



ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 10th March 2026

Time: 17:30

Venue: Gorse Bank Primary School

Clerk: A. Howarth

Present: T Allaby, G Lavelle, S Illingworth, J Maguire, F Bell and Z Shah

Action	Initials
Governors are asked to inform the Clerk of any changes to their register of business interests	All
FB to reach out to contacts to see if any local secondary school Headteachers or someone from a local business is interested in joining the governing body.	FB
FB to contact Nicola Burgess re process involved in electing/adding new governors	FB
FB will share updated governor link document showing which subject areas are allocated to which governor	FB
Governors to check mandatory training has been completed and any additional training as relevant to their role	All
Governors are asked to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention	All

Agenda – Part 1			
Category	Item	Notes	Action
1	Governance Arrangements	G. Lavelle delivered training to Governors. The majority of GB students are from an affluent background. This means that where there are disadvantaged students, the differences are greater. Many different factors can increase the gap, including household income, SEND, ethnicity, and being a LAC. (Looked after child) Generally, low-income pupils tend to be underestimated by teachers and the gap in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and their more affluent peers is 19.2 months by the end of secondary school. Pupil Premium is allocated to eligible schools based on the number of free school meals and LACs. The allocation of money is in one pot rather than attached to an individual child. The school identifies challenges based on their cohort. Most of the funding goes towards	

		whole school training with a focus on intervention, social and emotional needs and attendance. Staff think ahead to visits, World Book Day, etc. and what families may need. Q - Do you have to report annually how you have used the funding? A – Not specifically, but we would be expected to show the impact. Spending is broken down, rounded and reported on the website. OFSTED look specifically at this area.	
	Apologies	Apologies were received from C.Liu	
	AOB	There were no other items of business to raise.	
	Declarations of interest in any of the agenda items	There were no declarations in any of the agenda items.	
	Register of business interests	The Clerk circulated the Register of Business interests. Governors were asked to record any changes and the Clerk will update the register and publish.	All
	Code of Conduct	There are no new governors to agree to the Code of Conduct.	
	Minutes of last meeting	Minutes of the meeting held 15 th October 2025 were <u>approved</u> as a correct record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.	
	Membership and terms of office	FB- Two parents have registered interest in becoming governors. Q – Do we need a non-parent governor? A – We don't have to appoint one, but we are lacking someone in the local community for a professional governor. Q – Are there any areas we need specific support, e.g. finance? A – We don't have much input into finance as this is decided centrally. FB will reach out to contacts to see if any local secondary school Headteachers or local businesses have someone interested in joining the governing body and will contact Nicola Burgess regarding the process.	FB
	Scheme of Delegation	There were no material changes to the Scheme of Delegation to note.	

		Trust Board updates	Governors reviewed the Trust Board reports from the October 2025 and December 2025 meetings and had no further questions.	
2	School Performance & Accountability	Pupil outcomes	TA presented the Pupil outcomes summary. Year 6 are on track for similar results to last year. Study groups are taking place before and after school to support children with borderline results as well as others to improve their achievement. Children on pupil premium are targeted, but are often harder to get in early, even if offered breakfast for a variety of reasons. Afternoon groups are put in place to catch them. Point in time scores are what they are achieving now. Looking at the year 1 Phonics Screening Check, they still have the rest of the year to improve, but 48% are already achieving at that level. There is a focus on writing in Reception and Key stage 1. Scores in year 2 are affected by students with EHCPs. Governors had no further questions.	
		School Development Plan	FB presented the reviewed SDP, which has been added to the Teams folder. School has prioritised some areas and will now focus on others. Many things are ongoing. Improving Writing is something that has been a focus and is continuing. Work has begun on tracking pupils with EAL; Looking at initial assessment to provide a good starting point and to identify where to direct support. Q – Is there anything on the list that worries you? A- Pupil premium students, although a small number are often a focus and concern. School works hard to build relationships with families and put support in place but there is still more to do. Attendance is a big problem. Governors had no further questions to raise.	

		Quality Assurance Visit Report	FB discussed the QA Visit Report, which has been added to the documents for this meeting. Leaders did a learning walk focusing on more vulnerable pupils. They looked at the provision in place, talked to the teacher and looked at pupil work. Learning walks like this will have more emphasis in OFSTED visits. Q – How was the Learning walk received by staff? A - FB has discussed with staff and the aim is to get away from this being threatening. A learning walk should be a normal part of the school culture to find things to celebrate but also to look for ways to support. FB would like to spend more time in class chatting to children and looking at their work so it becomes a norm. Governors had no further questions to raise.	
3	Governor Monitoring	Finance update	Governors reviewed the November and December 2025 Management Accounts. Pension costs have been reduced by nearly half. Employer contributions were set in line with the Cheshire East contribution of 37% as opposed to GMPF which is 19.6%. The school no longer has to align with the LA and can now align with the Trust. Q - Will the Trust lower the budget from next year? A – Not that we are aware of. School had to spend £7000 on supply cover (Cover was provided by existing part time staff) Governors had no further questions to raise.	
		Policies	There were no policies for approval at this meeting.	
		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor updates	The Record of Visit document is in the paperwork for this meeting. SI reported that she met AT, and found it very helpful to discuss SEND provision in the school and also see some of the provision in action.	

		Curriculum records of visits	Visits have taken place for: Geography - CL RE – CL Maths - TA Record of Visit documents have been added to the paperwork for this meeting. Q - Is there an updated document showing which governor is allocated to which subject area? A – There is one- FB will find and share.	FB
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		Behaviour and Safeguarding update	FB updated governors. At the last meeting, Cheshire East had identified three areas of focus: Neglect, Sexual Abuse and Online Safety. Since then, members of SLT have attended training in each area so they can share updates with the staff team. All members of SLT complete three National College training courses as DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Lead) DH has completed training in ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and Lego Therapy. Over time impact will be measured. NH is a member of an anti-racism group and has provided a useful flowchart to follow for consistency in school. Governors noted that considerations from the Section 175 audit, self-identified areas have all been looked at now. TA gave a presentation on Behaviour procedure and the use of Bromcom to record behaviours. There has been positive engagement with parents/carers and this seems to be working in terms of fewer repeated behaviours. Ongoing feedback from staff and parents is positive. It is a supportive approach with the pupil reflecting on what they have done and how they can do differently. The certainty of the sanction has been really helpful. Kids Club will be using the same process. Q – Has the admin for staff increased? A – Bromcom is easy to use, takes 20 seconds to log in and boxes are prefilled to save time. Governors had no further questions.	
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		Attendance Report Governors reviewed the Attendance data which was circulated prior to the meeting. FB noted that Autumn 2 attendance had dropped and this was mainly due to families taking trips before Christmas. Year 6 attendance also dipped due to attending interviews for High School. Even though these are authorised, they still count in the figures. Q – At the end of the summer term 2 there was a drop in year 6 attendance? A – Attendance was poor after SATS and this is a focus for us to monitor this year. We have a new attendance team in place, who meet half termly, and good communication with our families is key. The Pupil Premium group have lower attendance. Although this is slightly better than last year, still needs to be targeted. Staff try to reach parents in a non-threatening way. Letters are sent to any child falling below 95% attendance, with different versions for those on holiday to those due to illness. Punctuality continues to be a concern for a few children as learning starts from the beginning of the school day and some children are regularly missing the starting activity and are often feeling anxious due to being late which impacts on their readiness to learn. School is trying different strategies to improve punctuality. Governors had no further questions to raise.	
		Pupil numbers Governors noted the pupil numbers in all year groups, and the total number of children in school was 425. The remaining place in Reception has recently been filled. Any new applications have to be considered on a case-by-case basis according to year group and individual needs.	

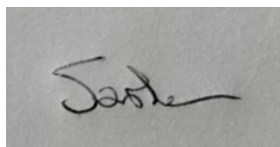
		Health and Safety update	Governors reviewed the Health and Safety report. Q – Does someone come in to school to complete the audit? A – Yes someone visits and walks around the whole school. FB- An Asbestos management plan has been created which will be useful for sharing with other building users. There is no powder, but asbestos has been found in the glue of floor tiles. This is only an issue if tiles are damaged. A storage area for gym equipment is highlighted in the plan for users to be aware of the tiles when moving equipment. A five-star rating was achieved in the environmental health audit.	
4	Governor Development	Review Academy Committee training needs	Governors will check the training list and complete any mandatory training and any additional training as relevant.	All
		Clerk to minute any training undertaken since the last meeting	Governors are asked to send their training certificates to the Clerk for retention.	All

5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	Governors noted the updated engagement plan in the documents for this meeting. FB gave a brief update. Parents are not always able to come in to school as more parents are working now. More parents are requesting meetings on Teams. Some parents are harder to reach and tweaks to practice are being made, such as translation of letters. Instagram has been launched and the aim is to ensure consistency across age groups. The Mystery Reader launch was very successful, with over 90 volunteers. Lessons learnt are that parents find it easier to give time just before pick up so may be a more effective time to request volunteers. The admin workload was huge due to the large numbers and next time, volunteers will be asked to sign up to a time slot, as they do for parents evenings. Q – In terms of online safety, how does school involve home? A - We set up video and teams meetings with parents, share information via email and Gorsey Weekly. Gorsey staff and visitors talk to children in years 5 and 6 and this may be extended to year 4. There is a good contact in the local authority. Governors had no further questions to raise.	
	AOB		There were no additional matters to discuss.	
	Meeting Dates:		Wednesday 15 th July 2026 at 5.30pm	

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes
GL gave a presentation on Pupil Groups
Membership of the AC was reviewed. The process for recruiting a new parent governor has begun. FB will look into a potential additional governor from a local business or a secondary school head
The Pupil Outcomes summary was reviewed
Governors reviewed the School Development Plan
The QAV report was received from the September visit
Governors received a finance update
The Behaviour and Safeguarding report was reviewed by Governors
Link Governor Record of Visit reports were received for Geography, RE and Maths

A Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor report was received
Governors received an update on pupil numbers
An Attendance report was reviewed Governors.
Governors reviewed a Health and Safety update

Meeting closed at: 7.00 pm



S. Illingworth
Chair of Academy Committee
15th July 2026