



AGENDA OF GOVERNING BOARD

Monday 14th July 2025, 7 pm

Oathall Community College

Present: Toby Houghton (TDH) Head Teacher; Rowena Chalk (RC) Chair; Nicky Wastie (NW); Vicky Cobb (VC); Sarah Wild (SW); Carol Mactaggart (CM); John Parry (JP); James Horsman (JH); Richard Carter (CRC).

In Attendance: Zoe Froud (ZF)

Minutes: Donna Murdoch (DM) Clerk to Governors.

No	Item
1.	<p>Apologies and absence.</p> <p>BB gave their apologies.</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of interest.</p> <p>None</p>
3.	<p>Senior Leadership Presentation – Attendance/Behaviour Review.</p> <p>ZF gave a presentation to the board about behaviour and attendance.</p> <p>Behaviour.</p> <p>ZF spoke about the positives in this academic year which include staff and students like the clarity of the new prescriptive system, centralised detentions and automated communication has reduced teacher workload, credits are becoming embedded across the school and the new mobile phone policy has had a positive impact on most students. ZF holds a behaviour panel fortnightly and this is helping to maintain consistency.</p> <p>During the spring term 100 students had an A1 brunch and 250 students received a letter of commendation home for all A1's.</p> <p>3 students have reached the platinum award (400).</p> <p>18 students have reached diamond award (200/350).</p> <p>122 students have reached gold award (150/250).</p> <p>20% of students have not received a single behaviour point.</p> <p>The team are looking at the areas for development.</p> <p>Attendance.</p> <p>In terms of attendance. Oathall's attendance is 92.6% which is 1% greater than the national average. Persistent absence is 17.9% which is 4.4% less than the national average.</p>

4.	<p>Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2025 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Re-election of Chair & Vice-Chair</p> <p>RC put herself forward to be re-elected as chair. The board chose to vote by a show of hands and all were in favour to re-elect RC as chair.</p> <p>BB put herself forward to be re-elected as vice-chair. The board chose to vote by a show of hands and all were in favour to re-elect BB as vice-chair.</p> <p>There was also an adjustment that SW will become a co-opted governor and the board were all in favour. The election for 2 parent governors will take place in September.</p>
6.	<p>Matters arising not on the agenda.</p> <p>None.</p>
7.	<p>Business and finance reports.</p> <p>The astro refurbishment will take place during the autumn term instead of over the summer holidays.</p> <p>A photo shoot took place in June with the aim of refreshing the prospectus, corridor photos and other marketing materials.</p> <p>The fencing for the new poultry area has been installed and the farm technicians have rebuilt the two wooden flower beds in the new area. The plan is to prune and cut back shrubs along the fence on the footpath side, install gravel boards and then build a new coop. Once this has been completed they will buy new poultry.</p> <p>Governors were requested to approve the following trips –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Ski trips to Austria in February half term 2026 • Residential trip to Valencia in June/July 2026 for students studying Spanish GCSE. This is instead of the trip to La Rochelle. Our intention is to offer the Spanish and French trips on alternative years. • Exchange visit to Germany in July 2026 • Residential trip to Ypres in May 2026 (Battlefields visits) • Residential camping trip to Blackland’s farm (or similar local venue) in June 2026 • In addition, we are planning to launch a visit to The Gambia for March 2027. This trip will run in term time and not February half term because of when Ramadan falls in 2027. <p>All trips were approved by the board.</p>
8.	<p>Policies to be approved.</p> <p>8.1 HR Policy 2025 – approved.</p> <p>8.2 Behaviour Policy 2025 – <i>JP raised the point that there was no reference to physical assault on a pupil or adult in the behaviours. The policy was agreed in principle, but the behaviours need to be updated to include physical assault and brought back to the board in September.</i></p>

8.3	Supporting students with medical conditions 2025 – approved.
8.4	Suspensions & Exclusions Policy 2025 – approved.
8.5	Initial teacher Training Policy 2025 – approved.
8.6	Curriculum Structure 2025 – approved.
9.	Reporting to the governing body
9.1	Chair RC discussed the report written by Ron Searle from the governor’s day held on 10 th June. Key individual governor responsibilities are to be re-assigned for 2025/2026 and RC confirmed that the new structure will be in place by October half term. Governors were asked to inform the chair of particular strands that they would like to be responsible for.
9.	Reporting to the governing body
9.2	Head teacher TH spoke about the strategic objectives for 2025 – 2026 and this will be available to the governors once it is finalised.
10.	Governor visits and individual reports – Disadvantaged students. RC and BB met with Miss Griffiths on 16 th June looking at how the college supports disadvantaged students. The school had signed up to the Brilliant Club, to raise the aspirations of disadvantaged students in Years 7 and 8. 15 students had completed their assignments and will be going to Goldsmith College for a graduation. It is hoped to run the programme every two years. The college is committed to all students being able to access the Enrichment Days they would like to attend. Equality & Diversity RC and BB met with Miss Froud who spoke about Oathall’s racial equality ambassadors who meet once in a half term. This is student led, they research, explore and lead on initiatives that are most important to them. For example, this year they have worked with tutor groups to create a word cloud. Each tutor group contributed 5 words that they associate with racism. These words were shared with the REA and they produced this word cloud. Oathall Pride club continues to go from strength to strength. They meet fortnightly and discuss current topics and issues close to their heart. This is a safe space for LGBTQ+ students and their allies. The International Club is a students centred club run by two staff members. It’s an inclusive club and is a safe space where all cultures can be shared and celebrated allowing students to express a sense of who they are and a place where students can speak about their experiences as students from different cultures.
11.	SEND/Pupil premium update. There was no update for this meeting.
12.	Confidential items (to clarify if any of the previous items are confidential). None.

13.	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>Governors had attended the production of Treasure Island, the Federation of Schools Dance Show and the Summer Concert which they reported were excellent and thanked staff involved in these shows.</p> <p>A governor requested that the FBG meetings are brought forward to an earlier time but the board were not in favour of this.</p>
14.	<p>Date of next meeting –</p> <p>Monday 8th September 2025 at 1900 hours</p>

FGB meeting action log

Meeting at which action raised	Details	Who	Timescale	Completed
14.07.25	<p>Complete NGA training – Effective Financial Governance in Schools.</p> <p>https://www.nga.org.uk/training/directory/effective-financial-governance/</p>	All	13.10.25	