



St George's Primary School

Full Governor Body Meeting

Thursday 13 March 2025

Lower Site 5:30pm

Present

Community Governors

B. Clark
M. Wiggins
J. Marshall
J. King
C. Scott

Chair

Parent Governors

W. Alderton
J. Pollard
T. Freeman

Staff Governors

B. Cassidy
J. Thomas

Head Teacher

Also Present

K. Choudhary
T. Skarratts-Jackson
L. Binks

Clerk

Apologies

P. Dunning
C. Lucking
S. Jones

Business Manager

Did Not Attend

N/A

Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and declarations of AoB

- 1.1 Apologies noted and received as above.

Item 2 Declaration of any business or pecuniary interests

- 2.1 There was a discussion with regards the arrangements for funeral of Mrs Pugh.
- 2.2 SLT has ensured day-to-day logistical flexibilities to allow several school colleagues to attend the funeral (in collaboration with the family).
- 2.3 SLT highlighted that some pupils will also be in attendance, but this is (at the family's request) to be seen as a celebration of Mrs Pugh's life and has asked for donations rather than flower

Item 3 Minutes of previous meeting and action points

- 3.1 Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.
- 3.2 K. Choudhary highlighted that Action 2 from previous meeting had not been completed but will be discussed as part of the meeting.

Item 4 Clerking Matters

- 4.1 Papers circulated as part of the papers.
- 4.2 FGB reminded of action to explore the creation of closed network WhatsApp's group. FGB signposted to the newly created protocols.
- 4.2.1 **DECISION TAKEN:** FGB accepted the protocols.
- 4.2.2 **ACTION 1(03/25):** K. Choudhary to create new group in line with the protocols.
- 4.3 K. Choudhary highlighted the updated GID records, for information only.
- 4.4 K. Choudhary emphasised the importance of governors completing their training session are completed in a timely manner, in particular safeguarding, prevent and equalities training.
- 4.4.1 FGB discussed a confusion about duplication of safeguarding and prevent training certificates, highlighting the need for clarity in the training requirements.
- 4.4.2 FGB discussed the possibility of sharing their training certificate secured in their professional life e.g. several Governors already have various training in safeguarding.
- 4.4.3 **ACTION 2(03/25):** SLT to explore duplication of asks on Governor's training profiles and remove as required.
- 4.4.4 **ACTION 3(03/25):** FGB to complete their training sessions.

- 4.4.5 **ACTION 4(03/25):** Governors with pre-existing training to share with the school office so that they can be recorded.
- 4.5 K. Choudhary discussed the importance of governor visibility and noted the marked improvement in governors' engagement with the proforma.
- 4.5.1 FGB suggested that there is a need for an edit to the proforma for ease of use.
- 4.5.2 **ACTION 5(03/25):** K. Choudhary to add a comments box at the end of the existing Governor Visit Form.
- 4.6 With regards to Action 2 from previous meeting, FGB revisited the discussion about the vacant parent Governors role.
- 4.7 **DECISION TAKEN:** C. Scott, J. Marshall and K. Choudhary to discuss options regards vacant Governor role and instruction to move forward on the best option for the school.
- 4.8 **ACTION 6 (03/25):** C. Scott, J. Marshall and K. Choudhary to discuss and map out options regards vacant Governor role.

Item 5 DfE updates and requirements for FGB (deferred from C&PC)

- 5.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 5.2 SLT signposted FGB to the following link, for information:
- [Good Childhood Report](#) and [Joseph Rowntree UK Poverty Report 2025](#)
 - [National School Readiness Survey](#)
 - [OFSTED Consultation](#)
 - [Oracy Commission Report](#)
 - [National Breakfast Scheme](#)
 - [Curriculum and Assessment Review](#)
- 5.3 SLT presented the data on the impact of poverty on children, including financial strain and the inability to afford activities outside school.
- 5.4 FGB discussion covered the challenges of school readiness and the need for early intervention and support.
- 5.5 SLT highlighted the importance of addressing the impact of poverty on children's education and well-being.
- 5.6 SLT presented data on the impact of poverty on children, including financial strain and the inability to afford activities outside school.
- 5.7 FGB asked is the school having to toilet training and deal with dental health consideration a challenge on academic teaching time.
- 5.8 **RESOLUTION:** Yes.
- 5.9 SLT highlighted the OFSTED consultation and stated that the school does not see any threats or challenges regards this.

- 5.10 SLT discussed National Breakfast Scheme, stating that the school has modelled the scheme on 50 learners, and it comes out at £1.05 per learner. As such, it is impossible to implement as it stands.
- 5.11 SLT suggested that there has been a push back nationally.
- 5.12 SLT emphasized the impact of reduced funding and the critical need for strategic financial planning to navigate a challenging financial landscape and ensure the school's long-term sustainability. The school is also facing significant challenges related to the proposed September 2026 launch.
- 5.13 FGB noted the importance of maintaining a high-quality curriculum and the potential impact of new assessment requirements.
- 5.14 SLT emphasised the need for governors to be aware of these curriculum changes and their implications for the school.

Item 6 Budget Update

- 6.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 6.2 SLT delivered that schools initial update on **funding for 2025-26**.
- 6.3 SLT reiterated that the school is facing increasing budget pressures and expects to see real terms decrease of 3% in next financial year.
- 6.4 As such, the school needs to make further savings of up to £80k.
- 6.5 SLT stated that the school is going to have to make to quick and agile decisions but will liaise with Chair and Vice Chair for transparency and Chair of R&PC for consideration and challenge.

Item 7 Admission Details

- 7.1 FGB informed that C&PC had requested admission data broken down by postcode for this meeting.
- 7.2 FGB informed that school is unable to shared reports in advance of meeting due to GDPR considerations, but they can present ammonised data.
- 7.3 FGB highlighted that:
- The school has a high proportion of children (around 30%) coming from outside the catchment area.
 - This means the school is full not based on the birth rate in the catchment area, but due to popularity and children coming from further away.
 - This poses a financial challenge, as the school's funding is based on the actual number of students and we are reliant on outside catchment area popularity to meet our PAN (pupil admission number).

- The school is mapping where students are coming from to better understand the situation and implications.
- There are concerns that if the school's popularity were to decline, it would struggle financially.
- The school is being transparent about this issue and working with the local authority on admission policies.

7.4 SLT stated that the school is full in F1 and F2 for next academic year.

7.5 FGB asked has the school rejected learners in catchment areas?

7.6 **RESOLUTION:** In the context of capacity, yes.

7.7 FGB asked does the school have to deal with appeals?

7.8 **RESOLUTION:** No. Wirral LA deals with appeals.

7.9 FGB asked was a new Net Capacity Statement created?

7.10 **RESOLUTION:** Yes

7.11 FGB asked does having such a wide catchment area create wider issues went dealing with external partners?

7.12 **RESOLUTION:** Yes

Item 8 DPO

8.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

8.2 FGB informed that there were:

- No data breaches.
- No SAR requests

8.3 SLT highlighted that there was one Fol request regarding vapes.

8.4 FG informed that the school continues to commission Judicum as DPO for UK GDPR expectations.

Item 9 GDPR Audit and Updated Documents

9.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

9.2 B. Cassidy highlighted S. Jones work in this agenda item.

9.3 FGB informed that the recent the school recent had a GDPR audit with excellent feedback and that the school was pleased to get such a good report.

9.4 SLT highlighted that all updated GDPR policies and privacy notes are on the [school's website](#).

9.5 SLT shared the following policies for transparency and ratification.

- CCTV Policy
- Cyber Security Policy
- Data Breach Policy
- Data Retention Policy
- FoI Policy and Publication Scheme
- Parental Communication and Data Policy

9.6 SLT highlighted the FOI Policy and Publication Scheme, and that Governors should have full awareness of this policy.

9.7 **DECISION TAKEN: All policies ratified.**

Item 10 Website Audit and Publication Compliance

10.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

10.2 FGB informed that the Annual Statutory Website Audit has been completed and shared for transparency.

10.3 FGB informed that this is a statutory requirement.

10.4 SLT highlighted the governance information section.

10.5 FGB appreciated the clarity.

Item 11 Local Authority School Improvement Report

11.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

11.2 FGB informed that this agenda item was deferred from C&PC due to delay in publication

11.3 SLT stated that this is a positive report about the quality of education in the school.

11.4 SLT stated that the school hopes that governors welcome the report, and the school welcomes the outcomes.

Item 12 Academy Developments

12.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

12.2 SLT stated that there has been limited developments since last meeting. The school has gone from massive pressure pre-December 2024 to delays as DfE are focusing on:

- New [RISE teams initiative](#) in regional DfE teams.

- Need to manage grant conversion eligible conversions first.
- 12.3 SLT suggested that the school are meeting with DfE broker in March 2025 prior to review by DfE board at end of April 2025.
- 12.4 SLTs position remains that the Academy must offer a better community focused solution and help us address system led problems for schools.
- 12.5 If the school chooses to progress there is a potential timetable of:
- March onwards - leaders work on school-to-school collaboration to bring a proposal for excellence forward to governors and staff. This must be achieved and be perceived to be of benefit for any possible conversion to progress.
 - DfE reviews initial application at end of April 25 and we have feedback on proposed Academy.
 - Consult with staff and parents in Summer Term (if we have a definite proposal)
 - Any possible conversion legal actions from September 2025 (TUPE, land searches etc)
 - Possible date for conversion (if steps above are completed) from April 2026.
- 12.6 SLT stated that PMAT are requesting trustees and board members but that would mean leaving St George's Governing Body.
- 12.7 Chair and Vice Chair encouraged governors to remain curious on this agenda.

Item 13 Hi Impact Technology Audit and Report

- 13.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 13.2 SLT provided an overview of the report, suggesting that the purpose of the audit is to:
- provide guidance on the current status of the school IT equipment
 - identify any IT equipment in need of upgrade or replacement
 - advise on recommended actions and priorities for action
- 13.3 The areas covered in this audit are:
- Network Infrastructure
 - Licences
 - Windows Computers & Laptops
 - Apple Equipment
 - Displays
- 13.4 SLT noted progress and improvements, as follows:
- 31 new Chromebooks have been set up and passed out to staff to replace their old, converted devices.
 - 30 new pupil chromebooks have been set up in the year 6 trolley.
 - Year 1 / 2 have been set up with 3 trollies worth of pupil Chromebook

- Some of the WIFI 5 access points in Year 3 / 4 have been replaced with WiFi 6 access points.
 - Cloudwise was replaced with Wonde My login allowing for easy QR sign for pupils on the Chromebooks.
 - Typing club accounts were set up school wide allowing pupils to improve their typing skills.
- 13.5 SLT stated that the school needs to replace some staff and children's w-fi points as soon as reasonably possible.
- 13.6 FGB asked whether desktop printers represent good VFM?
- 13.7 **RESOLUTION:** Yes, as only represents under 1% of printed materials and there is a need for certain colleagues confidentially, for example, safeguarding.

Item 14 Kingsbridge Wirral SCITT

- 14.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 14.2 FGB reminded that the school currently operates a teacher training program through the [Kingsbridge Wirral SCITT](#).
- 14.3 This program has been highly successful, with excellent feedback and recognition for the quality of training provided.
- 14.4 However, the school is struggling to recruit enough trainees to sustain the program, which is operating at only 25% of its capacity.
- 14.5 The resource demand to deliver the training, mentoring, and placement support is significant, and the school is concerned about the financial viability of continuing the program.
- 14.6 The school is exploring options to partner with universities or other providers to continue offering high-quality teacher training, as they are committed to the future of professional development in schools.
- 14.7 The school is facing a potential liability of around £200,000 per year to manage the teacher training program if they must take it on fully in 2026.
- 14.8 FGB informed that it is the school's intention is to leave the partnership due to recruitment challenges and resource demands but will ensure that any offers for 2025-26 are honoured.
- 14.9 FGB noted the quality of the service but asked what are the other options?
- 14.10 **RESOLUTION:** Need to explore options from September 2025 for implementation in September 2026.

Item 15 Updated DfE National Food Standards

- 15.1 Circulated as part of the papers.

- 15.2 FBB signposted to recent guidance on [National Food Standards](#) by DfE.
- 15.3 FGB informed that Governors must ensure these are applied.
- 15.4 FGB informed that DfE have stated an expectation that this is mentioned at FGB for transparency.

Item 16 Updated DfE Reasonable Force Guidance and Consultation

- 16.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 16.2 FGB informed that DfE are seeking views on the revised 'Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions in schools' [guidance](#).
- 16.3 SLT stated that the school has had to use positive handling plans and restraint for a small number of students, which is an exceptional occurrence rather than common practice.
- 16.4 FGB informed that the school has updated its policies and procedures around positive handling and restraint, ensuring staff are properly trained and that there are clear protocols in place.
- 16.5 SLT stated that there is now a requirement for the school to report and record any incidents of restraint, which the school will be implementing.
- 16.6 SLT stated that the school is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff, and the use of restraint is seen as an exceptional measure that requires careful monitoring and oversight.
- 16.7 FGB asked who writes the school's Reasonable Force Guidance?
- 16.8 **RESOLUTION:** SLT using DfE Guidance for GB review in policy.
- 16.9 FGB asked what the review mechanism for the school's Reasonable Force Guidance is?
- 16.10 **RESOLUTION:** SLT is responsible for review.

Item 17 Smartphone Free School Consultation

- 17.1 Circulated as part of the minutes.
- 17.2 SLT stated that the school has seen a significant increase in the risks and challenges associated with smartphone use among students, including issues like online grooming, mental health impacts, and distractions affecting student safety.
- 17.3 FGB signposted to [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) for further information.
- 17.4 SLT suggested that the school has data showing that a large proportion of their students (around a third) are using social media platforms like Snapchat and TikTok, which are known to have high risks for children.

- 17.5 FGB informed that the school is planning to consult with staff, parents, and students on the possibility of implementing a smartphone-free policy for students on school premises.
- 17.6 SLT suggested that the goal is to have a meaningful discussion and engagement process, rather than just imposing a policy, to ensure the school community understands the rationale and supports the approach.
- 17.7 SLT stated that the school recognises the challenges of implementing a smartphone-free policy, as many parents want the ability to contact their children, but they believe the risks outweigh the benefits.
- 17.8 The consultation process will aim to find a balanced solution that addresses the school's concerns while considering the needs and perspectives of the community by asking for consultation on this question: *Should we make St George's a smartphone free environment for all pupils?*
- 17.9 FGB asked what is the school's policy currently?
- 17.10 **RESOLUTION:** Not allowed.
- 17.11 FGB fully supports the school's decision to start a consultation process.

Item 18 Policy Updates

- 18.1 Circulated as part of the minutes.
- 18.2 FGB informed that the school has updated its [Home School Agreement](#), which is a statutory requirement, to simplify it to three core pledges: safety, happiness, and learning.
- 18.3 SLT stated that the new agreement aims to capture the school's values and is open to feedback and consultation from the school community.
- 18.4 SLT suggested that the previous school agreement was seen as overly complex and archaic, so the school has worked to create a more streamlined and meaningful document.
- 18.5 SLT asked for governor support and feedback on the new Home School Agreement to ensure it reflects the school's priorities and values.
- 18.6 FGB asked why it is called Home School Agreement and not something like a 'charter' as this is misleading.
- 18.7 **RESOLUTION:** Government language.
- 18.8 SLT highlighted that the schools Responsible AI Usage Policy has been updated and outlines the school's initial approach to implementing and using AI technologies in an educational setting. This is a 'first stage' policy to provide guidance and safeguarded in aspect of information management that is rapidly changing.

- 18.9 SLT stated that this has been drafted in collaboration with School Bus and Hi Impact.
- 18.10 FGB discussed the rationale and process for the policy update, with the school emphasising the importance of transparency and community engagement.

Item 19 Minutes from Committee Minutes

- 19.1 Circulated as part of the minutes.
- 19.2 FGB informed K. Choudhary that not all governors had had chance to review C&PC, R&PC and SC papers.
- 19.3 **ACTION 7(03/25):** K. Choudhary to publish minutes in first week of April 2025 to allow time for review and challenge.

Item 20 Good News Items

- 20.1 Circulated as part of the papers.
- 20.2 SLT highlighted:

- Centre of Excellence in Financial Education.
- EEF, LA and HT Visit 15.01.2025
- Voice 21 Centre of Excellence Enquiry Visit 10.03.2025
- [Residential Education](#) (all sourced and planned internally to ensure quality and dramatically reduce costs). Over 90% attendance

Y4	Chester	TBC. Note Colomendy and Kingswood closure
Y5	York	May 2025
Y6	London	June 2025

- Year 3-4 New Library
- Family Engagement and Aspiration Events
- OGDEN Trust Astro-Camp and Science Fair
- Daisy's Garden

Item 21 AOB

- 21.1 None

Item 22 Date of next meeting

- 17.1 Meeting finished at 7:15pm
- 17.2 **Next meeting:** Thursday 19 June 2025 at 5:30pm

Item	Summary of actions from meeting	Whom	Date to be completed
4.2.2	ACTION 1(03/25): K. Choudhary to create new group in line with the protocols.	K. Choudhary	April '25
4.4.3	ACTION 2(03/25): SLT to explore duplication of asks on Governor's training profiles and remove as required.	SLT	April '25
4.4.4	ACTION 3(03/25): FGB to complete their training sessions.	FGB	April '25
4.4.5	ACTION 4(03/25): Governors with pre-existing training to share with the school office so that they can be recorded.	FGB School Office	April '25
4.5.2	ACTION 5(03/25): K. Choudhary to add a comments box at the end of the existing Governor Visit Form.	K. Choudhary	April '25
4.8	ACTION 6 (03/25): C. Scott, J. Marshall and K. Choudhary to discuss and map out options regards vacant Governor role.	K. Choudhary	April '25
19.3	ACTION 7(03/25): K. Choudhary to publish minutes in first week of April 2025 to allow time for review and challenge.	K. Choudhary	April '25