

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD OF ALDERLEY EDGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2024

GOVERNORS IN ATTENDANCE:	Lindsey Walsh Wendy Davies Nick Hughes Sheila Keegan Hannah Lomas Alex Shaw Mark Ross Mike Lamb Lesley Sym Martin Smith Anne Turner Ian Roberts Sam Cooper Helen Handley	(LW) (WD) (NH) (SK) (HL) (AS) (MR) (ML) (LS) (MS) (AT) (IR) (SC)	Headteacher Chair of Governors Vice Chair of Governors Local Authority Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Parent Governor Parent Governor Staff Governor (joined the meeting at 6:06pm) Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor (appointed from Item 5) Co-opted Governor (joined the meeting at 5:05pm)
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Sarah Lomas Lyndsey Platt	(SL) (LP)	Clerk to governors Deputy Headteacher (joined the meeting at 5:13pm)

MINUTES - PART ONE: NON-CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

The meeting commenced at 5:00pm.

ITEM		ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB) ITEMS	
	There were no apologies to receive, all Board members were present.	
	There were no items of other business tabled for discussion at this meeting.	
2.	CONFLICT OF INTEREST	
	a) The following declarations were made by governors:	
	NH is a governor at Rushton Spencer Primary School.	
	ML is an IT director at Quest EPM Limited.	
	AS is employed by the Department for Education.	
	There were no anticipated conflicts of interest with the business of the meeting raised by governors.	
	b) Confirmation of annual declarations were confirmed by all existing governors. New governors would complete these post meeting.	
	c) It was confirmed that the school is responsible for updating the register of interests and GIAS and that GIAS was up to date. Any changes to membership recorded during this meeting would be added to GIAS following the meeting.	
3.	ELECTION OF CHAIR	
	WD was nominated as Chair of the Governing Board. No other nominations were	
	received. Following a vote, WD was unanimously elected as Chair of the Governing	



ITERA		رراد MOTION
ITEM		ACTION
	Board for a one-year term of office to run until the first FGB of the autumn term 2025.	
	HH joined the meeting at 5:05pm.	
4.	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR	
	NH was nominated as Vice Chair of the Governing Board. No other nominations were	
	received. Following a vote, NH was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of the	
	Governing Board for a one-year term of office to run until the first FGB of the autumn	
	term 2025.	
5.	MEMBERSHIP	
	a) The following changes to the Board of Governors were noted:	
	Confirmation of the election of AT as a co-opted governor for a four-year term	
	of office commencing from 01.09.24 – 31.08.28 which was undertaken at the	
	summer term FGB meeting on 07.07.24.	
	AT was formally welcomed to the Board and governors noted that she had	
	previously been Chair of governors at AECPS and was looking forward to	
	returning to the Board as a co-opted governor.	
	b) Governors noted the following vacancies currently on the Board:	
	3 x co-opted governors	
	Governors considered two new candidates who have applied for the role of co-	
	opted governor. Ian Roberts and Sam Cooper had met with WD, NH and LW prior	
	to the meeting and attended autumn term committee meetings as observers.	
	Biographies for both candidates had been circulated to the Board prior to the	
	meeting for consideration.	
	Following a vote, governors unanimously approved the appointment of both	
	governors as follows:	
	• Ian Roberts appointed as a co-opted governor for a four-year term of office	
	commencing from 28.11.24 – 27.11.28	
	Sam Cooper appointed as a co-opted governor for a four-year term of office	
	from 28.11.24 – 27.11.28.	
	110111 20.11.27 — 21.11.20.	
	The Board agreed to retain a vacancy on the Board for use for any future specific	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	projects.	
	c) It was confirmed that DBS and S.128 checks for IR and SC were underway and	
•	being managed by the school.	
6.	PART ONE MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING	
	a) The part one minutes from the previous meeting on 04.07.24 and the EFGB	
	meeting on 11.06.24 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of	
	proceedings. Governors approved the minutes.	. .
	ACTION: Upload an electronically signed copy of the minutes from 04.07.24 and	Clerk
	11.06.24 to GVO.	
	b) The action log from the previous meeting on 04.07.24 was reviewed and the	
	following items were noted:	
	Item 6 – Thanks were issued to MS and AS for their review of the delegation	
	planner and it was noted that this would be a useful document for the	
	academisation process.	
	ACTION: Upload the updated delegation planner to GVO.	Clerk
	Item 7 – A draft catering contract has been received but the final contract has not	
	yet been issued.	
	Q: What is causing the delay with the final contract?	
	A: This is due to issues with the number of hours that Cheshire East	
	communicated were required which do not equate to the number of hours that	
	Myquill are utilising. The final numbers of hours are being drawn up with input from	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	



						<u>(C</u> PE
ITEM			<u> </u>			ACTION
		companies Q: Has the for meals? A: Myquill	to claim debt to ensure e school received conf	are also challenging the that the school are not lia firmation that there is not e£2.53 price per meal is ir ed within the contract.	able for parent debts. ot open ended pricing	
	IR volunteered to review the contract on behalf of the Board. ACTION: Issue the draft contract to IR for review. ACTION: Review the draft catering contract and provide comments where required.					LW IR
		LP joined	the meeting at 5:13pm	1.		
			ned that initial financial any concerns.	due diligence on the new	catering company did	
		All other ac	ctions were marked as c	complete.		
7.	The		no Chair's actions take	n outside of the meeting a	and therefore no report	
8.		eceive at this	meeting. NOMINATED GOVER	NODS		
δ.				เท บหร I responsibilities further to	consideration of items	
	a)			nmittee on 08.10.24. The		
		confirmed:	ing and Leaning Con	111111100 011 00.10.24. 1116	, following foles well	
		Governor	Link Role/s			
		ML	Website	GDPR	Computing	
		NH	Maths	Pupil Premium	Joinpainig	
		SK	English	EYFS	RE	
			History	1 5	· ·-	
		WD	Art	Music		
		AT	Science	Design Technology		
		HH	Safeguarding	SEND	Modern Foreign	
					Languages	
			PSHE			
		AS	Geography	PE (inc. sports		
				premium)		
		HL	Health and Safety	Buildings	Risk Register	
		MR	Finance	- - · ·		
		MS	HR Matters	Training		
		Members of		A link governor role. e confirmed as NH, HL, M med as WD, NH, MS and		
	Governors noted that a link role document had been updated and uploaded to GVO for reference.					
	b)	It was confirm SC were ap appointed to	med that the membersh pointed to sit on the T sit on the Assets Comn	undertaken link visits duri nip of committees remaind eaching and Learning C nittee. anding committees had	ed unchanged. AT and committee and IR was	



ITES		(CASTION
ITEM		ACTION
	Strategic Review Committee meeting and subsequent committee meetings.	
	Governors approved the terms of reference for the standing committees for 2024-	Clerk
	25.	
	ACTION: Mark as final terms of reference for the standing committees for 2024-25	
	and upload to GVO.	
	d) The terms of reference for the following committees had been circulated to	
	governors prior to the meeting via GVO and had been recommended for approval following review at the Strategic Review Committee meeting in the autumn term:	
	Pay Committee LTDMD	
	HTPMP	
	Complaints	
	Exclusions	Clerk
	staff grievance appeals	Clerk
	Governors approved the above terms of reference for 2024-25.	
	ACTION: Mark as final terms of reference listed above and upload to GVO.	
	It was noted that the membership of ad hoc committees would be confirmed in the	
	event that a panel was required to be convened to ensure that any conflicts of	
	interest could be ruled out.	
9.	GOVERNORS' CODE OF CONDUCT	
	The governors' code of conduct had been circulated to governors prior to the meeting for	
10	review and all governors had signed a copy to confirm their agreement.	
10.	PART ONE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPORTS FROM GOVERNORS	
	WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES	
	a) Governors received a summary of the autumn term committee meetings as	
	follows:	
	Strategic Review Committee 10.09.24	
	Governor roles were discussed, and a review of the school self evaluation form	
	(SEF) was undertaken. It was explained that the SEF feeds into the SDP and within this document sits the governor objectives which were also reviewed. The	
	360 reviews undertaken in the summer term were considered to assess any areas	
	of improvement.	
	Teaching and Learning Committee 08.10.24	
	Attendance remains a key focus within the SDP and the target agreed for 2023-24	
	was 96%. The school achieved just below 96% and it was noted at the meeting	
	that absence is attributed mainly to SEND pupils with EHCPs. There are new	
	national measures in place relating to attendance and punitive measures for	
	parents. Unauthorised absence is likely to increase this year due to changes in the	
	coding for absences.	
	Q: Does unauthorised absence include sickness?	
	A: No. If parents inform the school about illness, this is recorded under a separate	
	code. Previously, Headteacher's had discretion to approve up to 10 days of	
	absence but now the government have removed this discretion so that	
	Headteacher's are unable to approve any absence.	
	1.13 attached and anable to approve any aboution.	
	The school confirmed that the change to the May half term holiday has improved	
	attendance in the summer term.	
	and the same continues to the same continues	
	Assets Committee 19.11.24	
	Governors noted that the main focus of the meeting centred on the building	
	condition reports that had been received and ongoing repairs needed. It was	
	confirmed that the reports support the issues relating to the building that the Board	
	are aware of.	
	b) The following reports from link governors were received:	
<u> </u>	· , · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	



ITEM		ACTION
	SEND – HH attended the Cheshire East Governors Conference which had a focus on SEND. The feedback from the Local Authority was bleak in terms of funding availability which confirms the experiences of schools. It was emphasised that all governors need to have awareness of SEND and the Equality Act. A learning walk will be scheduled in the spring term with a focus on inclusion. ACTION: Schedule a SEND link visit to focus on inclusion.	НН
	Safeguarding – A visit took place in early September to review the Single Central Record (SCR) and the procedures in place. All items were up to date and staff training has been completed.	
	Geography and PE visits had been undertaken by AS and it was highlighted that the document detailing learning walks would be useful for future visits. Governors noted the next visit for Geography would focus on how the school link areas throughout the curriculum.	
	ACTION: Complete and upload PE and Geography visit reports to GVO. A schedule of link visits was considered and it was confirmed that there is not a formal schedule in place. Governors were encouraged to visit school with core subject link visits to take place twice a year and foundation subjects to take place once per year. If a link role subject sits within the SDP, this would require more frequent visits once per term for example. Health and Safety and finance visits take place once per term. Governors were requested to provide staff with as much notice as possible and to notify staff if there is a specific focus for the visit. Governors were also invited to undertake pupil voice as this is an area that has been added to the SDP following the 360 results.	AS
	 d) The Governing Body Strategy document had been circulated to governors prior to the meeting for review. It was noted that the decision was taken at the Strategic Review Committee meeting on 10.09.24 to retain the target to aspire to Ofsted outstanding as whilst the overall judgement has been removed, individual areas will be rated. Governors approved the Governing Body Strategy document for 2024-25. e) The school confirmed that the annual Governance Statement had been reviewed and published on the school website. 	
11.	GOVERNOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	
	 a) It was noted that MS has recently taken over the governor training link governor role. Regular training updates on available course continue to be posted and new governors were encouraged to contact MS regarding induction training requirements. b) AT confirmed that she had attended recent training on governor visits and will enrol on other relevant induction courses. 	
10	Governors were encouraged to review the Ofsted subject review reports as a useful development tool.	
12.	 a) The annual accounts of the Unofficial School Fund and the audit certificate had been circulated to governors prior to the meeting for information. Governors confirmed receipt of this documentation. b) It was agreed that Johnathan Christian Hare be approached to continue as the auditor for the Unofficial School Fund. 	
	ACTION: LW to contact JCH to confirm auditor role for 2024-25. c) It was confirmed that the previous budget position showed a £5,800 deficit to year end. There had been an issue with an insurance purchase from the Local Authority whereby a refund of monies was owed to the school. These funds have now been claimed back and therefore the revised budget position shows a £2,600 deficit by	LW



ITEM		ACTION
I I LIVI	year end, but the school is confident that the outstanding deficit will be reduced to	ACTION
	zero by year end.	
	d) In terms of the three-year budget plan, the importance of how the Local Authority forecast for schools was highlighted to governors. The Local Authority assume all costs and no income, unless guaranteed, which therefore illustrates the worst case scenario. Year 2 currently shows a £50,000 deficit which is one of the strongest positions the school have been able to forecast for a significant period of time. This is in part due to the increase in pupil numbers and changes to the staffing structure. Q: With fewer full-time members of staff, does this equate to reduction in overall staffing numbers? A: Some of the teaching staff have gone part time but the overall staffing numbers are the same.	
	are the same.	
	 Q: There is a reduction in support staff from 8.36 to 6.36 in Year 2, this is a significant reduction, what is the reason for this? A: These hours are tied to pupils with EHCP plans and therefore when these pupils leave the school, the support will no longer be required. 	
	Governors noted that the total income from the after-school wrap around care provision is included to support the budget position.	
	Governors commented positively on the work undertaken to improve the budget position and acknowledged the challenges the school face in being unable to plan for future works or projects due to the current financial constraints. e) It was confirmed that MR was leading on the coordination of the completion of the SFVS. An email will be issued to the relevant members of the Board in January 2025.	
	f) It was confirmed that the Manual of Internal Financial Procedures (MIFP) had been reviewed by MR. There were no concerns raised and the revision to allow the school bursar to spend £100 without authorisation was supported.	
	Governors approved the MIFP.	
13.	PART ONE HEADTEACHER'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING The Headteacher's report had been circulated to governors prior to the meeting for review. Questions on the report were invited.	
	Q: The school compare internal data with national data during a given time period. Would it be possible to compare year on year to assess whether there is progressive improvement? A: Attainment is very difficult to compare year on year due to the size of the school and	
	the needs of individual cohorts. Each pupil carries a high percentage rating. Therefore the school has historically reviewed progress data and pupils who did not have baseline data were removed from the data. However, this year there is no data available for any pupils due to Covid but the data for the last three years is available on the school website. It is important to note that the only data that Ofsted would review would be the IDSR.	
	The school highlighted the recent award of the Primary Science Quality Mark, Music award and the platinum award for PE for the sixth consecutive year. This demonstrates the work of staff to undertake these additional assessments of the school provision and the wide range of enrichment activities on offer to pupils.	
	Governor Comment: The wide range of activities and awards received are very positive and governors appreciate the additional work from staff to prepare evidence for	



ITEM		ACTION
	assessments.	
	Q: Does the school think that Ofsted will undertake less data analysis? A: Yes. Ofsted will not consider any data outside the IDSR and if presented with additional data from schools, they would refuse to acknowledge this.	
	Governor Comment: The IDSR data for the school is very positive and demonstrates the position of the curriculum.	
14.	a) The SDP for 2023-24 was reviewed and it was noted that the school had made significant progress in a range of areas.	
	Reading for mastery was a key focus and this has been implemented and embedded across the school. The impacts are now being seen, particularly in the areas of deduction and inference from texts.	
	There have also been improvements in behaviour processes which have had a positive impact. The school confirmed that there were no concerns around behaviour previously, but it was important to ensure that the school practices reflected current research evidence.	
	b) The SDP for 2024-25 had been circulated to governors for review and governors noted that within the governance section of the plan, there were three actions relating to academisation.	
	Governors approved the SDP for 2024-25.	
15.	a) Govenrors noted that the scheduled visit from the SIP in July did not take place due to absence and was rescheduled for September. The SIP has visited school twice during the course of the autumn term. The visits focussed on science and PE. Governors acknowledged receipt of the science report and it was confirmed that the PE report would be circulated once received.	
	The visits have been very positive, and the school has utilised the skills of the SIP to undertake deep dives into subjects in preparation of Ofsted. The next planned deep dive would be for modern foreign languages (MFL).	
	Q: Are there any implications from the SIP visit reports? A: Visits used to be focussed on data but now, the SIP takes more of a coaching role and provides a sense check on areas that the school wish to focus on.	
	 Q: How long is the SIP in post? A: This should be reviewed every 2-3 years and the current SIP has been in place for two years. Therefore, governors would need to consider appointment during the spring term. However, this could be impacted by academisation. ACTION: Add appointment of SIP to the spring term FGB agenda. 	Clerk
16.	a) The school explained that following assessments, LS has undertaken a data analysis during the autumn term to identify pupils requiring intervention to accelerate progress. Disadvantaged and SEND pupils remain priority targets individually due to the small numbers within school.	
	The progress and attainment data for 2023-34 was very strong across the school.	
	LS joined the meeting at 6:06pm.	



ITEM		ACTION
	 The school ensure a focus on moving children to the top of their level or to the next level. Staff have an in-depth knowledge of their pupils and cater for their needs fully. b) The school confirmed that whilst target setting is not required, the school continue to set internal targets to measure progress. Targets were set in July 2024, but these will now be tweaked following the in-depth data analysis. c) The school confirmed that all Reception Baseline Assessments (RBA) had been completed. 	
17.	PUPIL PREMIUM, SPORTS PREMIUM AND CATCH-UP FUNDING	
	The school confirmed completion of the Pupil Premium (PP) Strategy Statement which will be submitted and uploaded to the school website in advance of the 31.12.24 deadline. The strategy statement update includes a review of the funding received compared with expenditure. Funding is received within the financial tax year but the school work to the academic year so there are adjustments to be made. The school bursar reviews the financial data for the report.	
	There are 15 PP pupils across the school and all pupils met or exceeded expectations in terms of attainment in phonics, Year 2 assessments, Year 4 multiplication check and KS2 SATs.	
	The school continue to support pupils with any areas of need including, the purchase of school uniform, after school club provision, extracurricular activities and residential trips. All disadvantaged pupils are provided with access to the same opportunities as non-disadvantaged pupils. There is a target to ensure that pupils achieve and attend school fully.	
	With regard to the Sports Premium funding, staff time is funded at a 50/50 split of school funds and grant funding. All competitions, training and development can be covered by the grant funding, but the school must cover the costs of any PPA cover time. The main target for the school is provide enrichment opportunities for pupils and a breadth of experience.	
	Q: Does the school receive adequate funding to reach the targets set? A: Adjustments have had to made to achieve the targets. The Sports Premium funding has not increased but other costs have and therefore the school have had to make adjustments including cancelling the Premier Football Coaching (PFC) sessions for Year 5. The school still retain PFC to take pupils to competitions as this provides a saving on backfilling a member of staff and the associated costs attached to this.	
	Q: Is there any potential to ask parents to contribute to the cost of this provision? A: No, as this would not be sustainable. The school has to consider all strands of the curriculum. It has been important to upskill staff in delivering PE sessions and specialist staff are retained to deliver specialist teaching on specific areas.	
	The school confirmed that they do not access catch up funding as it is not financially viable.	Clauk
18.	ACTION: Remove reference to catch up funding going forward. SCHOOL POLICIES	Clerk
10.	The following policies had been circulated for review prior to the meeting: a) 16. Attendance of Pupils b) 36. Child Protection and Safeguarding c) 63. Whistleblowing d) 107. Child on Child Abuse	
	e) 21. Positive Behaviour Management Policy	



ITEM		ACTION
	f) 18. Pay Policy for Teaching Staff	
	g) 118. Shared Parental Leave Policy	
	h) 119. Maternity Policy and Procedure Support Staff	
	i) 60. Complaints Policy	
	j) 76. Exclusions Policy	
	k) 82. Data Protection Policy	
	It was highlighted that an amendment to the Data Protection policy had been requested.	
	ACTION: Amend the data protection policy to remove reference to Royal assent.	LW
	ACTION: Policy 21 – Update the Home School Agreement to include the most up to	LW
	date aims in the appendix of the policy.	
	Governors approved the above-listed policies subject to the change listed above.	
19.	PLANNED RESIDENTIAL VISITS	
	The following residential visits were proposed for approval:	
	Year 2 – Delamere, May 2025	
	Year 4 – Whitehall, May 2025	
	Year 6 – Pensarn, May 2025	
	The school confirmed that there were no changes to the venues and that risk	
	assessments were underway for all trips. Governors noted that a parent consultation will	
	be undertaken regarding the cost of the Pensarn trip for Year 6 pupils to ensure that	
	parents are happy with the cost of the trip.	
	Q: Has the price of the Pensarn trip increased this year?	
	A: No, but it is important to explain to parents why this trip is more expensive than other	
	residential trips. Parent feedback has been that the trip is highly valued, and the school	
	continue to support any disadvantaged pupils with financial assistance. The cost of	
	residential trips could potentially be reduced for Year 4 and Year 2 if parents were to	
	transport pupils.	
	0 W. 1171.	
	Q: Would it be possible to ask parents to transport to the venue and a coach	
	return or vice versa, or could fundraising by the PTA be undertaken to support	
	transport costs?	
	A: Both of these options could potentially reduce the cost of transport.	
	Covernors noted that it is assential to demonstrate progression with the residential trips	
	Governors noted that it is essential to demonstrate progression with the residential trips	
	and therefore different year groups cannot visit the same venue.	1 10/
	ACTION: Contact the PTA to discuss the potential to raise funds to assist with transport	LW
	costs.	
	Governors commented on the increase in the cost of trips for secondary school and the	
	impact this can have on families. It was queried whether the payment terms for the trips	
	could be extended further.	
	ACTION: Add consideration of an extension to the residential trip payments to the next	Clerk
	Assets Committee meeting agenda.	JICIR
	, Accord Committee Moduling agentua.	
20.	TERM DATES 2025-26	
	The school confirmed that the term dates for 2025-26 had been set and published on	
	the school website.	
21.	TO NOTE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTION OF MEETING PRECIS	
	ACTION: Complete the meeting precis.	WD
22.	MEETINGS	
	The next FGB meeting date was confirmed as:	
	Thursday 6 th March 2025 at 5pm	
<u> </u>		



ITEM		ACTION
23.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There were no other items of business tabled for discussion at this meeting.	
24.	IMPACT STATEMENT	
	The Board of Governors helped to move the school forward in the following ways during	
	this meeting:	
	Governors confirmed a range of visits to the school retaining oversight over curriculum and statutory groups	
	curriculum and statutory areas;	
	The financial position of the school was challenged in relation to the projected staffing needs;	
	Progress and attainment data was considered and governors questioned the ability	
	to provide comparison data year on year;	
	Policies were approved and the SDP was reviewed and approved.	

The meeting moved to Part 2.	
-	 naiı
	 ate