

The Genesis Federation



Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Board

Date and Time: Thursday, 11 September 2025, 17:00-19:00
 Location: Peasmarsh CE School
 Governors Present: Colin Barling (CB), Andrew Button (AB), Peter Challans (PC), Jeff Clements (JC), Andy Davy (AD), Rose Durban (RD), Vicky Dyer (VD), Emma Herbert (EH), Chrissie Johnston (CJ), Kirsty Parsons (KP), Paul Redstone (PR), Lison Smart (LS), Simon Thurston (ST).
 Quorum: 8 (50% of the FGB in post)
 Attending: Fay Churchill (FC)
 Clerk: Sue Redstone
 Apologies: Eloise Donaghay-Spire (EDS)
 Absent:

	Discussion	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Opening Prayer</u> - RD welcomed everyone to the meeting at 17:05. Apologies were received and accepted from EDS. - ST led the opening prayer.	
2.	<u>Declaration of Business Interests</u> - The Clerk asked governors to ensure that they review their declaration of interests on GovernorHub and confirm that they are correct.	
3.	<u>Board Membership Matters</u> - Chair/Vice chair: annual elections: The Chair asked whether any of the Governors would like to put themselves forward for either of the positions. Both the RD and PR confirmed that they were happy to continue if the board was happy for them to do so. Decision: The Board re-elected RD as Chair and PR as Vice Chair. - Complaints: The Clerk fed back from a recent Clerk's Networking session that East Sussex schools are seeing a rise in complaints. This has also been the case across the Federation. The next governor training session is: Handling School Complaints Thursday 25 September, 18:30-20:30. - The Headteachers felt that it would be helpful to have more Governors undertake the training. If a Headteacher seeks support from a Governor, they then cannot be involved at a later stage of the complaints process.	
4.	<u>Annual Paperwork</u> - The Chair reminded Governors of the need to read the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) which is updated each September and confirm that	

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	they have done this via GovernorHub. - A summary is available on GovernorHub: https://schoolgovernors.thekeysupport.com/uid/a7ea0d29-d9e1-4454-b132-95987c824b4d/ - <u>Governor Question:</u> Do the schools provide outdoor safety lessons? - The Headteachers do have a discussion with parents who allow their children walk to school. In Year 6, the children attend a Safety in Action event. There is also material in the transition literature that comes from the Local Authority. - Ofsted: The new framework comes into effect in December 2025. A summary is available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68b9a6b8b0a373a01819fe4b/Schools_inspection_toolkit.pdf	
5.	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising</u> - The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. <u>Actions</u> 1. Complete Safeguarding for Governance training. The Clerk confirmed that all Governors except one had completed the Safeguarding for Governance training. The Chair clarified that this only needs to be repeated every 4 years (every 2 years for the Safeguarding Link Governor). 2. Arrange meeting with CB, VD and CJ to discuss next steps regarding the websites. PR to follow up. This should link up with the marketing initiative (KP). - <u>Governor Question:</u> On the marketing front, what are the next steps? - Clarification of needs with the Headteachers. 3. Arrange a session on Therapeutic Thinking for Governors. ST has condensed some of the training material. Action: Confirm a date for Therapeutic Thinking training, either before December FGB or a separate session.	Clerk PR Clerk
6.	<u>Feedback from Meeting with the Diocese</u> - The Chair met with Lesley Hurst during the summer. Although there are many small schools in East Sussex, the Genesis schools are not on a concern list. We should continue to be proactive to ensure viability. - The Chair asked the board to reflect on the questions in Section 5 and provide any feedback by 30 September. There is an understanding at the Diocese that there are too many schools. Action: Provide comments on Section 5 of the Small and Rural Schools Statement. - Currently there is no Diocesan representative on our board, due to the retirement of Rev Liz. It was highlighted that support within our schools is the priority.	All

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	- The Chair/ST met with ESCC for the Small Schools visit to Beckley. Action: Share notes from the Small Schools visit by ESCC with the board.	ST
7.	<u>School Development Plans</u> <u>Peasmarsch</u> - The Headteacher provided an overview of the SDP End of Year Summary and the Key Areas of Improvement. The board were reminded that due to the small numbers, the statistics are often skewed. - The schools have included Federation-level areas of improvement. - <u>Governor Question:</u> How are these numbers put together and how can this be proven? - The numbers are collated from all the monitoring that is undertaken, which is fully documented. Teacher changes have impacted the quality of teaching. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Is there information that Governors should be using? - Governors should be asking the questions about the data, rather than using the data. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Are there patterns with the Persistent Absence? - Persistent Absence is always complex; there is generally not a consistent pattern. - <u>Governor Question:</u> How do Governors assure that Key Areas are being addressed? - The full SDP is sent through at the end of every long term with updates against each area. - <u>Governor Question:</u> There has recently been a case in another school where the parental network has significantly impacted the school, is this something that is considered? - The schools are planning to do some parent workshops on therapeutic thinking. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Are the speech and language issues primarily seen in those who haven't attended nursery/pre-school? - Now seeing speech and language issues are across the board. Children are screened on entry. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Regarding Early Years, is there a plan to involve parents more? - Early reading is a key influence. However, asking parents to read can be difficult. There may be parents who can't read. Previously reading was valued and no social media. - The schools are increasing effort to recruit adults to read with children. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Will the areas discussed at the strategic planning day (other than inclusion) be reflected in the Key Areas of Improvement? - During the summer, the Finance Committee have been looking at the way forward. This should be added to the next FGB agenda. Action: Add item to December agenda to follow up on key themes from strategic planning day.	

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	<u>Beckley</u> - <u>Governor Question:</u> Will attendance be celebrated in an assembly? - The schools tend not to celebrate attendance in a public way, as it is not always down to the children. The school have provided certificates for 100% attendance. - <u>Governor Question:</u> How is illness accounted for? - There is often a background, which is not reflected in the statistics. This would be identified at a Safeguarding monitoring visit. [18:40 PR left the meeting] - The board discussed whether there could be more detail on Early Years, section 5.1. <u>St Michael's</u> - <u>Governor Question:</u> Regarding Section 5, what does raised quality of work mean? - We are looking for more depth and ownership, as well as increased stamina. - <u>Governor Question:</u> How can you tell whether teaching needs to be improved or that the children are behind? - This is about ensuring accountability. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Regarding maths mastery, is there a particular challenge with disadvantaged and SEND children? - These are highlighted just to ensure there is the focus; there are no particular concerns. Decision: The Board approved the Key Priorities for - Beckley CE School - Peasmarsh CE School - St Michael's CE School.							
8.	<u>Policies for Approval</u> - The board approved the following: - o Genesis Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.							
9.	<u>AOB</u> - There are several policies to be reviewed and approved, which will be sent through via email. An online meeting will be convened, if needed. - Dates for school events are included in the newsletters.							
10.	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Event</th><th>Location</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Thu 4 December 2025</td><td>FGB</td><td>Beckley CE School</td></tr> </tbody> </table> The meeting closed at 19:10.	Date	Event	Location	Thu 4 December 2025	FGB	Beckley CE School	
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Thu 4 December 2025	FGB	Beckley CE School						

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	<u>New Actions</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	
	1. Confirm a date for Therapeutic Thinking training, either before December FGB or separate session. 2. Provide comments on Section 5 of the Small and Rural Schools Statement. 3. Share notes from the Small Schools visit by ESCC with the board 4. Add item to December agenda to follow up on key themes from strategic planning day.	04/12/25 30/09/25 04/12/25 04/12/25	Clerk All ST Clerk