

Minutes of a Meeting of the Governors of Godmanchester Bridge Academy on 10th January 2024 at 9:30am

1 Welcome / Attendees / Apologies / Attendance sheet

Jackie Woodward opened the meeting at 9:30am. The meeting was quorate. Particular welcome extended to new members – M Kelly & D Keating.

Present	Jackie Woodward (Chair)	JW
	Claire Pirrie (Head of School)	CP
	Victoria McAuley-Eccles (Deputy Head)	VM-E
	Carl Miller – Parent Governor	CM
	Philip Dirisu – Parent Governor	PD
	Pamela Kitching - Community Governor	PK
	Matthew Kelly – Parent Governor	MK
	David Keating –Community Governor	DK
	Maureen Marsh – scribe	MM
Apologies	Caroline Crowther-Light – Community Governor	CC-L

Declaration of interests

JW made declarations of interest. No others.

[Action Point](#) MK and DK to complete Declaration of Interest forms

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 11th October 2023. No matters arising.

3 Parent Governor Elections

Election held in December 2023, following resignation of Michael Lambourne. Following a close contest, Matthew Kelly elected as new Parent Governor, with David Keating co-opted as a Community Governor.

4 Head of School (HoS) Report

Report circulated ahead of meeting. Questions & Comments below:

(a) DK asked how many new houses planned on Roman's Edge during this school year. CP- unclear, though current phase nearing end. Local Authority will transport to up to 10 pupils to schools outside of Godmanchester before funding a new class. School continues to offer a new class (mixed year if necessary) as soon as funding available. Local Authority

funding only covers teacher not other staffing, support or material costs - school needs to fund

(b) DK asked whether we will lose any staff. CP - Current level will remain, as current 'bumper' Reception class proceeds through school.

(c) MK asked whether other Godmanchester schools could increase PAN. CP – Not possible. Update will be provided to the next meeting, in February.

(d) Visitors have reported excellent engagement & behaviour by majority of children. Rainbow & Wren Rooms now amalgamated into a new provision – Grasshopper, which is positively impacting all children in school as well as staff wellbeing. School funding majority of this provision (remaining from EHCPs). Need to factor this into next year's budget.

(e) JW asked what support Trust can provide for site manager's long-term sick leave. CP- Trust Estate manager attends when specialist advice required. Practical maintenance support is at discretion of Hinchingsbrooke School who employ the site team. This means constant call-out charges. Have had to cancel after-school premises hire, resulting in loss of income. Have had enormous difficulties recruiting an experienced full-time site manager, particularly as job is split-shift.

DK asked how staff absence is managed in general. CP – 2 x HLTAs cover wherever needed (most cost-effective); Supply teachers or TAs ; 2 of our TAs (if no supply available, and for HLTAs absence and teachers' PPA time. DK asked if we have internal cover supervisors. CP – we have HLTAs rather than cover supervisors. PK asked how staff absence impacts high-needs children, who need to know their adults well. CP – School day run in 3 sections. TAs split time between classes, to support needs of children and their own wellbeing. VME added this also removes children's over-reliance on one adult.

(f) JW commented that data will be fed back to meeting in February. CP reported Writing level is lower than Maths or Reading, in line with national picture. School Development Plan is written in July – its current focus is new schemes of work.

5 Leadership Team & support updates

Questions & comments below:

(a) Leanne Briggs (Y2 teacher / KS1 lead) new to SLT.

(b) Jo Redwood (trained Counsellor Supervisor) provides supervision for teachers. We would like to extend this to TAs also.

(c) Emotional 5-point Scale introduced to pupils in Sept. Some use bespoke scale. DK thanked school, in particular Mrs. Briggs, for amazing support for his son & their family.

(d) CM reported EYFS Buddy system working brilliantly & noted over several visits older pupils approaching younger ones who are on their own, to offer help.

(e) Commando Joe's provide character development, resilience & teamwork training to identified individuals once a week, as well as after-school club open to all.

(f) Active School Council & House Captains in place.

DK asked whether Buddies use the 5-point system. VM-E reported yes, in so far as already embedded within own behaviour.

6 Outcomes for Pupils

CP reported that Times Tables within 3% of national average. EYFS SEND Services provided support every week last term to KS1 and, particularly, EYFS, where we have highest ever levels of SEND need. This nationwide trend expected to continue for 1-2 years. We currently have 24% SEND need. National average is 15%. In April, we will have a sense of what next year's intake will bring.

DK asked for clarification on admissions policy & processes and how we prepare for new intake. CP - 'Can you meet need?' form submitted to Local Authority for EHCP children. Priority order is (1) EHCPs, (2) In Care, (3) In catchment with siblings, (4) Catchment. Catchment determined on distance from school, so some children from latest parts of Romans Edge housing development lower priority than those on other side of A1198 road. Could consider changing catchment to just this estate. Lead time would be 18 months. May not align with Local Authority vision. DK asked how close to start of school year we find out about new starters with high dependency. CP - Between April & September; often in June but can be during term-time if a family move house. PK commented that lots of children don't get EHCPs at a very young age. VM-E reported that we asked Local Authority for help in May/June, for this year's intake. This came late Oct/Nov. MK asked whether additional funding only if EHCP in place. CP- We get £4K per child. School has to fund additional £6K per child but this can be as high as £12K. Local Authority can top-up by up to £10K.

MK enquired as to current numbers in school. CP - One child has just left Year 1, bringing us back to 30. We are 1 over PAN in Year 3, following a successful appeal and 3 over PAN in Year 6 as lots of EHCPs in that class.

7 Safeguarding

Caroline Crowther-Light absent today but will send in report. Last term's Safeguarding Audit successful. MK & DK have both undertaken Safeguarding training.

Action Points:

CC-L needs Safer Recruitment Training update

1 x Parent Governor must also complete this ASAP.

8 Teaching & Learning

JW & PK visited EYFS in Nov & reported a delightful, busy environment, with children happy, thriving & engaging in a very natural way both with outside play and number- & alphabet-rich displays. Calm atmosphere in Wren. It was helpful to witness the safeguarding issues &

staffing pressures arising from need to maintain high-needs children's freedom to explore whilst maintaining everyone's safety. This has been discussed & changes implemented. Staff have had Positive Handling training. Would be helpful to discuss how this links with Behaviour & Safe Touch policies. VME outlined Safe Touch policy and clarified we give time, empathy & co-regulation help first: Positive Handling techniques only used at crisis-points. Risks are assessed. Some high-needs children have bespoke Risk Reduction Plans, agreed with parents.

JW & CP meeting to review data on Thu 11th Jan. Will be opportunity to discuss this at February meeting. JW will visit school to see Foundation subjects in action prior to next LGB meeting.

8 SEND Report

CM reported school doing an amazing job. Very pleasing to see more children now in mainstream class.

VM-E reported she met with SENDCO Strategic Team met November. We are in a strong position with clear process & plans in place, to meet children's needs. These will take time to fully embed.

CP reported we have benefitted from VME's availability and oversight, as Deputy *and* SENDCO but, going forward, these two roles need to be separated, as SENDCO role is full-time in itself.

9 OPAL Report

CM clarified the lunch provision has benefitted all children in school. Children are clearly enjoying many forms of play & using whole site. Jenna Whelan (new Play Leader) has done an amazing job implementing new initiatives. Future plans including a Sensory Garden in KS1 playground. We anticipate Platinum Accreditation will follow shortly.

PL enquired as to possibility of involving Community Nursery. CM – all contributions welcome. CP - Budget of £2K allowed for this.

10 FOGBA (Parent Teacher Association) Report

CP reported this is now re-established. Film Night and Christmas Fayre raised total of £1,000. A further 3 events are planned. Money raised supports Experience Days & Trips, to benefit all children in school and reduce costs for families.

11 Kids Club Report

PD visited in December & reported provision is small but will increase. More staff needed, CP commented it is hard to recruit, as hours are after school.

12 Update on Trust

CP reported the recent potential merge with a Bedfordshire Trust has fallen through. New options are being considered but Heads have requested a pause in active pursuit, for the moment.

13 Areas of Responsibility

JW reported that Sports Premium responsibility is yet to be allocated.

JW asked for clarification of process for recruiting a Chair. CP reported Chair should come from current Governorship.

- CoG (CC-L with support from JW and CM)
- Teaching and Learning (JW)
- EYFS (PK)
- Safeguarding (MK)
- Pupil Premium (CCL)
- Kids Club (PD)
- School Website compliance (DK)
- Equality and Diversity (PD)
- Sports Premium Report (DK)
- SEND (CM)
- OPAL CM)

Next meeting 28th February 2024 9.15-10.15 Business Meeting

10.15- 12.00 Focus Foundation Curriculum