

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School

Governing Body



Full Governing Body Meeting Minutes							
Date/Time	7 th July 2026		Location		Meeting Room		
Attendees		Attendees		Attendees		Attendees	
Emma Jones (EJ)	Head	Janine Meecham (JM)	Clerk	Allie Longhorn	Chair	Natalija Williams (NW)	
Phillip Wilson (PW)		Jenny Meredith (JMer)		Sam Wheeler (SW)			
Annmaree Kain (AK)		Mike Smith (MS)		Clare Hollingsworth (CH)			

Apologies	
Richard Moore (RM)	Revd Judy Day (RJD)
James Dryden (JD)	

	Agenda		
29.25.26	Apologies	38.25.26	Christian Distinctiveness
30.25.26	Declarations of Interest	39.25.26	Chairs Business
31.25.26	Approve minutes	40.25.26	Date and time of next meeting
32.25.26	Matters Arising	41.25.26	Part B
33.25.26	Correspondence		
34.25.26	Headteacher verbal Report		
35.25.26	SPD		
36.25.26	Safeguarding		
37.25.26	Skills Matrix		

Ref	Item	Action/Decision	By whom
54.25.26	Apologies: Apologies were received as above and duly sanctioned.		
55.25.26	Declarations of interest None		
56.25.26	Minutes: The minutes from the FGB meeting on 29 th April were agreed as an accurate record	Decision	All
57.25.26	Matters Arising: None		
58.25.26	Correspondence: EJ the residents that live on School Lane have complained about the trees.		



59.25.26	Headteacher written report Overall attendance is 94.4% which is 0.8% lower than the average attendance of similar schools. Our attendance hasn't been helped by the recent hot weather. The guidance to us was 'if you can stay open safely stay open'. Did any local schools shut? Marpool and Beacon closed. It was a hard decision to make but I stand by the fact that for our families we enabled for them to work. I would like to recognise the exceptional efforts of all staff, who went above and beyond to adapt routines, provide additional shade and hydration opportunities, modify activities and ensure children remained as comfortable and safe as possible throughout the hot weather. The corridor upstairs of Orcombe House has been particularly hot. It has not been safe for classes to work in this area, and they have had to relocate to other parts of the school. We have contacted DCC Health and safety who have responded with some possible adaptations we can make-some cheap some expensive. SW discussed the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check data. Only 29% of Year 4 pupils achieved a score of 20 or more out of 25. Although there is no official pass mark, schools generally use a score of 20 as a benchmark. SW acknowledged that these results were not where the school wanted them to be. Governors asked whether there had been any changes to the school's maths scheme. SW confirmed that the school continues to use White Rose Maths. The Governors discussed the importance of developing secure times table knowledge from Years 1–3, Governors agreed that Year 4 should primarily be consolidating prior learning. SW explained that question-level analysis would be undertaken to identify precisely where pupils struggle, allowing more targeted support. Governors discussed a range of possible ways to improve times table knowledge • Increasing daily practice of times tables from Year 1 onwards, possibly 5 minutes during maths lessons. • Making learning engaging through games, puzzles and practical activities. • Making better use of TAs for interventions. • Identifying pupils who have limited access to TT Rock Stars at home		



	and considering additional opportunities to use school devices. It was agreed that times tables fluency would be a key focus for the coming academic year, with staff training, increased daily practice across Year 1 to 4 and targeted intervention for identified pupils. Governors suggested running the times tables test again for Year 5 after half term in October to see if the children have caught up. It was also considered that it could become a half termly assessment. The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check pass rate was 85%, which is lower than last year's outcome. It was noted that the children who did not meet the expected standard were all in-year admissions who had not been at the school during the previous academic year. It was discussed that the Year 1 pupils next year could benefit from accessing phonics teaching alongside foundation for added support. Reception EYFS Outcomes 2025–26: EJ reported that Several children narrowly missed the expected standard, with some falling short in only one assessment area. A key priority for the next academic year will be to strengthen the focus on phonics and early writing, alongside developing strategies to improve children's regulation and readiness to learn. The SIAMS working group continues to meet regularly to review the school's Christian vision. The group is focused on ensuring that the school's Christian vision remains relevant and clearly reflected in all aspects of school life.		
60.25.26	Safeguarding: MS discussed Safeguarding with the Governors. There was a discussion around the significant increase in suspensions during the current term. It was reported that 21 suspensions had been issued, a considerable increase on previous terms. EJ and MS explained that suspensions are used only after careful consideration and where appropriate. Several recent suspensions have been linked to pupils displaying extreme levels of behavioural dysregulation. Staff continue to seek external advice where appropriate following serious incidents. Governors discussed the potential development of an internal alternative provision or SEND base to support pupils with significant behavioural needs. It was highlighted that careful consideration would need to be given to pupil groupings, as some pupils would not be appropriate together. The possibility of using the Wild Tribe area as an alternative provision space is also being explored as part of the school's wider inclusion strategy.		



	Staff have received extensive training around building positive relationships and supporting pupils experiencing dysregulation. Whilst this training has strengthened practice, MS and EJ acknowledged that responding to pupils with highly complex needs remains emotionally demanding. Governors received clarification regarding the school's "Red Card" behaviour procedure. This refers to incidents requiring an immediate emergency response from senior staff due to the severity of a behavioural incident. MS informed that some safeguarding concerns continue to be linked to parental capacity. The school has offered parenting support programmes, such as Timid to Tiger. Attendance of the support programmes are often highest among families requiring the least support, while those who would benefit the most stop attending after the initial sessions. MS and EJ confirmed that they continue to maintain regular communication with families where concerns exist and are proactive in challenging parents appropriately to improve outcomes for children. MS noted that overall safeguarding incidents have reduced compared with previous reporting periods. However there has been an increase in recorded racial incidents. In response, additional teaching has been delivered to reinforce equality, respect and appropriate language. OPAL programme continues to have a positive impact on pupils' play experiences, with leaders committed to ensuring the provision remains engaging and well maintained. An opportunity has been identified to work with SUEZ, through a supervisor who is also a parent at the school, to support environmental improvements around the school site using volunteer resources.		
61.25.26	Governor Monitoring All governors were encouraged to book their monitoring meetings for the new term.		
62.25.26	Policy Governors agreed the updated complaints policy.	Decision	All
63.25.26	Christian Distinctiveness and SIAMS Governors received an update on the ongoing SIAMS review process. The SIAMS working group continues to meet regularly to review the school's Christian vision. While there are no plans to change the school's core values, the vision is being refined to better reflect the school's identity as a Church of England school and its current context. EJ Mentioned that Withycombe is a faith school, recognising that the school is inclusive, welcomes families of all faiths and none, and teaches about a range of world religions. It was noted that the school's Christian vision underpins its ethos and aims to enable all children to flourish. Feedback gathered during the survey that went out to families highlighted that the school is widely regarded as a warm and welcoming community.		

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	Several draft vision statements have been developed, and the working group will meet on Monday to agree a shortlist of three options. These will be shared initially with staff and governors for consultation before wider engagement. Governors also discussed how the school's Christian values are experienced by pupils. It was noted that children frequently share stories and learning from collective worship and RE at home, demonstrating that the values taught resonate with them. The school encourages pupils to ask questions and engage in respectful discussion. When teaching Christianity, staff make clear that they are explaining Christian beliefs rather than presenting them as beliefs that everyone holds. Any prayers used in school are invitational.		
64.25.26	Chairs Business Governors agreed the dates for next year's meetings	Decision	All
65.25.26	FGB 22 nd September 7pm Resources 6 th October 7pm Teaching and Learning 13 th October 7pm		

Summary of Action Points

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