

The Genesis Federation



Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Board

Date and Time: Thursday, 2 July 2026, 17:00-19:00
 Location: Beckley CE School
 Governors Present: Colin Barling (CB), Peter Challans (PC), Fay Churchill (FC),
 Jeff Clements (JC), Andy Davy (AD), Rose Durban (RD),
 Vicky Dyer (VD), Chrissie Johnston (CJ), Kirsty Parsons (KP),
 Rev Fran Reid (FR), Lison Smart (LS), Simon Thurston (ST)
 Quorum: 8 (50% of the FGB in post)
 Attending: Paul Redstone (PR), Mandy Doran (MD)
 Clerk: Sue Redstone
 Apologies: Emma Herbert (EH), Eloise Donaghay-Spire (EDS) and Andrew Button (AB)
 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 EH, EDS and AB. - RD extended the welcome to Rev Fran Reid who joins the board and MD who attended as an observer and potential Governor. - RD also welcomed back PC, after illness.	
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, subject to the amendments noted below and against Action 1. <u>Item 5 Finance: Peasmarsh</u> - Clarify that Year 1 shows an in-year deficit of £56k. The surplus is £26,901. <u>Actions</u> 1. Circulate a draft form of words to be minuted to clarify the agreement to the budgets and the concerns associated. The board agreed the budgets for all 3 schools but recognised that this is not a sustainable position. The board committed to continuing to progress the Future Models work to ensure a sustainable environment for learning and achievement for the communities we serve. The board are concerned that in order to achieve longer-term sustainability, there needs to be an interim period to begin structural change, and any such interim period would require an extension to the deficit scenarios.	Closed

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4.	<u>Board Membership Matters</u> - <u>Governor Question:</u> With the change of Leadership, do we need to appoint a new staff governor? - The schools agreed that the appointment of a new staff governor should be carried out in September. Action: Clarify to FC that Staff Governor elections should be carried out in September. - The Chair referred to the list of dates distributed with the agenda and asked Governors to raise any concerns with the Clerk. [5:15: FC joined the meeting]	Clerk
5.	<u>Chair's Actions</u> - <u>Leadership Structure for September 2026</u> - The board discussed the Interim Exec Head role and recognised that the situation for Peasmarsh is not quite so formal as that for St Michael's. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Are we clear about the expectations for the Head of School role? - Some of the expectations will be related to the School Development Plan. - <u>Governor Question:</u> If there is to be some fluidity in the Exec Head time, is there a risk that one school or another may not get the time they need? - From a cost perspective, this will be tracked by the Bursar. In terms of school management, this will be reviewed on a monthly basis via a small Strategy Group meeting, who will report back to the FGB. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Can we confirm that the role is an Interim Head of School? - The role is interim for a 1-year fixed-term contract. - <u>Governor Question:</u> How will Performance Management be carried out? Could a governor be part of the process? - Performance Management for the Head of School is part of the Exec Head role. There is a clear job description. There is no requirement for a governor to be part of the process, however this could be done. Headteacher Performance Management is an annual process carried out by an appraisal panel. - <u>Governor Question:</u> St Michael's has not been mentioned as providing support. There will be some support from St Michael's, as part of the day-to-day collegiate Federation leadership support. As St Michael's is likely to have an Ofsted visit before the other schools, we need to ensure the headteacher has time and capacity to continue to develop and sustain the improvements she has put in place. - <u>Governor Question:</u> How is the financing going to work?	

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	Exec Head time is included in the Peasmarsch budget. This will be reviewed monthly to ensure that we have the support time right. - The board discussed the concept of inclusion hubs, for which the Local Authority have recently been allocated funding. The LA recognises that there is a need in the Rye area. - <u>Governor Question: Is there any financial viability modelling for the inclusion hub? Would we increase/retain more children?</u> - There are 2 types of inclusion base: Support base: this is funded by school. Delivering the curriculum for targeted plus needs. Specialist base: funded and controlled by LA. This would be for higher needs. Financial modelling will need to happen in partnership with LA and Diocese. SEND funding is currently related to EHCPs. We don't know what the funding model will be. - The Finance team have modelled the inclusion hub and it is not viable.	
6.	<u>Finance</u> - The Sports Grant ceases at the end of the academic year. This has been removed from the school budgets, as requested by Schools' Finance. - The Sports Coach will not be returning to Peasmarsch in September, due to the limited hours that could be offered. - The board agreed to raise the concern regarding the Sports Grant with the local MPs, Kieran Mullan and Helena Dollimore Action: Draft a letter to the local MPs regarding the Sports Grant. Action: Distribute to the FGB, the letters that have been sent to parents regarding PE.	PR Clerk
7.	<u>Link Governor Reports</u> The Chair thanked the Link Governors for their reports. - Safeguarding: KCSI update due in August, which needs to be read by all Governors. Safeguarding audits carried out in all schools. JC confirmed that the schools are in a good place. - Quality of Education: Report on Term 4 data awaiting sign off. Overall progress at St Michael's shows a significant increase. - Ethos: the committee agreed that Ethos should form part of every visit to the school. Each school would be visited once in September which would review SIAMs, pupil voice and collective worship. This is planned for 8, 9, 10 September. - Health and Safety: visits completed earlier in the year. - MHWB: mapping exercise completed at Peasmarsch. Visits to Beckley and St Michael's planned for the coming week.	
8.	<u>Leadership Reports</u>	

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	<u>Beckley</u> - Pupil numbers: additional joiners for September. 4: 1 R, 1 Y2, 1 Y4, 1 Y5. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Regarding the Persistent Absence (15 children). Is there anything we can do? - These are all legitimate illnesses or medical conditions. - <u>Governor Question:</u> For the School Development Plans going forward, will these be planned against new Ofsted tool kit? - Yes, from September. - <u>Governor Question:</u> Regarding wraparound care, has there been any consideration for extending this to include Thursday and Friday? - Yes, but unfortunately the school are unable to staff this. <u>Peasmarsh</u> - Current challenge is staffing, due to sick, maternity and compassionate leave. Supply teachers are covering. <u>St Michael's</u> - Current challenge is also staffing, with several staff changes having taken place. The board thanked the Headteachers for their continued commitment.							
9.	<u>AOB</u> - The board expressed their congratulations to Mrs Herbert. - The Chair thanked PR for his contribution to the Board over the past 6 years, following his decision to step down due to other commitments. - On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked LS for her commitment and wished her a happy early retirement. - A governor highlighted that the schools' recent participation in the Peasmarsh Music Festival was very successful. Action: Liaise with VD regarding a board message of thanks to the organisers of the Peasmarsh Music Festival.	Clerk						
10.	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Event</th><th>Location</th></tr><tr><td>Thu 10 September 2026, 17:00-19:00</td><td>FGB</td><td>St Michael's CE School</td></tr></table> The meeting closed at 19:00.	Date	Event	Location	Thu 10 September 2026, 17:00-19:00	FGB	St Michael's CE School	
Date	Event	Location						
Thu 10 September 2026, 17:00-19:00	FGB	St Michael's CE School						
	<u>New Actions</u> 1. Clarify to FC that Staff Governor elections should be carried out in September.	<u>Due Date</u> 10/07/26 Clerk						

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	2. Draft a letter to the local MPs regarding the Sports Grant	17/07/26	PR
	3. Distribute to the FGB, the letters that have been sent to parents regarding PE	17/07/26	Clerk
	4. Liaise with VD regarding a board message of thanks to the organisers of the Peasmarsh Music Festival	17/07/26	Clerk