



WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 6.30pm
held at the school

MINUTES

Governors present: Martin Brown (MB, Chair); John Hall (JH); Neil Lloyd (NL, Headteacher); Anne Morten (AM); Natalie Rogers (NR); Mark Smith (MSm); Lisa Wakley-Davies (LWD)

Also Present:

Helen Andrews (HA, Clerk to Governors)

Agenda Item	
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>The Chair of the Committee formally opened the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Jess Lechner.</p> <p>The meeting was quorate.</p> <p>Governors congratulated NR on her recent appointment as Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning. NL provided governors with an overview of the recent appointments to the Senior Leadership Team, which will be communicated to parents soon. He praised the expertise and knowledge of all successful candidates and explained the delegation of responsibility across the new team and the impact these appointments have had on the budget.</p>
2.	<p>Inclusion Manager's Report</p> <p>There was no Inclusion Manager's Report for this meeting. However, internal SEND meetings have taken place in the absence of the INCo and meetings with parents and external agencies continue to take place, capacity permitting. All teachers are teachers of SEND children, which is cultural shift that is now taking place in school. Governors understood that the new SENDCo has experience of reporting to governing boards, which will be valued from the new academic year. The new SENDCo is due to start in school from September 2025.</p>

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3.	<p>Declaration of Interests in Items on the Agenda: No declaration of interests in items on the agenda were declared.</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of Previous Children’s Committee Meeting, 15th January 2025 The minutes of the Children’s Committee meeting, dated 15th January 2025, were submitted, and will be signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Matters arising and actions Members of the committee confirm there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.</p> <p>Actions from the last meeting were reviewed:</p> <p>6.0 The Clerk will share another school’s Annual Schedule of Work for review at the next FGB meeting in February 2025. Completed, closed. A review of the Visits Policy and an updated Annual Schedule of Work bespoke for the governing board will be undertaken at the next FGB meeting. This was deferred to the FGB in May 2025.</p> <p>10.0 Clerk to share link to Pupil Premium training on Knowledge. Completed, closed.</p>
6.	<p>Verbal Update on SDP Priorities and Actions Plans for 2024-25 Challenge: A governor asked, what is the governors’ role in terms of responsibility for the induction of the new leadership positions? The Headteacher will have the necessary discussions with the School Improvement Adviser for how the process should be arranged to be the most effective.</p> <p>The drafted SDP 2024-25 was uploaded to Governor Hub just before the meeting. Most areas have clear gradual progress against each objective.</p> <p>Phonics is in a good place, with a single Lead from this term. The last Phonics visit reviewed practice and has been praised by both the LA Adviser and Ofsted. The Phonics Lead has plans for timetabling and prioritising phonics. The next SLT meeting will be to discuss those plans. The Phonics Lead is passionate about keeping reading a high priority and making an impact across the school.</p> <p>Reading and Writing – There will be one English Lead from September 2025. A personal development session took place last week and the English Lead has plans to develop reading and writing across the school. The latest visit from the English Adviser has informed areas for focus from the next term. Reading outcomes are strong, and the development of writing is starting to move forward.</p>

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Maths is an area for progress. It has been identified this year about the lack of consistency across the school. With the implementation of the new scheme, there are themes from staff feedback that will need to be tweaked to lessen the cognitive load on learners.

Challenge: A governor asked, what does the consultant say from the Maths Hub?

At his recent visit, he did say that staff will think the scheme is too much. It is around empowering teachers to have the confidence to start new concepts from scratch.

Challenge: A governor asked, how do staff know if the children know less than what is expected against the new scheme?

There are tests to baseline children at the start of each school year. As well as the diagnostic testing, it is basic teaching and learning through assessment and observations that teachers will know what needs to be revisited or started. Teachers understand that they need to build a foundation of knowledge before children can progress.

Challenge: A governor asked, is Maths fully resourced?

It's fully resourced on the platform; however, the manipulatives still need to be reviewed. NR plans to explore funding for maths resources.

Early Years is making good progress. There is still issues with the decking which is nothing to do with Early Years; the provision is well lead. Governors learnt of the outcomes for writing for Early Years, and the strategies for tweaking practice around spelling.

Curriculum – staff have been asked which subjects and year groups they want to teach in next year. There may be some changes in curriculum leadership next year. There will be a big focus on CPD for subject leads to develop and be the best they can be. Not all subjects will be a focus next year but the leadership and monitoring cycle will be a priority for all subject leaders, in turn improving the quality of subject leadership and children's outcomes moving forward.

Assessment – moved to Arbor platform, which has now been populated with previous data. The big focus for next year will be about leading assessment and making it effective in terms of workload and children's outcomes.

Safeguarding remains effective, with a safeguarding review planned later in the year.

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	<p>Behaviour – starting to collect data and analysing logs. Consequently, fewer members of staff are escalating behaviour to the Headteacher. Staff are now changing their practice and asking NL for ideas and strategies to support behaviour in the classroom rather than being sent to the Headteacher’s office as a consequence of behaviour. It is a change in culture that part of the Headteacher’s role is to support behaviour and to address serious behaviour. Governors learnt that the Headteacher gave 3 suspensions last week.</p> <p>Challenge: A governor, referring to the children recently suspended asked, do these children have any SEND? The Headteacher confirmed that these children are on the SEND Register, but their SEND needs didn’t impair their actions. The Headteacher sought advice from the local authority in terms of process and the parents were supportive and engaged with the process.</p> <p>Attendance – is strong – higher than national average. Persistent absence is lower than national average. Attendance Contracts are making a positive impact in school.</p> <p>Leadership Structure – the structure is now in place and wellbeing surveys have taken place. The next step is to analyse and feedback on the responses received.</p>
7.	<p>Discuss Committee Priorities for Spring/Summer 2024-25 The Proposed Children’s Committee Priorities 2024-25 document was circulated ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>Governors noted the timing of the year and lack of opportunity to react.</p>
8.	<p>Discuss effective oversight of Committee Priorities / Link Roles The Headteacher and Clerk met this week to look at the GB Annual Schedule of Work and the Policy Review Schedule. The policy review schedule is now clearer about what needs actioning. There are many policies due to be reviewed.</p> <p>Having looked at the GB Annual Schedule of Work, NL has an idea of what next year’s SDP will look like. These objectives will define the governor link roles from the new academic year.</p> <p>The Headteacher and Clerk discussed the format for monitoring visits from September 2025. Presentations and introductions will take place during governor meetings from the first term. With a follow up visit taking place in the Spring with the subject lead and a summary visit backed up by a report in the Summer term. The Clerk explained that, rather than writing one report per</p>

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	visit, governors will contribute to one template over the academic year in terms of progress made in their monitoring area.
9.	Policy Review (SI) There were no policies for review at this meeting.
10.	Children's Committee Related Safeguarding Update (SI) Governors were advised of the changing needs of a child in school with Autism Spectrum Condition and the strategies being put in place to support them attending school. These needs pose a safeguarding risk, governors were explained the plans in place to make the school more accessible. Challenge: A governor asked, are there any issues around physical barriers to prevent children absconding from the site? Due to the timing of the day the risk presents itself, the school is working to make a new routine more secure for this child's ongoing safety. Challenge: A governor asked, are there any lessons to be learnt from how the latest abscondment was responded to? The response is reactive rather than pre-emptive. If a child leaves school, the priority is to call the police. It is not uncommon in schools. Governors discussed the protocol in place around a child abscondment. Challenge: A governor asked, what are staff physically permitted to do if children escape the premises? You can block their way. Any response must be considered around risk for that particular child and situation.
11.	Pupil Premium Fund Update (SI) Nothing to report.
12.	Any Other Business There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.
13.	Date and time of next meeting The next Children's Committee meeting will be 16 th July 2025, 6.30pm at the school.

Actions on next page /...

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Actions from the meeting, 21st May 2025

	Action	Owner	Deadline
	There were no actions from this meeting.		

Governor Meeting Dates 2024-2025

Date	Meeting		Topic
<i>Autumn</i>			
18th Sept 24	Children's	Autumn 1	
2nd Oct 24	Resources	Autumn 1	
16th Oct 24	FGB	Autumn 1	Data Review (incl SEF)
6th Nov 24	Resources	Autumn 2	
13th Nov 24	Children's	Autumn 2	
11th Dec 24	FGB	Autumn 2	
<i>Spring</i>			
8th Jan 25	Resources	Spring 1	Review SFVS
15th Jan 25	Children's	Spring 1	
5th Feb 2025	FGB	Spring 1	SDP Focus and SFVS approval
12th Mar 25	Resources	Spring 2	
26th Mar 25	Children's	Spring 2	
<i>Summer</i>			
23rd Apr 25	Resources	Summer 1	Budget Scrutiny
7th May 25	FGB	Budget	Budget Approval
21st May 25	Children's	Summer 1	
4th June 25	FGB	Summer 1	
25th June 25	Resources	Summer 2	
16th Jul 25	Children's	Summer 2	Review of SATs data
9th Jul 25	FGB	Summer 2	Business Meeting

All meetings fall on a Wednesday evening.

Governor Training & Development

To view the Joint Annual Governance Training Program and book courses online is now booked via GovernorHub -

[GovernorHub](#)

Governors for Schools - [click here](#)

NGA Learning Link – [click here](#)

Online training via Knowledge (formerly The Key) – [click here](#)

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