable moving onto the summer term.

Discussions within the recent Finance Committee meeting regarding health and safety had highlighted the importance of the school's learning environment.

### 4. **Leadership Report**

NA said he had experienced a positive five weeks with the school.

### Health & Safety and Safeguarding

The new fence had been installed at the front of the school. Locks had been reinstated on the internal doors near the school entrance. A skip had been delivered for anything that could be thrown away, reducing hazards within school and clearing spaces where things had piled up. NA was working with the SBM (School Business Manager) to install door finger guards and reinstate the fire step to the third fire exit in the school hall. Another fire exit had also been reinstated in the hall. NA had been looking at quotes for maintenance support on an ongoing basis, such as repairs to the fire step from water coming from damaged guttering above. In future NA hoped there would be a maintenance plan to avoid such things happening, and he was collecting routine quotes to support this.

For safeguarding, NA was ensuring the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) three year renewal process was in place. He had also begun the process of moving external clubs under the school's internal safeguarding policies. NA had reviewed CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System) to make sure this was up to date and closing cases if required. NA had looked at site security ensuring internal doors can lock and getting quotes for a 6ft fence for the boundary between the school and church.

RC had been working very hard regarding SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) and reviewed some of the practices and provision in place. A new staff member had been recruited to support SEND.

### **Policies**

NA had updated the school's Behaviour Policy regarding information on Therapeutic Thinking; had put together a Parent Code of Conduct Policy and a Suspensions and Exclusions Policy which outlines the relevant rights and processes.

#### Teaching & Learning

NA had reviewed History and Geography subjects looking at the consistency of teaching across the school. Staff had received training on Rosenshine principles ready to implement within their classes.

NA had also updated the PPG (Pupil Premium Grant) Strategy document.

The aim is to soon configure all the chrome books and laptops. NA had also organized for the recycling of old IT (Information Technology) equipment.

#### School Playground Project

NA had begun initial processes for the refurbishment of the school playground. NA had joined the surveyor on the safety review and discussed what needed doing. NA had engaged with three playground companies and some landscape companies. This would enable the school to implement all weather surfaces and invigorate the playground space. There were concerns some of the retaining sleepers were rotting. Also some fencing had been taken down creating drops which were considered too high. Governors agreed that due to the Health & Safety concerns this project needed to be prioritized going forward. NA said his aim was to provide guotes and a full plan before Easter.

MH joined the meeting at 7.30 pm.

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### Staffing

RC said the Year 4/5 class would be fully staffed after Easter after employing another teacher for the remaining two days a week. The teacher is very experienced, particularly with curriculum development and was keen to be subject lead for maths.

A new TA (Teaching Assistant) had also been employed. They will work mainly as a one-to-one for various children to help relieve pressure around the school. The new TA is very experienced and enthusiastic and RC expects them to fit in well.

NJ thanked NA on behalf of the governors, for all his work and guidance, which had been a lot in a short time and done with speed and efficiency. This had also relieved some of the pressure on RC.

#### Leadership after Easter

NJ explained Peter Thorne (PT), who has been teaching for two days a week in Year 6, is willing to take on the leadership role of Interim Head Teacher. PT had previously been a head teacher with another school in WBC. PT would cover the Year 6 class on Fridays and the head's role the rest of the week. There are plans within the finance budget for this. A handover will be arranged with NA.

KMI and NA had discussed the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) gap. PT will do the DSL course. Another staff member could also have the DSL training to cover Fridays when the SBM is not in school, although PT will be in school all week. RC acknowledged there needed to be enough DSL's within school but not too many as it was difficult to ensure they were all kept up to date. KMI added that CPOMS should help with this.

<u>Decision:- The governors agreed with the decision to employ Peter Thorne as</u> <u>Interim Head Teacher from the Summer Term 2024.</u>

NJ was very grateful to RC for all her work as temporary acting head.

#### 5. Year 6 Residential

The Year 6 Residential trip will be to Hartington Hall, Derbyshire, from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

RC confirmed, AP (whilst still Health & Safety Link Governor) had been into school and reviewed all the risk assessments on behalf of the Governing Body. These were also uploaded onto the Governors Drive ahead of this meeting.

**Question:** Was there any work which needed doing to the minibus to ensure it was in the best condition possible?

**Response:** RC said she thought any relevant updates had been carried out in 2023.

**Comment:** It is important the maintenance schedule is up to date along with MOT (Ministry Of Transport) and service requirements. RC said she believed these things should be checked every six weeks.

**Question:** Following a previous residential trip, had it not been discussed that the minibus would not be used for long haul trips again?

**Response:** RC acknowledged another member of staff had found it stressful taking the minibus on a long journey, but she was happy to drive it and added that the minibus would also be needed for trips out during the residential.

<u>Decision:- The governors approved the Year 6 Residential trip to Hartington Hall</u> (<u>Derbyshire</u>) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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6. 6.1a	Minutes of the last FGB (Full Governing Body) Meeting  Minutes of the FGB Meeting held on 14th December 2023	
	Accepted and approved.	
	The Governing Body approved the Minutes of the FGB meeting held on	
	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023, as a true and accurate account of the meeting, the minutes will be signed outside of the meeting.	
	minutes will be signed outside of the meeting!	
6.1b	Matters Arising from the FGB Minutes dated 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	
6.1b.1	<u>Item 3 – Leadership Report</u> 1. Further information on the Year 6 Residential Trip to be future FGB agenda	
	item.	
	This was done, see item 5 above. Action Closed.	
	2. AP to review Year 4/5 residential trip risk assessments on behalf of FGB.	
	AP did this and the trip successfully took place earlier in March. Action Closed.	
6.1b.2	Item 4.2.5 – Matters Arising from the FGB Minutes dated 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	
	RC to update governors on progress for re-making the school promotional video	
	for the school website.  The governors agreed with RC that this had not been a recent priority. RC	
	The governors agreed with RC that this had not been a recent priority. RC wondered if making the video could be a project for the Year 6 children after they	
	completed their SAT's (Standard Assessment Tests). The governors were happy	
	to leave this with RC to organise in due course. Action Closed.	
6.1b.3	Item 4.2.7 – Matters Arising from the FGB Minutes dated 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	
0.120.0	Clerk to send the approved 2025 – 26 Admissions Policy to the LA (Local	
	Authority) and Diocese.	
	The Clerk had done this. Action Closed.	
6.1b.4	Item 14.2 – Articles for publication in the Benefice Online Newsletter and/or	
	Community Magazine	
	<ol> <li>NJ to write the December article for the January Benefice Newsletter.</li> <li>NJ had done this. Action Closed.</li> </ol>	
	2. MH to write an article for the February Benefice online newsletter and	
	community magazine (deadline 17 <sup>th</sup> January).	
	This was done by MH. <i>Action Closed.</i> 3. CM to write articles for the March editions (deadline 17 <sup>th</sup> February).	
	CM had written this. <i>Action Closed.</i>	
6.2a	Minutes of the Extra FGB Meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	
	Accepted and approved.  The Governing Body approved the Minutes of the Extra FGB meeting	
	held on 14th December 2023, as a true and accurate account of the	
	meeting, the minutes will be signed outside of the meeting.	
6.2b	Matters Arising from the Extra FGB Minutes dated 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	
6.2b.1	<u>Item 2 – Reconstitution of the Governing Body</u>	
	Clerk to send the draft Instrument of Government to both the Diocese and Local	
	Authority along with the required evidence of decisions recorded within the FGB minutes.	
	These were all completed by the Clerk. <i>Action Closed.</i>	
6.3a 6.3a.1	<u>Minutes of the FGB Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024</u> <u>Item 3 – Chair of Governors Update</u>	
0.30.1	SFS to ask Emma Smith (School Administrator) to update school staff display in	
	the school reception area.	

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RC said the school staff display board had been completed by the office administrators but just needs to be put up on the wall. The school website also needs to be checked to ensure staffing is up to date. Action Updated. Action:- RC to ensure staffing is up to date on the school website. RC Item 8.2 - Articles for publication in the Benefice Online Newsletter and/or 6.3a.2 Community Magazine CM to write articles for the March editions (deadline 17<sup>th</sup> February). CM had written this. Action Closed. **COMMITTEES** 7.

### TLC (Teaching Learning & Care) Committee

#### 7.1 Draft TLC Committee Minutes dated

KM said the committee had received an overview of French and Music subjects which are well embedded within the school curriculum. It was felt there will be a gap regarding music at Woolhampton going forward with the very strong subject lead teacher leaving. It had been good to hear how French has developed since the pandemic. The governors had also had an update from NA regarding History, Geography and policies. There had been feedback from RC on the SIA (School Improvement Advisors) visit for Phonics, where there is a need to ensure all new teachers have relevant training so the teaching of Phonics is consistent across the school, and an English visit. KWB had spoken to the committee regarding the financial implications around SEND. The SIAMS Working Party plans to meet. The committee also discussed pupil, staff and governor wellbeing, especially NJ as Chair.

#### 7.2 Policies for Approval

These had been reviewed by the committee and were recommended for approval:

- Complaints Policy & Procedure Statement
- Staff Code of Conduct
- ECT (Early Career Teacher) Induction
- Written Statement of Behaviour Principles
- Statement of procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff. All accepted and approved.

Decision: - The governors approved the Complaints & Policy Procedure Statement, Staff Code of Conduct, ECT Induction Policy, Written Statement of Behaiour Principles, Statement of procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff.

#### **Finance & Resources Committee** 8.

<u>Draft Finance & Resources Committee Minutes dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024</u> 8.1

> MH reported the committee were aware of the financial pressures and that the school will likely submit a deficit budget, currently forecasted at £4,978. The PPG and Sports Premium budgets are being efficiently run. The committee had discussed improvements needed for the school playground and governors now had the appetite to make use of the Trust funds whose money is specifically for the maintenance of the fabric of the school. The committee had also received information from KWB regarding finances and SEND.

#### 8.2 Policies for Approval

The Health & Safety Policy was based on WBC's new model version. There had been no changes to the Governor Allowances Policy. Both policies were recommended for approval, which was given.

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8.3	<u>Decision:- The governors approved the Health &amp; Safety and Governor Allowances policies.</u> SFVS (Schools Financial Value Standard) – March 2024	
8.3		
	This had been reviewed by the Finance & Resources Committee. NJ had also added the summarised actions. This was recommended to governors for approval.	
	Decision:- The governors approved the SFVS March 2024.	
	Action:- NJ to sign the approved SFVS outside of the meeting and pass to the SBM for submission to WBC before the deadline of 31st March 2024.	NJ
GOVERNA	ANCE	
9.	<b>Update from Clerk to Governors</b> The Clerk explained the DfE (Department for Education) had recently published their Maintained Schools Governance Guide which replaced the Governors Handbook. There is not currently a downloadable document but the Clerk had provided all governors with the website link to access the document. This had also been added to the Governors Drive. Governors were advised to familiarize themselves with the new guide.  The Clerk had also provided governors with details on the updated DfE guidance on attendance applicable from 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 and information relating to this from the NGA (National Governance Association). Governors were reminded of the school's membership of the NGA and the networks and events available with them during the summer term. A list of training available with West Berkshire Governor Services was also provided.	
	·	
10.	Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) It had been confirmed the school will not be inspected until the 2024 – 25 academic year. TW agreed to join Rev.JM, RC and KM as part of the SIAMS Working Party who will meet after the Easter holidays. The aim will be to make sure the SIAMS SEF (Self-Evaluation Form) is lived out within the school. Rev.JM is booked to attend SIAMS training in May, NJ has already completed this. The TLC Committee had discussed having a children's book for Collective Worship to capture reflections/writings/drawings. Rev.JM said the PCC had agreed to purchase a book and it will be kept in the school's reception area.	
	Action:- Rev.JM to arrange SIAMS Working Party meeting with RC, TW and KM to take place after the Easter holidays.	Rev.JM
11.	<ul> <li>Governor Training &amp; Development</li> <li>Various training/knowledge had been undertaken:         <ul> <li>NJ had completed online Adverse Childhood Experiences and Prevent Duty TES (Times Educational Supplement) courses.</li> <li>KM had completed Arts &amp; Cultural Education: improving your school and its curriculum (NGA Learning Link).</li> <li>The Clerk had attended the NGA's Governance Professional/Clerks conference held over two mornings (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March).</li> <li>NJ had completed Managing Staff Workload &amp; Wellbeing (NGA Learning Link).</li> <li>MH had attended a webinar regarding finance.</li> <li>KMI had attended a briefing for safeguarding.</li> <li>NJ had completed training for Cyber Security through the National Cyber</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	both completed it at an earlier date. NJ recommended it for all governors.	
	both completed it at an earlier date. No recommended it for all governors.	
	Action:- Clerk to circulate information on accessing the Cyber Security training available from the National Cyber Security Centre.	Clerk (RHG)
	<b>Question:</b> Were governors up to date with safeguarding training? <b>Response:</b> KMI said Prevent had been updated, she believed this included a quiz. RC said she had the details of this and would share it with KMI.	
	Action:- RC to send KMI details of the new Prevent training which includes a quiz.	RC
12.	NJ thanked KWB for the Monitoring Report following her SEND Governor visit on 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024. NJ reminded governors to be pro-active with governor monitoring in the summer term, and to complete a report form to ensure evidence is captured regarding these governor monitoring visits. NJ asked governors to check the Monitoring Calendar online to help plan their monitoring visits. CM added, she had performed some website monitoring.	
	Action:- All governors to check the Governor Monitoring Calendar on the Governors Drive and arrange any monitoring visits for the summer term.	All Governors
	<u>Link Governor Roles</u> Following Governing Body membership changes, some of the monitoring Link Governor roles needed to be reassigned. The governors agreed to the following:	
	<ul> <li>Equality – CM</li> <li>Health &amp; Safety – KMI</li> <li>GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) – NJ</li> <li>English – TW</li> <li>Community – TW</li> <li>Wellbeing – NJ</li> <li>Maths – CJ.</li> <li>It was agreed to no longer have a SIAMS Link Governor as the SIAMS Working Party would be leading on this.</li> <li>NJ will make these adjustments to the Strategy Plan.</li> </ul>	
	Decision:- The governors approved the Link Governor Roles as listed above.	
	Action:- NJ to update the Strategy Plan document with the new Link Governor Roles (and replace SIAMS Link Governor with SIAMS Working Party).	ŊĴ
13.	KMI said most things had already been covered within the meeting by NA. When KMI had gone into school to meet with NA and the SBM they had discussed extending the school's safeguarding policies to the after school clubs. The SBM is setting up a file for outside contractors and agencies. PT will undertake DSL training. The DBS renewals are underway. NA is dealing with the fence between the school and church.  In making governors aware of the main safeguarding areas which arise for referrals at Woolhampton, RC said these were parenting issues and domestic abuse. This information was important in making sure governors have an overview of safeguarding at the school. KMI said the school understands contextual safeguarding very well by making sure they know about the children and their circumstances outside of school.	

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	RC confirmed three referrals were made to Children's Services this term and there	
	are two open cases.	
	<b>Question:</b> Did the school require any support from governors regarding these?	
	<b>Response:</b> RC said no, governor support was not needed for these.	
14.	Health & Cafety	
14.	Health & Safety This had been addressed in the thorough Leadership Depart. Covernous agreed	
	This had been addressed in the thorough Leadership Report. Governors agreed	
	the momentum needed to be continued after NA leaves.	
	<b>Question:</b> Was the school now in a better place?	
	Response: NA said SLT (Senior Leadership Team) meetings take place every	
	week where Health & Safety is also a topic. Health & Safety needs require	
	monitoring closely to ensure everything is done.	
	<b>Comment:</b> A governor mentioned the state of the pavement outside the school	
	and that nothing had happened about it with either WBC or the Parish Council.	
	The governor had put in a complaint to the Parish Council and explained	
	complaints could also be logged with WBC Highways department.	
15.	GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)	
	No issues to report.	
OT::==		
	MATTERS	
16.	Friends of Woolhampton School (FoWS)	
	The Easter Egg Hunt is planned for the last day of term. Mother's Day posies had	
	worked well.	
	RC had spoken with the FoWS Chair regarding the playground and explained the	
	sort of things NA had been looking into.	
17.1	Community, Church & School Events relevant to Governors	
_,	Governors were invited to attend the school's Easter Service held at St Peter's	
	Church on Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March at 1.15 pm.	
	Rev.JM said the possibility of joining with Brimpton C of E Primary School to do	
	something for St Peter's Day had been positively received by Brimpton's head	
	teacher.	
	Question: Was a member of staff taking on the RE (Religious Education) Subject	
	Lead role?	
	Response: RC said it was possible that PT would be able to do this as he had	
	experience as RE Lead.	
	Question: Had the school been able to engage a Handyman?	
	<b>Response:</b> NA said he was in touch with someone through the Parish Magazine	
	and quotes for work were being organized.	
17.2	Articles for publication in the Benefice Online Newsletter and/or	
	Community Magazine	
	Upcoming governor articles:	
	Actions: KWB to write the April article for the May editions (deadline 17 <sup>th</sup> April).	KWB
18.	AOB (Any Other Business) Urgent	
	None.	
MEETTN	 G SUMMARY	
19.	How has this meeting fulfilled our strategic purpose?	
1).	• The Governing Body had reconstituted to 12 governors in order to be as	
	efficient as possible and utilise skills.	
	The monitoring of Health & Safety and Safeguarding in particular with plans	
	- The monitoring of Fledici & Surety and Sureguarding in particular with plans	

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	<ul> <li>to take things forward.</li> <li>Christian distinctiveness through furthering the SIAMS Working Party.</li> <li>Effective communication within feedback from the school's leadership and links with FoWS. Updates in governance communicated by the Clerk.</li> <li>The playground and outdoor learning environment had been widely considered throughout the meeting. Governors had also been made aware of staff appointments and approved an interim head for the summer term.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>How has this meeting fed into our Christian vision?</li> <li>Plans for improvements to the environment of the school, in particular the playground and boundary fences.</li> <li>Governor skills (gifts) considered in addressing Governor Link Roles.</li> <li>Working together as a community between governors and the SLT to find solutions to issues and concerns, including within committees.</li> <li>Continuing to support wellbeing.</li> </ul>	
17.	Dates of next meetings The governors thanked NA for all his work and contributions during his half term with the school.  Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm (Budget) Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July at 7.00 pm.	

The meeting closed at 8.26 pm.

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