

**The Court School**  
**Full Governing Body Meeting - Minutes**  
**26th June 2024**

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 26 June, 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	The Court School
<b>Present:</b>	<p>Cllr. Garry Hunt (GH) (Chair), LA Governor  Amy Griffiths (AG) (Vice Chair), Parent Governor  Emma Powell (EP), Parent Governor - virtual  Ceri Gibbon (CG), Community Governor  Chloe McBratney (CM), Community Governor  Glynis Webb (GW), Staff governor  Jamyn Beesley (JB), Headteacher</p> <p>Pam Cotter (PC), Clerk</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Sarah Jenkins (SJ), Teacher Governor  Denise Sargent (DS), Community Governor  Christine Murrell, Parent Governor  Naveed Chaudhry (NC), LA governor  Cllr. Jon Shimmin (JS), LA Governor</p>

Ref:	Item	Owner
1.	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>	
1.1	Chair welcomed governors to the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies had been received from Sarah Jenkins, Denise Sargent, Christine Murrell, Naveed Chadhury and Jon Shimmin.	
1.3	The meeting was quorate.	
2.	<b><u>Declaration of interest on items on the agenda</u></b>	
2.1	There were no interests declared in items on the agenda.	
3.	<b><u>Approval of minutes of previous meeting</u></b>	
3.1	Minutes from GB meeting 1 May 2024 were approved and accepted as an accurate record.	
4.	<b><u>Matters arising</u></b>	
4.1	<p>Items at 5.2 to be rolled over. These were Matters arising from Notes dated 20th March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item 8.3 - Curriculum meeting to be arranged at the end of May meeting; attendees: Ross, SJ, CB, GH</li> <li>Item 11.1 - JB has been unable to reach the nutritionist</li> <li>Item 11.5 - JB has been unable to reach the Morrisons contact.</li> </ul>	
4.2	In relation to the coordination of the curriculum meeting JB and GH explained that the Estyn inspection had quickly followed the FGB meeting so this is ongoing.	
4.3	JB advised that ongoing meetings with the contractors of the new building had to be delayed for preparation for Estyn but are resuming again tomorrow.	

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4.4	JB was pleased to inform governors that the wall outside of the meeting room has been repaired and the wall is now safe.	
4.5	Item 8.13 - AG asked if Owen Evans from Estyn is still attending in October since the inspection has now taken place. JB advised that he will as it is important for him to see The Court setting which is unique in Wales.	
4.6	Item 8.12 - JB confirmed that governors would still receive a report from the psychology students but that two are due to start in September and one has recently started.	
4.7	Item 9 - GH reminded governors that they have applied for a deficit budget.	
4.8	JB informed governors that there are ongoing discussions with the LA on funding following the LA asking the school to take additional children who require additional staffing. JB further informed governors that he is declining these requests because there is no additional funding to fulfil the additional staffing that is required. JB advised governors that he has requested a meeting with Jennie Hughes, Head of Inclusion at the LA, to discuss how to support children and the most complex children, as the funding does not support it.	
4.9	Item 14.3 - Agreed that Safeguarding training will be picked up again in the autumn term. It was noted that those who require Safeguarding level 1 training have sent apologies for today.	
5.	<b><u>Review of governing body membership and terms of office</u></b>	
5.1	The Clerk advised that there is one parent governor vacancy. JB advised that he will begin the process again in the autumn term when new children join the school.	
6.	<b><u>Training</u></b>	
6.1	AG advised that she had attended training on Children's Rights.	
6.2	JB informed governors that from September, he would like someone from the governing body to attend school council meetings. AG and GH would be happy to attend.	
7.	<b><u>Governing Body and Committee dates for 2024 - 25</u></b>	
7.1	<p>It was suggested that GB meetings would move to Tuesdays as attendance on Wednesday's had fluctuated and that AG would likely be able to attend virtually, and not in person, on Wednesday's from September due to other commitments. The suggested new dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance meeting - 1st October 2024 @4pm</li> <li>• Governing Body meeting - 1st October 2024 @5pm</li> <li>• Finance meeting - 3rd December 2024 @ 4pm</li> <li>• Governing Body meeting - 3rd December 2024 @ 5pm</li> <li>• Finance meeting - 11th February 2025 @ 4pm</li> <li>• Governing Body meeting - 11th February 2025 @ 5pm</li> <li>• Finance meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 @ 4pm</li> <li>• Governing Body meeting - 25th March 2025 @ 5pm</li> <li>• Finance meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 @4pm</li> </ul>	

7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governing Body meeting - 13th May 2025 @5pm</li> <li>Finance meeting - 24th June 2025 @ 4pm</li> <li>Governing Body meeting - 24th June 2025 @ 5pm</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Clerk to circulate new dates in separate email to governors.</b></p>	PC
8.	<b><u>Estyn inspection</u></b>	
8.1	JB informed governors that the Estyn inspection went really well, and that staff were excellent.	
8.2	JB provided a brief overview of Estyn's comments, as noted below, following inspection and advised governors that the official report will be published on the Estyn website on 19th August.	
8.3	<p><u>Inspection Area 1: Progress and Learning</u></p> <p>Children who are eligible for FSM make progress, there were positive comments about the Welsh language with strong progress in reading. Estyn recognised that writing skills were less developed. JB informed governors that this was an area that they are aware of and will become a school improvement priority going forward. There had been sound progress in maths, and children have appropriate social skills. There were positive comments around skills development. JB advised that an area identified by inspectors to work on was developing independence in children's learning, which is an area that the school had already identified.</p>	
8.4	<p><u>Inspection Area 2: Wellbeing</u></p> <p>JB gave governors the context to some of Estyn's language, explaining that Estyn cannot use the wording "all children" and therefore they use "nearly all"; Estyn identified that nearly all children develop trusting strong relationships and that there has been strong progress in attendance. JB noted that Estyn had not identified any issues around the PSPs as they are reviewed regularly and children are coming off PSPs. There had been a number of positive comments around pupil voice, healthy eating and pupil engagement.</p>	
8.5	<p><u>Inspection Area 3: Teaching and Learning Experiences</u></p> <p>Estyn noted that nearly all staff work hard to build positive relationships and that there is a caring ethos. The curriculum is in place in its early stage and to be built upon; pupils are motivated. There had been positive comments about curriculum mapping and how it's used. Estyn noted that the provision for writing is less developed and that the provision for spoken Welsh is at an early stage.</p>	
8.6	<p><u>Inspection Area 4: Care support and guidance</u></p> <p>JB informed governors that positive comments were received around support staff, trauma informed practice and the way the school applies those skills; the governing body is well informed about safeguarding and IDPs were positively reported. There were positive comments around attendance which were tracked appropriately. Estyn noted that attendance had not returned to pre-covid pandemic rates and that whole school acts of daily worship had not returned since covid.</p>	
8.7	Governors had a discussion around whole school daily worship. JB noted that these are addressed in class settings but are not all effective. JB noted that assemblies are held on a Friday and they may introduce on Tuesdays to gradually bring children back together.	

	<p>JB went on to further note Estyn's comments stating that the school works effectively with external partners and supports families well. Estyn feedback around parent sessions was that everyone spoke positively of the school, noting that children attending the school has a positive effect on the family and the wider family, although Estyn also noted that the transition out of school needs to be addressed, which is a matter beyond the school.</p>	
8.8	<p>AG noted that one comment from Estyn was that there are no safeguarding issues in the school which is a massive achievement. All governors agreed that this was a huge achievement and that safeguarding procedures are robust.</p>	
8.9	<p><u>Inspection Area 5 - Leadership</u></p> <p>JB shared with governors that Estyn commented that the Headteacher is highly committed to school and promotes an inclusive ethos. Estyn acknowledged collaboration with other schools.</p>	
8.10	<p>JB informed governors of the 2 Estyn recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refine self-evaluation processes so that leaders at all levels collect and analyse data and other important information systematically to identify strategic priorities accurately</li> <li>2. R2 Strengthen assessment processes to take account of pupils' progress in all areas of their learning</li> </ol>	
8.11	<p>EP informed governors that she was present at the parent and carers meeting with Estyn and felt that there were no negatives and that parents and carers do not want their children to go elsewhere, communication was amazing and felt generally that parents and carers are pleased their children are at The Court School.</p> <p>JB further noted that Estyn recognised that the GB knows the school well, monitors finance etc. and that safeguarding procedures are strong,</p>	
8.12	<p>GS acknowledged how much JB and SLT have put in and their hard work.</p>	
8.13	<p>JB advised governors that there is no follow up activity following inspection. JB further advised governors that he had been discussing with Estyn whether or not to write a case study around ethos change with the move towards trauma informed practice, though it was unlikely to happen now that Estyn is moving from one inspection regime to another.</p>	
8.14	<p>There was a short discussion around the feedback from inspectors.</p>	
8.15	<p>GH advised that he and AG met with inspectors for feedback at the end of the process. Governors felt that the feedback around Inspection Area 1 lacked the context as to why the children were lacking in writing skills.</p>	
8.16	<p>EP expressed that there was a sense of relief amongst parents at the parent and carers meeting with Estyn, that their children were attending school now that they were at The Court and that parents gave examples of how their children were coming along in maths, how their writing had come along and positive feedback on how they have progressed academically.</p>	
8.17	<p>JB informed governors that one aspect Estyn raised was that with Caroline returning to the school in September, JB will need to be more strategic and less operational.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Health and Safety</u></b></p>	
9.1	<p>JB informed governors that the wall has been repaired and is now safe.</p>	

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9.2	JB informed governors that during the inspection, Estyn had identified that there were no vision panels in some doors. JB further informed governors that he contacted the LA who agreed to rectify this.	
10. 10.1	<b><u>Children Looked After</u></b> JB provided governors with an update on children looked after. See Governor file for more information.	
11. 11.1	<b><u>Safeguarding</u></b> JB advised that the vision panels mentioned at item 9.2 relate to safeguarding but that the feedback from Estyn on safeguarding procedures was that they are very robust	
12. 12.1  12.2  12.3  12.4	<b><u>Policies</u></b> JB explained that there were some minor amendments to the Safeguarding/Child Protection policy that require approval of GB. These included changes to the DSPs, and adding the Child Protection link governor, and that the Keeping Learners Safe document was referenced as the 2021 version instead of 2022 version.  AG drew governor's attention to the Home Education Policy that is referenced in the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy; AG noted that the wording suggests that it is still in draft. JB can go back to the safeguarding team to see if the policy is finalised.  Governors agreed to sign off the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy  <b>Action - JB to seek clarification from the LA and to explore AGs query relating to the status of the Home Education Policy referenced in the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy.</b>	JB
13. 13.1	<b><u>Correspondence</u></b> None	
14. 14.1  14.2  14.3  14.4	<b><u>AOB</u></b> <b><u>Staffing</u></b> JB advised that he will be shaping staffing teams to support the children and their needs for next year. JB further advised that the teams must complement one another which will have a positive impact on the children.  <b><u>Logo</u></b> JB shared options for the new school logo which JB advised merges the old and new identity to take forward into the new buildings. JB asked for the GB permission to take the discussions forward. GH agreed and noted that JB should return to the GB for any decisions, aligning with the decision-making process.  JB noted that the blueprints for the building are available upstairs and that it would be good for those involved in the project to come along to a GB meeting in the future to provide updates.  <b><u>Leavers assembly</u></b> JB advised that this will go ahead and will be a low-key event.	

14.5	<u>70th Anniversary of The Court School.</u> JB advised that July 4th marks the 70th Anniversary of the school which they will celebrate on 16th/17th July. JB advised that GB representation would be appreciated.	
15. 15.1	<b><u>Date of next meeting.</u></b> <b>Finance subcommittee: Tuesday 1st October at 4pm</b> <b>FGB Meeting: Tuesday 1st October @ 5pm</b>	
16. 16.1	<b><u>Confidential</u></b> None	

JHR