

Meeting of Full Governing Body

Held at Sidestrand Hall School on 18th March 2026



Present: Angela Wrighton (Chair of Governors), Shelley Taylor (Headteacher), Jennifer Lawrence Purllant, Alex Cooper, Duncan Mackenzie, Marie Greer, Harvey Barrington, Jane Bourne, Kate Muir [Clerk]
Invited: **Vivien Harrington [Associate Member]**, John Bull, Gemma Crammond

Governors' comments are in bold and italics.

1. Welcome to all

2. Consideration of apologies for absence: John Bull, Peter Godfrey, Gemma Crammond

3. Declaration of Conflict / Business Interests: ***Strands Charity Shop – Alex Cooper***

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of 10th Dec 25: ***Chair confirmed round the table that minutes agreed. Agreed.***

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 10th Dec 25: ***Agreed all actioned and dealt with.***

6. Headteacher's Report Term 2 SAT:

Same format is very helpful for comparing data. Very informative; consolidates information from committee meetings. Improvement can be seen on sickness and attendance is good.

7. Residential Ofsted report: Thank you from Residential staff to Governors for support. ***Governors acknowledged that relationship is very good. Governors are confident on knowledge as contacts are good. AW and JB have visited Residential. Chair of Governors added Ofsted report to Governor Hub. Governors have arranged with Sheila Neale to come and open the Residential shop – links to Strands.***

8. Update re SEN TRUST:

Three areas covered. Isobel Horner statement re; awaiting site to be found. Legal side all signed off – waiting on Land Registry items. Trust has £10,900 reserves. £2,600 needed to complete odds and ends, but no additional funds needed (at the moment). M&A Partners (Accountant) tender for new one would have been standard practice, but so pleased with M&A Partners, they don't wish to change. In addition, if you tender out, you lose all the context and familiarity with complexities are beneficial.

New SEND white paper re; all schools being part of Trust of some sort. LA don't have lots of information on this yet. Isobel is looking for information from Governing board on this. Until the Trust is sorted out, we will remain as we are. SAT will discuss at NASSH.

9. Safeguarding: MG is happy with how it's going. SCR Monitoring took place on Monday. Residential team are at 100%. Meeting with MKe tomorrow, ½ term 4 record keeping - Whistleblowing (AW joining). Not many outstanding actions now. ***Confirmed Governors are pleased with status on Safeguarding, Ofsted were happy with whole school Safeguarding element, need to keep under control following MG's departure when it comes.***

10. Online Safety Audit Jen / MKe: First Hub Meeting took place. JLP/MKe/KOH/DWo – MG will join going forward. 360 online safety review. Quite a lot of work; you have to prove where you are. JLP putting bits in/DWo and KOH will be adding. Additional meeting after May ½ term. ***Governor checked if there were any nasty surprises.*** Not really, Tech/Safeguarding/Curriculum overview – sitting higher than average for schools. MKe bringing in community and parents to take us up to next level. ICT input helps with good coverage. JLP can present review in July FGB.

11. Ofsted Framework slides for Gobs: VNET Education Session Ofsted Framework slides shown by JLP. SAT has done with teaching staff. Ofsted will now call on a Monday 9am if inspection that week, in Ofsted window, unless Bank Holiday and then, they will call on a Tuesday. ***Primary/ Secondary/ College inspection won't be longer, but more inspectors to help with scale of inspection rather than increasing duration.*** Learning walks – Teachers are more under review (timetables will be used). Deep dive in previous inspections was areas of learning (less in classroom), whereas learning walks will be back in classrooms. ***Inclusion is a recurring theme.*** Six pillars referenced, don't include 6th form and Early Years, only if you offer the provision. Attainment coming into it even at Special Schools. Key factor having baseline when students join us. Curriculum currently under review to ensure we're aligned. ***Governor clarified re; Staff Wellbeing item whether we have this now.*** HT confirmed we have this now.

LAC/PLAC/Pupil Premium/Young Carers will get identified (further scrutiny) as whole school is SEN. ***SEF Highlighted.*** SEF will be in line – HT working on this now, but will take time. ***Really working on parents and community. We have to meet all of the expected standards and next level to be in the next level. Governors self-check; Governor flagged if we have Governors who aren't confident in areas; we'll fall down. Need to encourage people to do training. TAs have a buddy; perhaps we need to do things together as Governors.*** Needs to form part of induction so people don't have to ask. ***This is fine for induction, but after that, perhaps we can improve. Need to set out expectations and support delivery.*** Monitoring captures the commitment. ***Classroom visits can be intimidating initially, we can support new members in this. Suggestion to have Governor question bank – all inspection toolkit; one for each***

area. Resi Ofsted questioned management of things, but Governor reassured that Governors aren't actually doing it, but checking things are being done. Governors have to be careful not to overstep role (i.e.; not to manage staff).

12. Curriculum review status: *Featured in HT report – on target.*

13. New build if any update: No shortlist, but now down to three, meeting DfE on Tuesday. Might now be a shortlist. Survey done this week (slippage), once shortlist is given, we may then be involved. LA agreed to work on site in summer to improve items.

14. Ratify all Policies which have been agreed at Committees [see Committee folders /Agendas] or delegated to the Headteacher for approval: *All ok.*

FPP – Finance policy, Appraisal Policy and Procedure - Support Staff and Teaching Staff

PDBW – Residential Access to risky areas, Complaints, Low level concerns, Communications, Self-harm

SIS – Monitoring and Evaluation Policy 2026

FGB – Emergency Evacuation of Exam Room Procedure 2026, Early Career Teacher (ECT) Induction Policy 2026.

Volunteer Policy, Residential Independent Person, Residential Procedures for care of children unwell. **Residential**

Staffing Policy: *Chair checked everyone agrees to approve Residential Staffing Policy – all agreed.*

15. Review business of Committees: questions and comments invited from Governors [Minutes copy in this folder]

i. Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee

ii. Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare Committee

iii. School Improvement & Standards Committee

Chair checked everyone happy with meeting minutes – all agreed. Finance in reasonable place – WF working on next budget. April meeting – anyone is welcome. JLP chaired SIS; minutes all gone through; all ok.

16. Feedback from any additional Monitoring or Governor Training / Gov hub training report Visits tab: Updates uploaded – ***Anything extra to share? Chair checked everyone happy with training report. Agreed.***

17. Any other business:

AC – Shop; experienced Council interference and has had to install a new fire alarm system. Shop insurance has doubled. Need to take cellar (by July). Sheila was aware, but HT found out today. Sheila felt we knew, but we didn't have this information. HT will have discussions to arrange for the cellar to be cleared by July. Current lease runs out in July. Rent will need to increase £50-£75 per month. Strands meeting scheduled mid-May, discussions will be had on how we move forwards. Council issues arose as tenant moved out and complained to council re; fire safety issues. He dropped cigarettes down the grate, grate was then smoking and fire brigade were called. Fire service were complimentary about the inspection, but Council have instructed changes.

DM – Conscious that Governors are small in number; suggest not covering all link roles; not getting reports back. Lots of gaps which we need to address. Identify priorities – if we need to drop things, how do we address? ***Chair queried whether this should be a whole or small group discussion.*** Small group agreed. AW/DM/HT to discuss in April. Link roles jobs have got larger and larger; maybe need to group items. Pastoral/Curriculum ok. Might get new Governors quickly, but learning period is needed – shadow/mentor/help. Look at list to see how to group it. ***Is it worth grouping around 6 pillars – how specific responsibilities link to that? Agreed it would be aligned. Ideas welcomed once everyone has looked at it. Can't expect all Governors to commit the same level. Need to emphasise how much time the commitment takes and the impact.*** Can be highlighted at the recruitment stage for new Governors to set expectations.

HTPM Review – DM to join AW on either 16th or 30th April.

Pier Show next Wednesday – 5pm show – tickets available online. Merchandise available.

May 12th Parents Evening – Careers Fair in the afternoon. Booking will be available on Arbor for parents. Residential will have a stand for signposting provision. Mental Health team will be there. KOH/JLP will have Online Safety stand to raise awareness.

Chair thanked everyone – meeting closed: 4.27pm

Agenda Item	Action to be completed	Responsible	Date to be completed
10	Add 360 Online Safety Review to FGB July FGB	AW	ASAP
11	Add VNET slides to Governor Hub	AW	ASAP
11	Add Ofsted short version of summery of staff perspective to SIS folder	AW/KM	ASAP
12	Distribute Policies ratified by Governors where necessary	KM	Easter Holidays

