ST MARY'S C of E Primary School

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ISLINGTON, ON MONDAY, 23RD MARCH 2026 AT 8:00, AT THE SCHOOL.

Name	Governor Type	Term of office
Julia Abrey (JA)	Foundation Deanery	25.04.2023 – 24.04.2027
Katerina Bolden (KB)	Parent Governor	02.12.24 – 01.12.28
Anthony David (AD)	Interim Executive Head teacher	(ex officio)
Imogen Erskine	Foundation Governor	13.10.2025 -12.09.2029
Natalia Finfando (NF)	Staff Governor	13.11.2022 - 12.11.2026
Philip Gardner	Foundation Governor	13.10.2025 -12.09.2029
Rev. James Hughesdon (JH)	Foundation Deanery	(ex-officio)
Dr Maria Koumi-Elia (MKE)	Parent Governor	09.02.2026-08.02.2030
Rebecca Shilling (RS)	Vice Chair, Foundation PCC	19.04.2025 - 18.04.2029
Eric Sorenson (ES)	Chair, Foundation Deanery	06.11.2022 - 05.11.2026
Other attendees		
Lucy Courtney-Diggins	Assistant Head, Inclusion, RE Leader	
Laura Mayende	Interim Head of School	
Angelica Menelaou	Clerk, Islington Governor Services.	

Item		Action

1.	**Opening Prayer** JH opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2.	**Welcome** The Chair welcomed all governors, staff and invited attendees.	**ES**
3.	**Apologies** ● **Julia Aubrey**	**ES**
4.	**Declarations of Interest** ● Governors were reminded to declare any personal or business interests. **GovernorHub confirmations noted:** ● Register of Business Interests – confirmed ● Governor Code of Conduct – confirmed ● KCSIE 2025 – confirmed	**ES**
5.	**Finance Officer Update and draft budget 2026-2027** **AD** the Q3 financial update and draft budget for 2026–2027. Governors were informed that the school is ending the year in a significantly stronger position than anticipated due to: ● Lower-than-expected spending on maintenance, owing to the strong performance of the Site Manager. ● Reduced utility costs. ● Lower curriculum and equipment expenditure. ● Deferred IT/server replacement. ● Reduced agency staffing costs due to effective in-house cover. ● A previously approved overspend on the kitchenette project, which has enhanced provision for cooking, creativity and after-school activities. **AD** also reported that pupil mobility continues to show a net increase, with more pupils joining than leaving over the past three years. This has contributed to a positive budget outlook. Governors reviewed two versions of the budget dashboard, reflecting different assumptions about pupil numbers and staffing. **Highlighted Questions:** **"Why does the sharp rise in projected pupil numbers occur next year rather than this year?"** AD explained that funding is based on the previous October census, so increases in pupil numbers will not affect the budget until the following year. **"Should governors and SLT create a long-term plan for investing surplus funds to ensure money is used to improve education rather than carried forward?"** AD agreed that a structured long-term investment plan is essential. While maintaining a prudent reserve is important due to local school closures and fluctuating pupil numbers, the school must also ensure that resources are used to directly improve teaching, learning, wellbeing and the wider curriculum. SLT will work with governors to identify priority areas for investment over the next five years, ensuring	**AD**

	spending is strategic, sustainable and aligned with school improvement priorities. **Actions** ● SLT to prepare a 5-year strategic investment plan to ensure surplus funds are used to enhance educational outcomes. ● Finance Officer to update the budget dashboard once pupil numbers for the next academic year are confirmed. ● SLT to continue monitoring pupil mobility and adjust budget planning accordingly.	
6.	**Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2026 and Matters Arising/Actions** ● Governors noted that all actions and matters arising from the previous minutes have either been completed or are being actively progressed. ● No further issues were raised.	**ES**
7.	**Leadership Update** **Staff/Pupil changes** ● **AD** reported continued growth in pupil numbers, with several year groups now full and others nearing capacity. Reception applications have increased significantly compared to previous years. Staffing remains stable, and future staffing needs are being reviewed in line with projected pupil increases**.** ● The school has also received a number of EHCP-linked admissions requests for the upcoming Reception cohort. **Behaviour** ● Behaviour across the school remains positive. The SLT continues to monitor patterns closely and provide targeted support where needed. No significant concerns were raised. ● Governors discussed how behaviour may be evaluated under the current Ofsted framework, including the importance of accurate exclusion data. **Staffing Update** ● **AD** outlined future staffing considerations linked to rising pupil numbers. Scenario planning includes the potential recruitment of additional support staff. **CPD** ● Staff continue to engage in ongoing professional development aligned with school priorities, including curriculum development, assessment, and behaviour. CPD remains	**AD**

	focused on strengthening teaching consistency and preparing for the next Ofsted inspection. **Safeguarding** ● Safeguarding remains a standing priority. **AD** confirmed that procedures are robust and that staff training is up to date. Governors were reminded of their safeguarding oversight responsibilities and confirmed receipt of the latest safeguarding updates. **Highlighted Questions:** **"How do we support families with complex needs to improve attendance and engagement?"** AD explained that the school uses a combination of early help, pastoral support, case studies, targeted interventions and close liaison with external agencies. The school is also using modern tools to track patterns and identify barriers. Governors were assured that attendance support is proactive, compassionate and tailored to individual family circumstances. **Actions** ● **SLT** to review staffing structure for September intake and present recommendations at the next meeting. ● Action ● **Behaviour lead** to provide a termly behaviour trends summary at the next governing body meeting. ● AD to prepare a staffing proposal based on projected pupil numbers.	
8.	**Admissions Committee Report** **AD** provided an update on admissions: ● Applications for Reception have increased significantly, with a strong number of first-choice preferences. ● Attendance work is ongoing, with most classes now above 90%. ● Persistent absence remains a focus, with case studies being developed to support targeted interventions. ● The school continues to attract mid-year admissions, contributing to rising pupil numbers. **Questions Highlighted** **"What impact will changes in the local school landscape have on our admissions and capacity?** AD advised that local changes may lead to increased demand for places at the school. Several year groups are already full, and the school is preparing for potential mid-year admissions. SLT is reviewing capacity, staffing and resource implications to ensure the school can accommodate additional pupils without compromising quality of provision. **Actions** ● Continue monitoring trends and report any significant changes.	

	• Attendance lead to continue developing case studies to support improvement work.	
9.	**Health and Safety Report** • **RS** reported that health and safety arrangements remain strong. The Site Manager continues to maintain the premises to a high standard, contributing to reduced maintenance costs. No major incidents or concerns were reported. • Governors noted the positive impact of recent improvements, including the kitchenette upgrade. • Two future projects were highlighted for consideration. **Actions** • **Site Manager / H&S Lead to complete the next premises audit** and share findings. • **SLT to review proposed H&S projects** and bring recommendations to governors.	**RS**
10.	**Website Update** • Governors received an update on website compliance. Required statutory information is being reviewed and updated as needed. Work is ongoing to ensure clarity, accessibility, and alignment with DfE requirements**.** **Action** • **ES** to complete the website compliance checklist and confirm all updates by the next meeting.	**AD**
11.	**Ratification of Policies / Documents** **Parent Code of Conduct** • The updated Parent Code of Conduct was presented to governors. • **RESOLVED:** Governors approved and ratified the Parent Code of Conduct. **Action** • **ES** upload the ratified policy to the policy register and ensure publication on the website.	**ES**
12.	**Termly Review of Arrangements for Pupils Unable to Attend School Due to Medical Needs** • Governors reviewed the arrangements in place for pupils who cannot attend school due to medical needs. **AD** confirmed that appropriate support is provided in line with statutory guidance, including personalised learning plans and liaison with external agencies where required. No concerns were raised. **Action**	

	• **SENCo to provide a brief written update** each term on pupils receiving medical-needs provision.	
13	AOB	
14	**Date of Next Meeting** 08:00AM Monday 18 MAY 2026	

PART TWO- CONFIDENTIAL

There meeting moved on to Part 2 (Confidential Business) at **9:00AM**

On behalf of Islington Governor services

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ISLINGTON, ON MONDAY, 23RD March 2026.

Item	Action	Owner / Deadline
1	Develop a 5-year strategic investment plan outlining priority areas for educational improvement and resource allocation.	Finance Officer/ SLT/AD **NEXT FGB**
2	Update the budget dashboard once pupil number projections are confirmed.	Finance Officer/ SLT/AD **NEXT BUDGET CYCLE**
3	Continue monitoring pupil mobility and adjust budget planning accordingly.	Finance Officer/ SLT/AD **ONGOING**
4	Review staffing structure for September intake and present recommendations.	SLT **NEXT FGB**
5	Provide a termly behaviour trends summary.	BEHAVIOUR LEAD **NEXT FGB**
6	Complete the next scheduled safeguarding monitoring visit and report back.	ES **NEXT FGB**
7	Continue monitoring admissions trends and report significant changes.	**ONGOING**
8	Develop attendance case studies to support improvement work.	**ONGOING**
9	Complete the next premises audit and share findings with governors.	RS **NEXT FGB**
10	Review proposed H&S projects and bring recommendations to governors.	RS **NEXT FGB**
11	Complete the website compliance checklist and confirm all updates.	**ES NEXT FGB**
12	Upload the ratified Parent Code of Conduct to the policy register and publish on the website.	**ES NEXT FGB**
13	Provide a termly written update on pupils receiving medical-needs provision.	**ONGOING**