

LINTON HEIGHTS JUNIOR SCHOOL

LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

Meeting minutes

19th March 2025 - 6.00pm.



Governors present:

Gill Powell (GP)
Caroline Webb (Headteacher) (CW)
Daniel Morrish (DM)
Matt McLoughlin (MMc).
Brian Harrison (BH)
Sarah Rosewell (SR)
Julia Calver (JC)
Gabi Chamberlain (GC)
Ed Symons (ES)
Clare Ball (CB)

Others present:

Lucy Potter (Governance Professional) (LP)
Sam Barnes (Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead) (SB)

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted at the start of the meeting for Benj Marriage (BM).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest other than those already entered in the school's register.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the LGB held on 29th January 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record. LP informed the Governors that there has been a slight amendment to the wording of the minutes of the LGB held on 4th December 2024 at agenda item 5.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Action Points from Meeting of 29/01/25	Minute refers	Responsible
1. Ed Symons to contact designated member of staff to check in re wellbeing.	14 (04/12/24)	ES ✓

2. LP to email the IDSR to all Governors.	5	LP ✓
3. GC to provide The Headteacher with a report on the effects of too much screentime.	6	GC ✓
4. The Headteacher to email SDP to all Governors/include with next meeting documents if part of the agenda.	11	CW ✓

5. PRESNETATION FROM SAM BARNES RE WELLBEING

Sam Barnes (SB) presented to the Governors an overview of the wellbeing curriculum which aims to equip Key Stage 2 students with essential knowledge and skills to support their emotional, social and mental wellbeing. SB detailed the key areas being covered such as how the brain works, behaviour, growth mindset, lifestyle, relationships and happiness. The curriculum is delivered through weekly 30 minutes sessions incorporating 'The Chimp Paradox' theory to help children understand different parts of the brain and how they influence our thoughts. The children have daily electronic check-ins to monitor their wellbeing which our Teachers and TA's check daily. The check-ins allow for early identification of those who may need additional support and class analysis to track wellbeing and identify children who may be struggling. The data from the check-ins is used to inform teacher/pupil meetings and provide personalised wellbeing support.

SB explained he has recently offered his Family Wellbeing Programme to some families in school and so far this has received positive feedback. The programme provides resources and support for families to promote healthy lifestyles and overall wellbeing. It is grounded in science and emphasises the interconnectedness of the six pillars of wellbeing; diet, sleep, physical activity, mindfulness, social connections and screen time.

The Governors were extremely impressed with SB's hard work in relation to wellbeing in school given its importance and thanked SB for updating them in this area.

6. OFSTED REPORT

The Headteacher advised she was very pleased with the outcome of the Ofsted report. The report reflects well on what the inspector saw. The inspection reiterated what is so brilliant about this school and how hard working and dedicated the team are. The support from the Trust was fantastic and they too are extremely happy with the result. The Governors offered their congratulations to the Headteacher and all staff. The Chair noted the report affirms to the Headteacher that she is doing the right thing, it sets a platform for moving forward and shows we are a happy/harmonious school.

The Governors queried how long the inspector was on site for? The Headteacher advised two days but it was more like a three day process given on the day of the call the Headteacher had two very long telephone conversations with the inspector. The Governors asked what is the timeframe for a further inspection? The Headteacher advised 4 years however, under the new framework Ofsted are currently proposing this could change. The Governors asked how did the staff find the inspection as an experience? CB commented that she found this inspection very relaxed and smooth compared to others she had experienced and noted this was no doubt due to our leadership team. LP noted the inspector made staff feel at ease during his interviews.

The Headteacher thanked all Governors for their support during the inspection.

7. COMMENTARY ON PROGRESS TOWARDS THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Headteacher advised that she has added to the School Development Plan but asked the Governors to be aware this is not finalised and noted that next year she would like the whole format changed to be more visual. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher have lots of plans on how this is going to evolve. **The Governors commented they like the section re increasing attainment in maths and asked if the Headteacher has any plans to do the same for other areas?** The Headteacher confirmed yes and advised there will be an overview of three areas setting out our goals and how we are going to achieve them.

The Headteacher asked the Governors to note the SEND section which reports how our SENCo recently attended recovery through relationships training which links in with wellbeing, belonging and our work on behaviour. This will be featured in our action plan moving forwards. This week, all staff have received training on trauma and the impact of trauma in children. The training session was via VR headsets. It was very powerful training as you were the child receiving the trauma. The training relayed what we need to look out for in school and sets the tone for how we would like the school to move forward in that we are always mindful of what experiences the children can bring in with them.

8. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Having read the Headteacher's report prior to the meeting **the Governors queried the severely absent attendance data at 1.3% ranking the school 171st out of 210 schools.** The Headteacher noted we would prefer this ranking to be higher up with 1st being the best and explained the figure of 1.3% = 3 children, two of which who have left the school. **The Governors noted the high number of SEND.** The Headteacher advised we now have 4 pending EHCPs (Education Health and Care Plans) for children with SEND who require additional support. The current demands on our SENCo are high. We are considering using some of the family interventions with SB moving forwards as a first try before a child is placed on the SEND register. This will enable us to triage the number of children to be assessed by Karen Graves.

The Headteacher continued through the report and advised the front extension is more than likely going ahead. It will be a small extension consisting of a new office and two new meeting rooms/office spaces. The work was due to start during May half term ready for September opening, however, the Headteacher felt it was too much of a health and safety risk having ground works whilst the children are on site and therefore work will start at a later date.

The Headteacher asked the Governors to note the 'Wider curriculum enrichment and experiences' which lists all the exciting and varied experiences the children have recently had in school. The Governors asked how we are covering P.E lessons during our sports lead's absence. The Headteacher advised that the class teachers are teaching P.E and all teachers are stepping in to cover the after school clubs including herself. Forest School has unfortunately had to be delayed for the time being.

9. SAFEGUARDING: LINK GOVERNOR REPORT

This report was unavailable. [LP to add on the agenda for our next meeting.](#)

LP

10. INCLUSION

The Headteacher presented the Inclusion Blueprint. Overall it can be seen that attendance this year is better than last year. **The Governors queried the 'No suspensions – and unlikely to be moving forwards' noted underneath the attendance data.** The Headteacher advised this is part of the relational work which the Deputy Headteacher is undertaking. The idea of suspension and exclusion does not solve the problem or help the child. We are looking at alternative ways to manage the more challenging children whilst also ensuring parents of a child who is a victim can see something is being done. It is generally the feeling that adults have been brought up to take the view that if you do something bad you need to be punished. We would like to look at behaviour in a different way but understand this can be difficult for parents who do not work in an environment with children who have been through trauma. There is work to be done to reframe approaches and thinking. **The Governors asked how the Headteacher intends to communicate this.** The Headteacher noted that reassurance would need to be given to the parents to ensure they are aware that although their victim child may not see punishment, there will be a lot of work going on in the background. The Headteacher suggested we could ask the Deputy Headteacher to attend our next meeting to feedback from the recent training on how we can work and educate children to try and manage their emotions in different ways. The Governors agreed this sounds very positive. **LP to invite the Deputy Headteacher to our next meeting.**

The Headteacher asked SR to produce her Inclusion Link Governor visit report in readiness for our next meeting.

LP
SR

11. GOVERNANCE AND CENTRAL TEAM MATTERS:

The Chair advised that unfortunately neither herself or the DM were able to attend the recent AGF. The Chair commented that she was surprised that despite her two emails to the Governors, no one was able to step in to attend the meeting on their behalf. The Governors advised that they do not always see their emails in time and where possible would prefer a WhatsApp message sent to them when there is an email requiring their attention sooner. LP advised she would oversee this moving forwards.

The Chair reported on the minutes of the meeting she had obtained although made the Governors aware these were in draft. The Trust have taken on some more schools. Two of them are primary schools in Soham, Soham Village College and Kennet Primary School. They are likely to join at the beginning of September. The Trust have advised there will be no further schools joining for the foreseeable future because this is the maximum size to ensure consolidation and support across all schools.

The Chair added that the Trust have held various conferences recently being SLT, Positive Regard and Trust Governance. There were discussions on how the SEND trends are very poor and how the Trust is going to respond to that. The Trust are looking to hold an AI conference next year and would like to create a Governor working party to discuss the benefits and challenges of AI. There will be an Ofsted consultation taking place in Autumn 2025 and local LGBs will be encouraged to respond to that. There were discussions around falling numbers of pupils, especially in primary schools and therefore the need to potentially review curriculum structures e.g. mixed age classes.

The Chair finalised with some reminders to the Governors being their first port of call for any queries must be our Governance Professional; the importance of starting our meetings on time; to ensure Governors always use their Anglian Learning email addresses for documents

to remain secure and to complete their cyber security training if they have not already done so.

All Governors who have not yet done so to complete their cyber security training sent to them under cover of LP's email dated 28th February.

AI
I

Governors

12. AOB

1. The Headteacher provided the Governors with a verbal budget update. During a recent budget setting meeting the pre-populated budget showed a deficit of £120,000.00 which upon reviewing, the Headteacher was able to reduce to £34,000.00. The Headteacher advised following her further review we are now currently sitting at £27,000.00 short. The Governors asked how the Headteacher reduced the deficit to which she replied it was down to cutting costs. The budget does need to balance and further review is still required. The Governors questioned how that fits in with the rising EHCPs where you need more staff. The Headteacher advised the money should be on the front line and asked the Governors to be aware the budget is extremely tight. The Headteacher noted she will look at various options for bringing money in. The Chair advised that we cannot put any possible grants we may receive in the budget. Any such grants are likely to support the curriculum.

2. Following on from our earlier discussion regarding AI, the Governors asked if the Headteacher may like to lean on people who have already had dealings with this and who may be willing to meet with the Headteacher to talk about the same. The Headteacher thanked the Governors for their suggestion.

3. The Governors queried school uniform. It has been noted that some children are wearing branded uniform e.g. Nike shorts which puts pressure on parents to buy the same for their child. The Headteacher commented that she has not addressed this yet but will investigate this. The Headteacher added this goes back to our earlier discussion on dealing with behaviour. Some children have to make their own breakfasts and find their own clothes in the morning without proper support. However, she is also conscious that others stick by the rules.

4. The Chair asked the Governors to check in with their subject responsibility prior to the last meeting of term (2nd July) but some could take place before our next meeting on 14th May.

13. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th May 2025, 18:00 - LHJS - Mobile.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:54.

Signed as an accurate recordDate