

Governors of St Mark's School, Staplefield
Full Governing Body
9th Feb 2026 1.00pm @ St Mark's CE Primary School

In Attendance

Helen Arnold – Chair
Laura Kelsey
Kerri Potter
Dan Holmes
Carl Smith
Monique Mendes DaCosta – MMDC
Judith Belam

Also in attendance – Abi Paige - Clerk

		Action
1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> – N/A	
2	<u>Declarations</u> N/A	
3	<u>Chair's Actions/Urgent Matters</u> N/A	
4	<u>To approve minutes of previous FGB meeting held on 6th Oct 2025</u> Minutes signed by chair.	
5	<u>Matters Arising From The Minutes</u> Confirming election of Foundation Governor	
6	<u>Teaching and Learning Committee Report</u> Nothing to highlight, no questions	
7	<u>Resources Committee Report Including Staffing</u> Discussed outcomes of the last meeting. Explained details of next WS Health & Safety walkaround, noted that the next one is Wed 11 th Feb. Health and Safety: Fire Drill is in the diary. Q: Why do we want different alarm sounds A: Different to fire alarm. Q: Would lockdown policy be published online? A: No	

	Further discussion on walkie talkie system and why it works so well here. Staffing: Still unconfirmed whether we need to recruit for potential new student requiring 1 to 1 support Q: Could we have a comment on the 2 x assistant head situation A: SLT meetings work well, there is a flow chart so that staff are aware of who to communicate with each day. Confirmation from staff that that this has been very clear. Current arrangement can only work for this year Discussion on staff development SEE MINUTES OF 22ND FOR APPROVAL OF AMMENDMENT	SEE ATTACHED AMMENDMENT
8	<u>Church and Ethos Report</u> Discussion on Tuesday Poppy Project, Global Neighbours and regular collections for Handcross Pantry every half term. Poppy project was successful in uniting the community. This year's project will be much larger and across the whole parish including all the schools in the parish to provide five swathes of poppies front the tower of St Mary's, representing the 5 villages in the parish.	
9	<u>Head Teacher's Report</u> Discussion on Head's report. Biggest difference to note with regards to inspection framework is that inclusion is now a separate section, but elements are integrated into all other sections. Q: Has there been any impact on staff due to high level of SEND A: 35% has been a stable figure. High number of staff in Laurel to cope with higher needs. Class is much less challenging since 2 pupils with behavioural and educational needs have moved on. Q: Have behavioural needs gone down even though percentage is the same? A: Yes, and things are less tense Discussed inclusion report and new procedure Q: Going forward, are EHCP's going to take longer? A: We just don't know, until the white paper is published, it's all up in the air. Q: Is Co-Head's time working well? A: Yes, distributing leadership has helped. Curriculum and teaching Achievement – Concerns for Ofsted reports that with a small cohort and high SEN, attainment may not always look strong Q: Year 4 are the greatest concern?	

	A: Bramble class is running well and we can see that the use of TA's is really making a difference. Spring data will show if there is a continuing cause for concern.	
10.	<u>Wellbeing Committee</u> Confirmed twice yearly meetings Q: Will there be staff representatives? A: Yes, from all areas of staffing. Mention of staff survey Q: Will the survey be completely anonymous? A: yes	
11.	<u>Policies</u> Pupil Premium – all confirmed they were happy to adopt Emergency Plan – all confirmed they were happy to adopt Health & Safety – Policy is standardised, agreed that policy would be adopted unless there were any questions from governors by the end of half term. Document control needs updating as last update was 2024, points that don't apply need removing.	LK to action
12.	<u>Governor visits</u> Nothing to flag. All governors agreed to adhere to NGA code of conduct	JB & VT to arrange monitoring visit
13.	<u>Future Collaboration</u> Detailed discussion on potential future wider partnership working. Q: Are WSCC keen to keep schools as local authority? A: They do encourage us to look at options. All agreed that it was important that St Mark's would be able to maintain individual character and Christian Ethos Questions were raised around how things would change for the staff, concerns that heads of academies won't have come from a classroom, how might progress be measured and which schools might we consider federating with.	HA to arrange meetings with Hurst Academy and St Giles Federation. All governors to prepare some questions for HA to ask CS will speak to vicars of the communities for their experience

14	<u>Any Other Business</u> Clarification was requested on what information should be confidential A: FGB minutes are public. Monitoring is confidential	HA to look at NGA for more clarification
15.	<u>Date of next meeting:</u> 15 th June 2026 1:15pm	