



# St George's Primary School

## Full Governor Body Meeting

Thursday 22 June 2023

Lower Site Main Hall 5:30pm

### Present

#### Community Governors

A. Lee  
J. Marshall  
B. Clark  
M. Wiggins

FGB Chair

#### Parent Governors

T. Freeman

#### Staff Governors

B. Cassidy

Head Teacher

#### Also Present

K. Choudhary  
A. Roberts  
M. Chambers  
J. Schmack

Clerk

#### Apologies

A. Ward  
C. Lucking  
W. Alderton  
J. King  
P. Dunning  
H. Rice  
C. Scott

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**Item 1            Welcome, Apologies and declarations of AoB**

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- 1.1     Apologies noted and received as above.

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**Item 2            Declaration of any business or pecuniary interests**

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- 2.1     There was no declaration of any business or pecuniary interests.

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**Item 3            Minutes of previous meeting and action points**

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- 3.1     Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.
- 3.2     Safeguarding Training action from previous meeting still outstanding and to be discussed in Item 5.

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**Item 4            Farmington Scholarship Presentation**

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- 4.1     FGB welcomed A. Roberts and J. Schmack to the meeting.
- 4.2     J. Schmack discussed The Farmington Institute stating that its aim is to support and encourage Head teachers working on values and standards, and teachers of Religious Education in schools. The Institute awards Scholarships to UK Head teachers and teachers of Religious Education in schools and publishes discussion papers and arranges conferences.
- 4.3     FGB reminded that A. Roberts is a recipient of a scholarship which enables up to 30 days of release time.
- 4.4     A. Roberts has been focusing her endeavours on an oracy project and what that looks like in RE over the past 18 months.
- 4.4     A. Roberts delivered a presentation to FGB that focused on:
- Teaching in a post pandemic society
  - The school's journey
  - Impact of the pandemic: the language gap
  - Oral language interventions
  - How oracy is relevant to RE
  - Aims
  - Examples of implementing oracy into the school's RE curriculum
  - Pupil feedback and impact
- 4.5     FGB asked what has the school seen in terms of improvement around communication between pupils?
- 4.6     **RESOLUTION:** A. Robert stated that pupils are much more respectful. In the classroom, that looks like pupils waiting to be heard, not talking over one another, active listening, and making direct eye contact when discussing.
- 4.7     FGB are the lessons learned from this project being adopted wider than in just RE?
- 4.8     **RESOLUTION:** Yes. And being well received with tangible outcomes and benefits across the school's curriculum. It has really raised that bar in literacy in the school.

- 4.9 FGB asked what are the next steps with the project?
- 4.10 **RESOLUTION:** FGB informed that the scholarship is coming to end and A. Roberts currently in the process of compiling a final report.
- 4.11 FGB thanked all involved for their endeavours.

#### Item 5 Clerking Matters

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- 5.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 5.2 K. Choudhary highlighted the following;
- 5.3 **Terms of Office:** H. Rice, J. Marshall and A. Lee's Term of Office expires October '23 and will need to be revisited at the beginning of the next academic year.
- 5.3.1 **ACTION 1(06/23):** K. Choudhary to confirm whether the Staff Governor position needs to be opened to all staff for election.
- 5.4 **Wirral Governors Forum:** FGB reminded that the dates and agendas of these meeting as shared with FGB regularly. FGB asked to inform K. Choudhary if anyone attends these meetings.
- 5.5 **GB Safeguarding Training:** FGB informed that this is an ongoing action from previous meeting. K. Choudhary stated that those governors that have not yet completed this training have committed to completing this training by 25 June 2023.
- 5.5.1 FGB informed that the school is having a Safeguarding audit on Tuesday 27 June 2023.
- 5.6 **Record of Governor Visits:** FGB reminded that the new link to google form is [active](#). This is an action from previous meeting and represents a significantly streamlined version of recording governor visits to the school.
- 5.7 **GB Training Requests:** K. Choudhary stated that there has been not additional training requests but highlighted the new Governor Training matrix that will record when training has been completed on The National College platform. FGB signposted to a new of modules that need completing.
- 5.8 **2023/34 Committee Schedule Dates:** FGB reminded that this was shared and, the main, agreed to. There was some confusion with the date of one of the R&PC dates in 2024.
- 5.8.1 **ACTION 2(06/23):** K. Choudhary to confirm the correct date for R&PC.
- 5.8.2 **Confirmed after the meeting as 21 May 2023.**

#### Item 6 Academisation Updates

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- 6.1 FGB informed that C. Scott recently attended a governor meeting regarding MAT proposals. Due to administrative challenges (and subsequent late reorganising of the meeting by the organiser), J. Marshall was unable to attend.
- 6.2 A meeting has been scheduled between B. Cassidy, J. Marshall and C. Scott to feedback on the discussions held at the meeting.

- 6.3 FGB asked are there any concerns around the process of exploring MAT proposals?
- 6.4 **RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that they have concerns around communication, timelines and engaging with governors.
- 6.5 FGB stated that the challenges experienced in pulling a meeting together to discuss MAT proposals does not fill FGB with much confidence.
- 6.6 SLT stated that the school needs to find an academy option – but we have time and it is important that the school takes a considered approach and secures that best possible outcome for the school.
- 6.7 FGB asked, from a Head Teacher perspective, does B. Cassidy know where everything is up or is he waiting from feedback from the engagement of all governors across all schools involved?
- 6.8 **RESOLUTION:** B. Cassidy stated that there is definite synergy in the direction of travel but expressed the need for greater governor and trustee involvement. Echoing his thoughts from previous meetings, B. Cassidy reinforced that this MAT process needs governor influence as school staff can 'come and go' however it is school's governing boards that set priorities for the school and agree on the long-term plans.
- 6.9 FGB asked when is the cut off for schools to submit an expression of interest?
- 6.10 **RESOLUTION:** Right now, government policy states that there is no cut off.

#### **Item 7                      Actions from non-quorate R&PC**

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- 7.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 7.2 FGB reminded that most recent R&PC was non-quorate.
- 7.3 **ACTION 3(06/23):** R&PC governors that attended meeting on 7 February need to ratify these minutes. Clerk to complete this via e-mail.
- 7.4 SLT discussed the final version of the 2023/24 school budget. FGB informed that C. Scott and J. King have worked alongside S. Jones on this.
- 7.5 FGB asked has the school increased any charges?
- 7.6 **RESOLUTION:** Yes, the school has increased some charges. FGB reminded that school services are not profit making – and the increase was just to cover costs.
- 7.7 FGB asked has there been any impact?
- 7.8 **RESOLUTION:** SLT suggested that the school has not yet seen an impact but highlighted that the change was implemented in June 2023, so it is too early to tell.
- 7.9 **DECISION TAKEN:** 2023/24 Budget ratified.
- 7.10 FGB asked, given the tight budget constraints, are the initiatives that were previously grant funded that the school will continue with?
- 7.11 **RESOLUTION:** The school is looking to continue with their tuition offer alongside its PE/ Sports offer.
- 7.12 FGB asked are there any potential grant opportunities on the horizon?

- 7.13 **RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that the school is always looking for grants but suggested that opportunities have shrunk.
- 7.12 SLT highlighted the following policies that have been updated:
- Appraisal Teachers (Renew)
  - Performance and Capability Teachers (renew)
  - Performance and Capability Support Staff (Renew)
  - Grievance Policy (updated)
- 7.14 **DECISION TAKEN:** Above policies ratified.
- 7.15 SLT discussed the school's new Menopause Policy and invited questions.
- 7.16 **DECISION TAKEN:** Menopause Policy ratified.
- 7.17 FGB asked do Line Managers get menopause training?
- 7.18 **RESOLUTION:** Yes.
- 7.19 FGB asked where the school is up to with the planned mezzanine?
- 7.20 **RESOLUTION:** SLT stated that the process dealing with Wirral LA is frustratingly slow and that the asbestos survey has still yet to be completed. SLT suggested that the challenges around the mezzanine project are starting to cause significant issues within the school.
- 7.21 FGB asked if there are any opportunities to escalate the challenges being experienced?
- 7.22 **RESOLUTION:** Very limited.
- 7.23 Given his area of expertise, B. Clark offered to assist the school with this challenge.

## **Item 8                    Implications for Deficit Budget**

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- 8.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 8.2 FGB informed that following the submission of the school's budget, the school received a letter from Wirral LA stating that any spending outside of this need's approval from the Assistant Director of Education.
- 8.3 B. Cassidy contacted the Assistant Director of Education for clarification on this on this. Wirral LA have informed B. Cassidy in writing that the budget is approved and there are no issues/ restrictions with school spending within planned budget.
- 8.4 FGB informed that B. Cassidy to meet with Assistant Director of Education on behalf of all Headteachers of Wirral maintained schools to discuss the challenges that schools are facing having to operate financial plans using excel spreadsheets.

## **Item 9                    Managing Possibility of Co-ordinated Industrial Action**

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- 9.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 9.2 FGB informed that all 5 major trade associations have balloted members.

- 9.3 SLT are hoping that [STPRB recommendations](#) will help to reconcile process however it was suggested that there is [no evidence of government negotiating on an early resolution for this](#).
- 9.4 Strike date are confirmed as Wednesday 5 and Friday 7 July 2023.
- 9.5 SLT stated that they will manage as best as they can to keep the school open but, it may have to partially close on these dates. Very concerned about full closure in Autumn term given the nature of co-ordinated strike and the availability of staff.
- 9.6 The school has moved Year 6 day moved to accommodate and the schools Sport's Days will not be affected.
- 9.7 SLT stated that the school expect to see a dip in absenteeism this week with the potential of parents/ carers taking the opportunity source cheaper holidays.
- 9.8 SLT are concerned about the significant impact on pupil education.

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#### Item 10      Surveys

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- 10.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 10.2 SLT described how the school used anonymised OPAL Score May 2023 to measure SLT behaviours.
- 10.3 The scale used was 1-8. The school's SLT score an average of 7.
- 10.4 SLT stated that they are really happy with the results and set the direct of travel for the schools teaching staff.
- 10.5 FGB asked where there any contentious issues raised?
- 10.6 **RESOLUTION:** No.
- 10.7 FGB informed that Annual parent survey taking place in June '23.
- 10.8 SLT stated that the school will be using the Teacher Tapp platform from September 2023.

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#### Item 11      Committee Updates and Action Points

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- 11.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 11.2 FGB informed that end of year review will take place at SC on 14 July 2023 at 9:00am.
- 11.3 There was some confusion as to where or not committee members would remain linked to their existing year group or would move to another year group?
- 11.4 **ACTION 4(06/23):** SC to discuss options for remaining or moving year groups at the upcoming SC meeting.
- 11.5 K. Choudhary stated that C&PC minutes from 4 May 2023 are in the governor shared folder.
- 11.6 **DECISION TAKEN:** C&PC minutes **ratified**.

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#### Item 12      National Updates

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12.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

12.2 SLT highlighted the following:

- [School suspensions and permanent exclusions](#)
- [Keeping Safe in Education Update 2023](#)
- [National Tutoring Programme funding](#)
- [School uniforms: guidance for schools](#)
- [Changes made to school inspections](#)
- [Ofsted inspection timings for schools](#)
- [Changes to Ofsted's post-inspection arrangements and complaints handling: proposals 2023](#)

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**Item 13          GB Invitations**

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13.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

13.2 SLT invited FGB to:

- Sports Days on 3, 4 & 5 July 2023
- Inclusion Training Day at Thornton Hall on 4 September 2023.
- SLT will also send out the INSET day plan.

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**Item 14          Good News Stories**

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14.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

14.2 SLT highlighted the following good news stories:

- Carnegie Silver Award for Mental Health
- Asthma Schools Standards
- Residential Education
- Over 120 Clubs
- Summer HAF offer for 4 weeks
- Family Engagement Events
- Sensory Garden
- Snack Shack
- Royal Horticultural Society Bid
- Euro grant Bid
- Wallasey Library

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**Item 15          AOB**

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15.1 None

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**Item 16          Date of next meeting**

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16.1 Meeting finished at 7:10pm

16.2 **Next meeting:** Thursday 7 September 2023 at 5:30pm (Governor only)

Item	Summary of actions from meeting	Whom	Date to be completed
5.3.1	<b><u>ACTION 1(06/23)</u></b> : K. Choudhary to confirm whether the Staff Governor position needs to be opened to all staff.	K. Choudhary	July '23
5.8.1	<b><u>ACTION 2(06/23)</u></b> : K. Choudhary to confirm the correct date for R&PC.	K. Choudhary	July '23
7.3	<b><u>ACTION 3(06/23)</u></b> : R&PC governors that attended meeting on 7 February need to ratify these minutes.	K. Choudhary R&PC	July '23
11.4	<b><u>ACTION 4(06/23)</u></b> : SC to discuss options for remaining or moving year groups at the upcoming SC meeting.	SC	July '23