

The Genesis Federation



Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Board

Date and Time: Wednesday, 28 January 2026, 17:00-18:00
 Location: Beckley CE School
 Governors Present: Andrew Button (AB), Colin Barling (CB), Jeff Clements (JC), Peter Challans (PC), Andy Davy (AD), Eloise Donaghay-Spire (EDS), Rose Durban (RD), Emma Herbert (EH), Chrissie Johnston (CJ), Kirsty Parsons (KP), Paul Redstone (PR), Simon Thurston (ST).
 Quorum: 8 (50% of the FGB in post)
 Attending: Fay Churchill (FC)
 Clerk: Sue Redstone
 Apologies: Lison Smart (LS), Vicky Dyer (VD)
 Absent:

	Discussion	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Opening Prayer</u> - RD welcomed everyone to the meeting at 17:00. Apologies were received and accepted from LS and VD, due to a cancelled train. - ST led the opening prayer.	
2.	<u>Declaration of Business Interests</u> - There were no new declarations of business interests.	
3.	<u>Chair's Action and Updates</u> The Chair shared with the Governing Board that she has received a letter of resignation from Lison Smart (Headteacher of Peasmarch CE School), with a request for early retirement. The Chair read the letter (attached). The Chair advised that she would inform the Diocese and ESCC. A consistent message should be sent to all schools, particularly with regard to what happens next. The Chair asked Governors to reflect on what the opportunities are and on behalf of our staff and community, consider how can we maximise the benefits of being a federation of 3 small schools. Governor Question: Do we know what a typical leadership structure looks like? There is no typical structure or formula and very much depends on the needs of children in the school. The LA may have a preferred approach. Governor Question: Do we know how many first choices there are for each school? Beckley: 10, St Michael's: 7, Peasmarch: 6 or 7 Decision: The Governing Board accepted Lison Smart's resignation and approved the request for early retirement, with her final working day to be 31 August 2026.	

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	The Finance Team have a meeting scheduled for Friday 30 January 2026 and agreed to produce 2 or 3 operating models, including the Strategy piece.	
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