

Dorset Studio School
Meeting of the Full Board of Governors
THURSDAY 25th April 2025,
4.00pm, at Poundbury

Minutes

The Code of Conduct for Governors requires governors to be honest and open with regard to conflicts of interest (either real or perceived). Governors must not use their position for personal gain in business, political or social relationships. Therefore, a governor who has, or may be perceived to have, such a personal interest in a particular matter under consideration should declare that interest, withdraw from all discussions relating to it and take no part in any vote on such matter.

Items marked * are those in which a majority of Governors may have an interest because of some shared attribute. When considering these items, Governors should aim to achieve a balanced view, paying particular attention to the sources of information and advice, and remind themselves of their duties as governors and to act in the public interest.

Governors:	Andy Daw (Chair of Governors); Mark Gibbens (Vice Chair); Archie Lasseter (Governor); Chris Biggs (Parent Governor); Nicholas Spearing (Co-opted Governor); Wayne Clarke (Co-opted Governor); Michael Chitty (Co-opted Governor); David Humphreys (Staff Governor); Jason Malone (Principal)
In attendance:	Andy Daw, Mark Gibbens, Nicholas Spearing, Wayne Clarke, Michael Chitty, Jason Malone, Tracey Richards (Clerk), David Humphreys (Staff Governor), Annetta Minard (Exec Principal)

Item		Detail	
1.	Verbal	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees, with a special note of appreciation for the two new governors. It was noted that the governing body is in a strong position with positive plans in motion. The Chair expressed gratitude for the team's efforts and noted the importance of maintaining a supportive environment for all members. 	Chair
2.	Verbal	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were given from Archie Lasseter.</p> <p>The Chair noted that Archie had given his notice to the board as he was no longer able to attend. Governors acknowledged this and sent thanks to him for his time on the board.</p>	Chair
3.	Minutes	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 25th April 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Approve minutes as a correct record To Approve non confidential minutes for website publication 	Chair

		<p>The minutes were reviewed and approved with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On page 2, the reported figure for secure and strong passes in the autumn mock examinations was corrected from 26% to 17%. A correction was made to clarify that the exam board mentioned should be Edexcel, not "Excel". 	
4.	Minutes	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>There were no matters</p>	Chair
5	Paper	<p>PRINCIPALS REPORT / UPDATE</p> <p>Academic Performance Review</p> <p>Mock exams have shown the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to half a grade improvement expected Slight decline in 5+ grades in the March series due to a greater focus on literature during the last term Standards in English continue to raise. The 'Big Write' has been introduced this year Mathematics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7% improvement in 4+ grades. Improvement in grade 5+ too. Significant focus on targeted intervention at grade 3 to 4 threshold The quality of teaching in mathematics is improving Science and Geography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Positive improvement trends * Increased student exposure and teaching quality <p>Masterclasses are timetabled in all subjects during the exam period which should improve results.</p> <p>Student Pathways Strategy</p> <p>The new revised curriculum structure was presented with three distinct student streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathway 1 High-ability pathway: HE is a likely destination Pathway 2 Middle-ability pathway: FE/Apprenticeship is more likely 	Principal

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway 3 is targeted pathway: Level 2 or Apprenticeship is likely pathway <p>Q – A governor asked what the barriers to learning were?</p> <p>A – The school has skilled teachers. Most students arrive below ARE, particularly in mathematics. Students need to master core concepts before moving on. We need to move away from a universal curriculum offer to ensure there is still equality whilst having personalised pathways through it.</p> <p>Pathway 1 will see the introduction to History GCSE in year 9 which has been welcomed by students. Pathway 3 will see the introduction to Travel & Hospitality Level 1 as well as a blended land and animal course.</p> <p>Behaviour Management</p> <p>The Principal circulated a proposed ladder of behavioural intervention and consequences for discussion.</p> <p>A graduated response would be in place for 28 weeks. Within this time, we would expect behaviour indicators to be closely aligned with the mean. The ladder places an emphasis on early intervention and support for these students whilst protecting the rights of other students to have disruption-free learning.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked whether parents would have the chance to make representation?</p> <p>A – Yes, they would be invited to attend, from this the next step for the student would be explored, which could include Alternative Provision.</p> <p>Governors were concerned that the 28-week cycle may be too long. The Principal advised that he had calculated this on the data over the three academic years.</p> <p>Teaching Quality and Staff Development</p> <p>The Principal advised the current appraisal system was under review. The new appraisal model will focus on greater personal accountability to improve teaching, including more granular detail on how this will happen, be assessed, and evaluated.</p> <p>The Step Lab system will be used to set objectives, break them into smaller units and record evidence throughout the cycle. There is also a move to monitoring the quality of teaching through an ‘open door’ approach rather than formal observation windows.</p> <p>School Environment and Marketing</p> <p>The Principal discussed planned environmental improvements.</p> <p>The Kingston Maurward site is looking tired and therefore a decoration programme</p>	
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	<p>will commence throughout the summer holidays.</p> <p>High resolution graphics will be added to reassert our specialism. Whilst this is costly, it is important to set the tone in a high-quality manner.</p> <p>A governor expressed that the school needs to promote and market the good things happening within land and environment education.</p> <p>Social media presence and the communication strategy is improving, placing an emphasis on the land-based education ethos</p> <p>Q – A governor asked whether external businesses could sponsor the school? A - This is an area of the marketing strategy that is being explored.</p> <p>Attendance Monitoring</p> <p>Year 10 continue to be an attendance concern. The needs to particularly focus on girls with the attendance concerns. The school is continuing to work in collaboration with the local authority for complex cases.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked whether the local authority could penalise parents for non-attendance? A – Yes, the local authority has a range of legislative tools. Fixed Penalty notices have been issued to a small number of parent(s)/carer(s).</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Governors asked to a more detailed breakdown, looking at the trend in each year group. The DSL will provide this data in the next report. ACTION</p> <p>There had been one LADO referral, which had been investigated and concluded.</p> <p>Suspensions</p> <p>Suspensions have increased; a significant number of students have received repeated suspensions. Nationally, suspensions have increased. Our context is also important when considering these figures.</p> <p>Next time I will report on the repeat suspensions. ACTION</p> <p>Governors Strategy Day</p> <p>All governors were invited to attend a strategy day which would include all governors and SLT. The clerk will circulate dates to be agreed. ACTION</p> <p>A letter from the Department for Education with respect to joining a MAT was discussed. The clerk agreed to upload this to GVO for governors. ACTION</p>	
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6.	Paper	<p>RATIFICATION OF POLICIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no policies to agree 	Chair
7	Verbal	<p>NEW BUILD / MAT UPDATE</p> <p>An online meeting recently took place online with Lloyd Hatton MP, to discuss an update on the possibility of a new build. Unfortunately, at this time there is nothing to update.</p> <p>A request for an update to data previously sent to the Department for Education and this will be carried out by the Principal.</p>	Chair
8	Verbal	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Chair asked for the board to elect a further member to join the Audit and Finance Committee.</p> <p>Governors elected Michael Chitty</p> <p>Meeting finished 6.10pm</p>	