

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malmesbury Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting in school 5 May 2022 at 6.40pm

Present

Gregory Fauvarque – Chair (GF)	Rachel Copeland – Vice (RC)	Sue Woods (SW)
Colin Kershaw (CK)	David Bryson – Vice (DB)	Helen Lever (HL)
Janine Birkin-Hewitt (JBH) via Teams	Kieron Lillis (KL)	Lorna Howarth (LH)
Steve Croft (SC)	Theresa Adams (TA)	

Nicki Warne (Clerk)

Minutes		
1.	Opening Prayer and Welcome	
	GF opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2.	Apologies – Dave Talkowski (DT) – accepted. GF explained that JBH would	
	be attending virtually as she had Covid symptoms.	
3.	Register of Business Interests and Code of Conduct All governors confirmed they had no changes to declare for the Register of Pecuniary Interests. Governor Training Record: It was agreed that this accurately reflected the training that had been undertaken with the following additions: JBH New Governor training with the Diocese on 30/04/22 and SW Section 48	
4.	training with the Diocese on 06/04/22 – NW to add. Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the FGB held on 27 January 2022 (including the closed minutes) were accepted as a true record and signed by GF.	
5.	Matters Arising & carried forward The chair confirmed those actions from the last FGB that were complete with the following updates: GF gave an update on the issue of Associate Members' terms of office. The clerk highlighted her concerns and it was agreed that this would be addressed at the October FGB. HL was actioned with checking SEND reports on the school website as some tracked changes remained present. HL advised that this was to the PP strategy report and it had been updated. GF would mark up the error on the signed-off minutes. Governor were informed that there would shortly be a vacancy for a Foundation Governor and no applications had been received to date. LH to raise at Mass and GF to send the advert to LH for inclusion in the Parish newsletter with an updated closing date. The clerk informed governors that all of governor references had now been received and added to the SCR. Items carried over: SW to discuss with Ellie Green about whether she should continue as an Associate Member.	LH
	Associate Member. SW to reschedule the governor-staff breakfast.	sw

	SW and GF had agreed to co-sign a letter to the Diocese about the problems with the In-Year Admissions, with a view to resolving this issue for the next Admissions Policy. This was carried over and assigned to SW and the new Chair.	SW/ CHAIR
	Staff survey: KL was to circulate a formal report and a response to the staff planned. KL explained that he has been unable to access the data on	
	Sharepoint and would approach Oakford for support with this.	KL
6.	Notification of AOB 1. Parents Survey	
	2. The Governing Board agreed to a closed AOB.	
7.	Governor Matters All agreed to move 7g to the beginning of section 7.	
	g. Chair of Governors end of term • Election of interim Chair of Governors	
	There was a discussion about the best way to proceed with GFs tenure as Chair ending and his term of office coming to an end on 16/05/22. A governor nominated themselves as Chair and subsequently withdrew their nomination after RC and KL nominated themselves to be Joint Chairs for the period until the October FGB and RC and KL left the room.	RC / KL
	It was discussed that RC and KL would need to work hard to clearly define their roles in order to not increase the Headteacher's workload. Governors voted for KL and RC as Joint Chairs for the period until the October FGB by unanimous vote. RC and KL returned to the room. GF continued act as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.	RC / RL
	 Governor to oversee school website & compliance DB agreed to take on this role, which GF has previously undertaken. RC to send the new guidance she had received. Proposal to appoint outgoing Chair as an Associate Member GF had agreed to put himself forward as an Associate Member in order to support the Board with certain ongoing activities. There was a discussion about what confidential ongoing matters he would be required to support and it was agreed that a tenure as Associate Member would be the most transparent way to keep his expertise on the Board. GF was voted as an Associate Member from 17/05/22 for a one-year term by majority vote, and would be linked to MVL with no voting rights. 	DB / RC
	a. Safeguarding Audit (RC) SW updated governors and explained that RC and SW had consulted throughout the LA safeguarding audit process in February. SW stated that the school was doing really well with safeguarding and this had been confirmed by an external safeguarding audit undertaken by Sarah Turner (ST), explaining that she looked at one of the more serious issues the school had handled and said it was dealt with very thoroughly. ST advised on the next steps and SW explained that, on her advice, further safeguarding training would be undertaken by the DSL (and cascaded down to the teachers) on vocabulary (for example around peer-to-peer abuse).	
	b. Strategic Review update (JBH) JBH explained that the core group had met at the beginning of April and the strategic review was discussed at MVL. She informed governors that she would be circulating a timeline to all governors for short- medium- and long-term key strategic proposals. The summary document of the SWOT analysis would also be circulated shortly.	ЈВН
	c. Governance audit – LA Governor Services Governors were informed that no funding would be available for an external review of governance by the NGA as the LA only recommend funding for schools that require improvement to their governance. The LA had, however,	

offered a free governance audit to help identify the Board's strengths and areas of development and **JBH** would approach the LA regarding timings for that. There was a discussion about whether the LA were impartial auditors, as they also were involved in the training and coaching of the Board members, and it was agreed that a discussion about self-funding an NGA audit could be had after the audit of governance from the LA had been completed.

JBH

d. Diocesan MAT strategy – update

GF explained that he was unable to attend a Samuel Partnership meeting about MAT strategy. Most primary schools were represented and the schools present concluded that they would not be in a position to explore the issue further until Jan 2023. There was a discussion about the Diocesan deadline for this and the support the Diocese was offering to aid the process. The next step would be to put forward the school's needs and requirements in time for Jan 2023.

e. Complaints Policy

GF explained to governors the reasoning behind not presenting the complaints policy, as circulated, for approval. Explaining that there were further learnings to be had before presenting the final version to the Board for approval at the next FGB. SW explained that the Policy came from a DfE model. GF invited feedback on the current document. A suggestion was made to add a paragraph about logging and tracking complaints and to change the wording for members of appeal panels from 'foundation' to 'appropriate'. SW to make amendments and bring to the July FGB for approval.

SW asked for further feedback from governors by 15/05/22. The clerk informed governors that all complaints were reported to the governing body after they are completed with the result and the lessons learned.

SW ALL

f. The Governing Board agreed to go into a closed minute.

h. Link Governors

GF had rag-rated the Gov visit schedule, which he shared with Governors and agreed to add to the Link Governor folder on Sharepoint. He implored governors to continue adhering to the schedule as it was key to governor monitoring.

A couple of points of best practice were suggested:

- Meet with SW beforehand as her guidance could be very helpful.
- Schedule your next visit at the end of your meeting in order to stay on track. Governor agreed that they were happy with the process and the guidance around timings of meetings.

8. Headteacher's report

A detailed report and the updated School Development plan (SDP) had been circulated prior to the meeting and the HT invited questions.

Questions from governors were as follows:

A governor stated how good it was to see pupil numbers increasing and the data in year 6 showing that the children were improving.

There was a concern on the SDP that RE was showing as behind on the ragrating and the leadership were asked what was being done to address this. SW explained that the school was aware that it was an area that needed addressing. She informed Governors that they had an RE staff meeting the previous evening and had a meeting with Fr Thomas the previous week. She explained that the impact of absence in term 3 was the highest ever. The RE

lead was absent for 3 weeks, along with covering a lot of other staff absences.

There was a question over the concern raised about a gap under a new gate. SW explained that the Head of Property at the Diocese was aware of the problem and it was being resolved. She asked **DB** to chase the Diocese, which he agreed to do.

DB

A governor asked whether the SIA report including in the HT report was in full or a summary. SW explained that it was extracts including the relevant detail.

A governor enquired how the Y6 data for maths was arrived at. SW explained that it came from formal testing (PUMA) along with teacher assessment. The governor asked for more detail on the underlying data and it was explained that governors are provided with an overview at FGB and that data was drilled into further at MVL committee. There was a discussion about dedicated spend (for example Sports Premium) and governors were advised that this was the remit of the Resources committee

The clerk also reminded governors to send their questions ahead of the meeting for efficiency reasons.

a. Safeguarding

There were no further issues raised.

b. Pupil Premium (PP) / disadvantaged pupils

There was a discussion about the current PP data and a governor asked how likely it was that the target would be achieved by the end of the year. HL explained that there had been a knock-on effect from Covid but the Reading Pals intervention was working and was being prioritised. She remained optimistic that improvements would continue to be made, and wanted to keep an 'aspirational' target. She explained that the target for maths, reading and writing were the same and were is recommended by the LA.

9. Resources Committee

a. To review minutes and actions where necessary

JBH explained that the planned meeting had to be postponed so there were no minutes to review or actions but a new meeting would be scheduled by 09/05/22. She explained that the SFVS had been submitted and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

b. SCA bid – update

SW explained that a new SCA (School Condition Allocations) bid for the rebuild of the toilets and the new Reception area, had been submitted and she would inform governors of the outcome as soon as possible.

c. Policies: JBH explained that SW was sourcing new HR policies and that these would be circulated in due course.

10. Mission, Vision & Learning (MVL)

a. Review minutes and actions where necessary

KL invited questions following the circulation of the minutes.

b. Admissions update

Governors were informed that the admissions numbers for Sept 2022 were low, but that this reflected the local picture. However, in-year admissions were high and were helping to mitigate this. SW explained that the budget impact was already being assessed and would be bought to Resources.

c. Policies

	It was confirmed that the Online Safety Policy was approved by governors via email in Nov 2021. The Governor Visits Policy had been approved however there were a couple of formatting issues/typos to correct and the updated version would be circulated to the Board. The Home-School Partnership Agreement would be reviewed at the next MVL and would come to the FGB for approval in July.	RC
11.	AOB	
	1. Parents survey	
	SW explained that she had created a parents' survey and the questions	
	would be reviewed at MVL before going out to parents.	
	2. The Governing Board agreed to go into a closed minute.	
	At the close of the meeting, GF thanked governors and said it had been a	
	pleasure to work with the school and all of the governors. SW thanked GF on	
	behalf of the school for all of his hard work and all agreed.	
	The meeting closed at 8.35pm.	
11.	Date of next meetings:	
	 a. Mission, Vision & Learning – 30th June 	
	h D TDC	I

- b. Resources TBCc. FGB 14th July