

The Genesis Federation



Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Board

Date and Time: Thursday, 19 March 2026, 17:00-19:00
 Location: St Michael's CE School
 Governors Present: Colin Barling (CB), Andrew Button (AB), Peter Challans (PC),
 Jeff Clements (JC), Andy Davy (AD)
 Eloise Donaghay-Spire (EDS), Rose Durban (RD), Vicky Dyer (VD),
 Emma Herbert (EH), Chrissie Johnston (CJ), Kirsty Parsons (KP),
 Lison Smart (LS), Simon Thurston (ST).
 Quorum: 8 (50% of the FGB in post)
 Attending: Fay Churchill (FC)
 Clerk: Sue Redstone
 Apologies: Paul Redstone (PR).
 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 PR. - ST led the opening prayer.	
2.	<u>Declaration of Business Interests</u> - There were no new declarations of business interests.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising</u> - The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. <u>Actions</u> 1. Arrange a further discussion session on Therapeutic Thinking. Session planned for Tuesday 28 April 5 - 6pm. 2. Share SDPs on GovernorHub. These have been made available: https://app.governorhub.com/g/thegenesisfederation/docs/6932d657d962f50e3f5d19ac 3. Ensure the Diocese are aware of the needs of Beckley and Peasmarsh. Needs were highlighted with the Diocese. Further conversations to be had. 4. Consider how the process could be improved and whether there could be a "listening" governor. Item 10 on the agenda. 5. Distribute the Government strategy approach on SEND. This was distributed.	Closed Closed Closed Closed Closed
4.	<u>Board Membership Matters</u> - <u>Roles and Responsibilities/SEND arrangements:</u> The board recognised that the SENDCos across the Federation haven't had sufficient support. PR has offered to step down to an Associate Member, to enable the board to appoint an additional	

The Genesis Federation



	governor to support SEND. The Board thanked PR for the contribution he has made and how he has championed the school at every opportunity. A new Vice Chair will need to be appointed. Action: Add PC to Ethos in the Roles and Responsibilities. - <u>Governance Away Day</u>: the working group met on Monday to continue discussions on options. Thoughts/conclusions from the session will be distributed for comment. The board discussed the idea of an inclusion hub, in addition to existing provision, which would increase overall capacity. Action: Feedback on slides by 26 March 2026, either to the Clerk or by annotating the slide pack. - Next steps: - o Arrange meetings with the Diocese and LA. - o Circulate pack for board agreement on 3 principles. - o Likely benefits: financial, Q of E impact, best use of facilities and unmet need in local area, uniqueness of our Federation. - o Further meeting regarding the timeline with the inclusion hub being the first step. - The board thanked the working party for their work on the proposal.	Clerk All
5.	<u>Chair's Action and Updates</u> - None.	
6.	<u>Finance</u> - All 3 schools are currently ahead of budget. The draft budgets for next year have been reviewed. - St Michael's are looking at a 3½ class structure for the next academic year. - <u>Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)</u>: The SFVS for each of the schools has been updated and reviewed by the Finance Committee. - <u>Governor Question</u>: Q6 regarding a realistic 3-year strategy, is this the case? - For Peasmarch and St Michael's this has been answered as In Part. Decision: The board approved the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) for Beckley, Peasmarch and St Michael's, subject to the following amendments: - Q3, 15 and 19 need to be answered (drop down box). - <u>Services to Schools</u>: These are the services that the schools buy from ESCC. - <u>Governor Question</u>: Regarding Ed Psychology time, is this a choice and do we get the time we pay for? - Yes, we choose to subscribe to this. It is expensive for the service that the school receive. There have been instances where time was redeployed. - Beckley are happy with the EP time they receive. It can depend on the person.	

The Genesis Federation



	- The St Michael's Services to Schools order has not yet been created. Action: Services to Schools submissions to be double checked. - <u>Finance Committee Terms of Reference</u>: This has been amended to increase the Bursar's delegated authority to £500. Decision: The Finance Committee Terms of Reference was approved.	AB
7.	<u>Safeguarding and GDPR</u> - Complaints: There has been a reported 800% increase in complaints. The East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service Conference 2026 (online) includes a presentation on the 6 types of complaints. - KCSIE 2026 will contain significant changes. Safeguarding in Early Years will be a focus. - Whole school safeguarding training is due Jan 2027. - <u>Governor Question</u>: How can the preventative curriculum be supported? - Through the PSHE Association, a lot is incorporated in the curriculum.	
8.	<u>Link Governor Reports:</u> - Reports distributed since the last meeting: St Michael's Ethos St Michael's H&S Beckley H&S Federation Q of E Peasmarsh MHEW St Michael's Q of E Peasmarsh Q of E Beckley Q of E - Speech and language therapy has not been forthcoming. Should be involving the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if this is contravening an EHCP. Action: Link in with other SENDCOs and provide feedback to Chair/Clerk regarding the Speech and Language therapy needs. - <u>Q of E</u>: Monitoring carried out around EYFS and transitions. Transition process into the schools is different for each school. - The Marketing group have been looking at parent choice and planning a survey for the Journey to School, targeting recent and upcoming transitions. This should inform how to improve transition planning and feed into marketing. Survey to be sent out next week. - <u>MHWB</u>: MH services team provide a mapping service with the schools, to help identify priorities. Notes to be sent to Headteachers.	EH

The Genesis Federation



	- <u>Ethos</u>: Meeting arranged 8 May 2026. CB to contact new vicar (Revd Francesca Reid) for Beckley/Peasmarsh regarding the Easter Services. Lynn Goreham has replaced Alex Wingham as the School Effectiveness Officer. St Michael's do have support for the Easter Service from Revd Michael Georgiou. - Easter Services for all schools are Friday 27 March 2026.	
9.	<u>Leadership Reports</u> - <u>Governor Question</u>: Regarding the Amazing Me parent workshop, how was this attended? There was more uptake than expected and the feedback was very positive. - <u>Governor Question</u>: At Peasmarsh, the time allocated for sports coordinator has reduced. Is there less time in the timetable for sport? What will go into freed up time? There is less timetabled time. This is in line with St Michael's at 5 hours per fortnight. There will be additional Maths and English. - <u>Governor Question</u>: With the White Paper referencing Citizenship, will this need to be taught? Does this need to be evidenced? This is currently part of PSHE; however, it will need to be more discreet. Yes, this will need to form part of the monitoring. - <u>Beckley</u>: Overall attendance is now above the national average due to the off rolling of a pupil.	
10.	<u>Complaints</u> - The board asked for additional information on complaints, as part of the Headteacher reports. The majority of complaints are dealt with by the Headteachers at Stage 1. - The board discussed whether governors could play a bigger role in supporting Headteachers without muddling the complaints process. Headteachers are able to support each other to avoid involving governors, which then would leave them unable to be involved at either Stage 2 or Stage 3 of the process. - East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service Conference 2026 - The Psychology of Complaints and Inclusion is being held online on Thursday 16 April 2026. This can be booked below: https://app.governorhub.com/s/eastsussexgovernorservices/training?courseId=eyJpZCI6IjY5NzlwYzQxMGM3MjAwZGU3NzUyZTM5YjlsInByb3ZpZGVyIjoInWRkNTMzYjA5ZmZiYWY1ZWUxODA3YTE1In0%3D - The board discussed whether we could offer a parent support contact. Increasing parental engagement may help. - Handling School Complaints is also being run on Monday 23 March 2026: https://app.governorhub.com/s/eastsussexgovernorservices/training?courseId=eyJpZCI6IjY5NzlwYzQxMGM3MjAwZGU3NzUyZTM5YjlsInByb3ZpZGVyIjoInWRkNTMzYjA5ZmZiYWY1ZWUxODA3YTE1In0%3D	

The Genesis Federation



	ZiYWY1ZWUxODA3YTE1In0%3D								
11.	<u>Policies for Approval</u> - The board approved the following: - o Health and Safety Policy. This should be the Federation Policy. - o Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy. Should include function rather than individual's names. - o Workplace Health, Safety and Welfare Policy.								
12.	<u>AOB</u> - None.								
13.	<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 7 May 2026, 16:30-17:30</td><td>FGB (Budget Approval)</td><td>Online – Teams</td></tr></tbody></table> The meeting closed at 19:00.		Date	Event	Location	Thu 7 May 2026, 16:30-17:30	FGB (Budget Approval)	Online – Teams	
Date	Event	Location							
Thu 7 May 2026, 16:30-17:30	FGB (Budget Approval)	Online – Teams							
	<u>New Actions</u> 1. Add PC to Ethos in the Roles and Responsibilities. 2. Feedback on slides, either to the Clerk or by annotating the slide pack. 3. Services to Schools submissions to be double checked.	<u>Due Date</u> 27/03/26 26/03/26 27/03/26	Clerk All AB						