



Education Committee Meeting - Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday 14th May 2026

Meeting Venue: Teams

Meeting Time: 5:15pm

Governors: Lea Owen, *(LO)*, Committee Chair
Eddie Erasmus, *(EE)*
Gabrielle Mace, *(GM)*
Nicoleta Uzorka Ion, *(NUI)*
Katharine Paradas, *(KP)*

Ex officio: Craig Bull, *(CBu)*, Executive Head Teacher

Also in attendance: Richard Thornhill, *(COG)*, Chair of Governors
Jemma Graffham, *(DH-B&S)* Deputy Head – Behaviour & Safeguarding
Vickie Jenkins, *(HOS)*, Head of Secondary
Dominic O'Driscoll, *(DH-QE)*, Deputy Head – Quality of Education
Helen Punter-Bruce, *(HOP)*, Head of Primary
Sam Lougham, *(AHP-PSEN)*, Assistant Head Primary – Pastoral & SENCo

Clerk to Governors: Rif Aslam *(RA)*

Apologies: T Addems *(TAd)*, R McGuiness *(RMc)*, D Simmonds *(DSi)*, J Swann *(JSw)*

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Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies for absence. - Chair welcomed Governors & SLT to this 'virtual' Education Committee via Teams. - Chair accepted apologies for absence from TAd, RMc, DSi & JSw	
2.	Declarations of Interests There were no declarations of interest made.	
3.	Minutes of previous Education Committee Meeting Chair confirmed that previous Committee Minutes were signed off at March FGB.	
4.	Head Teacher's Report - Executive Summaries - Behaviour and Culture - Secondary – DH-B&S referred to paper and highlighted improvement trends which show interventions are working. Fixed term suspensions peaked in Term 2 then dropped sharply in Term 4. Students know we are going to hold them accountable. Data highlights disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups. Higher instances with PP boys and SEN. KS4 highest risk phase with exam pressures and external factors. We are working closely with these vulnerable groups. Positive culture reinforced and reward points. Empathy tends to be the lowest awarded points and work being done with focus days to bring this score up. Changes coming in reporting with Policy over summer. - Primary – AHP-PSEN referred to paper and highlighted reductions in behaviour incidences. Same issues with same children. Currently working with outside agencies and families for these children. Access to field provided more space and reduced incidents. Ensuring Behaviour policies are followed and children held to account by working closely with families. Heavy SLT presence in the playground helps. Individual strategies in place also help. Staff getting more confident in logging behaviours. First Teaching & Learning masterclass focused on this. Governor noted week's suspension unusually in Year 4. DH-B&S advised that this was a result of a serious incident. Step taken after collaboration with external agencies as well as the family. Interventions and support from County, pointing to positive transition for child. Chair asked if base model is applied to whole cohort. HOS replied that it was in Secondary. There will be disparities between the vulnerable groups and their peers in terms of behaviour. AHP-PSEN added there are cases where students don't have the same consequences for their behaviour because of their additional needs. However, it's still important that we communicate with the parents. Important we have a clear record of what is happening, where and when. - Attendance and Persistent Absentees – DH-B&S advised that we are above national average overall. Our attendance is still higher than the national average. There is higher persistent absenteeism and an area we need to work on. We have case studies on the students who don't attend at all. We work with external agencies about their education, but it does impact our figures. Disadvantaged, SEN and young carers have the highest absence. Chair asked if we have a higher number of young carers than national. DH-B&S did not know but advised we are gaining greater understanding of the latter group and encouraging parents to speak up about the additional responsibilities their child is undertaking at home. This figure is likely to change upwards.	

	DH-B&S went on to explain that biggest problem is Years 9-11. We do track students individually, and our Attendance Officer and pastoral team work closely with parents to build relationships. DH-B&S pointed out that data included genuine long term illness. Governor queried whether out of term holidays were a problem. DH-B&S confirmed it was a problem at Christmas, October and summer. Parents aren't always honest and we are obliged to conduct welfare checks. Parents forget that their children like to mention holidays on social media. Honesty from parents would avoid wasting resources to ensure the child is safe. Governor asked if school fines parents. EHT advised that we inform ESCC and they issue the fine. We do not receive any money. Chair remarked that it important that you are encouraging students to come into school. We focus on data but it's the individual children that matter. COG asked whether the persistent absence figure was made up of vulnerable students. DH-B&S advised that it changes frequently. Recent behaviour in PP boys does not link to the same PP boys attendance. ○ Safeguarding – DH-B&S referred to paper and highlighted increasing number of referrals. More parents are asking us for help, and we work with them to try and get them external help. Safeguarding themes remain the same. Mental health is an increasing area of need. We're looking to bring inhouse system of triaging and apply interventions. Chair questioned whether the restructure would give the school the capacity to deal with complex safeguarding issues. DH-B&S advised that it will have centralised system in place to sign post support for both staff and students. It will be reviewed continually. ○ Inclusion ● Secondary – HOS referred to paper and highlighted stronger emerging outcomes for KS4. improvements in attainment for PP, SEN and EAL students. Gaps closing. Confident of upward momentum. KS3 positive picture. Focusing CPD on supporting children in targeted interventions. Identifying barriers to learning. She went on to highlight Inclusion Newsletter. Chair commended newsletter. Chair queried progress of adaptive teaching. HOS advised that whilst some staff need more support, adaptive teaching is impacting outcomes, particularly in KS3. ● Primary – AHP-PSEN referred to paper and highlighted progress of EAL students. PP students show a weakness in motor skills which is holding them back in other areas such as writing. Children identified and targeted support being provided. EAL students performing better than non EAL. KS1 reading, writing and maths is below expected. Year 1 particularly challenging. Maths strategies working well in Year 5 & 6 are being shared. Governor asked if SATs marking was exactly the same for SEN children as others. AHP-PSEN advised that although access arrangements are in place the marking is the same. ○ Personal Development – HOS referred to paper and highlighted: ● House system - embedding with competitions. Each term looks at Aspire values. Focus on Integrity in Term 3 and Empathy in Term 4. ● Trips - have to balance them around curriculum. Want to focus on Year 8 provision next year. ● Ex-curricular clubs - HOP added that feedback from parents is they would like more availability for Reception and Year 1. ● Careers – Year 11 mock interviews held in January. Year 9 Options evening to help choose GCSE options. Towner Art Gallery trip had career focus. All Year 10 completed 5 day work experience, testament to SBR's hard work. Year 9 Careers Fair. Trip to Brighton & Hove Amex Stadium to explore employment opportunities behind the scenes. HOP added trips are outlined to parents at beginning of year.	
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	Trips becoming expensive with costs of coaches. Exploring other means of transport such as buses and trains. Governor added that there is a Career Leadership Review meeting next week with LA. ○ Progress & Attainment ● Primary – HOP referred to paper and outlined whole school trends. Strength this year has been analysis of data with PIXL. Weaknesses highlighted in AP1 have been addressed and are coming out as strengths in AP2. Teachers are understanding the data and producing targeted intervention maps. ▪ EYFS – assessed differently to rest of school. Moderation has shown good level of development. ▪ Year 1 – EAL group struggling with writing. Working on this with this group. ▪ Year 2 - high SEN cohort. Interventions in place. ▪ Year 6 – struggled more than expected with SATs. Actions being implemented. HOP added that writing and stamina will be a more intense focus across school next year. More regular internal moderation will take place as well as tracking system on writing progress. COG requested summary quality of teaching for upper KS2. HOP advised that it has been challenging with loss of key staff. Recruiting Year 6 teacher. Year 5 teaching been strong. COG pressed whether staff are focused on outcomes. HOP agreed it was a challenge balancing needs of all the children within a classroom. There is a collective effort and shift in culture. Chair questioned which interventions were having the most impact on writing. HOP advised that it is about quality first teaching rather than interventions that impact writing. We don't have a culture of writing compared to years ago and children have not developed the stamina to sit and write for hours. They access learning differently, but curriculum is years behind this cultural shift. ● Secondary – DH-QE referred to paper and highlighted range of actions to support Year 11 with GCSEs since September. Despite this we're not where we expected to be. Hope to see improvement in headline measures by the time of exams. Year group have been supported well by Head of Year. There have been issues with attendance and safeguarding. You will be provided with case studies and analysis after results in August. Stressed importance of tackling things earlier on in a student's school career. With the improved data we are now gaining we can focus earlier on putting interventions in place rather than providing the support in Year 11. It's been a good start to exams this week. Chair wished all the students the best with their GCSE's. COG asked what the issues were in other year groups. DH-QE advised that work we're doing with SEND is having an impact. Data shows positive outcome for Year 8 SEND. PP are the group where we need to pin down what support will work for them. COG suggested he discuss with EHT how to allocate resources for this group. Chair remarked that it sounds resource heavy. HOS advised that in the restructure the PP Mentor Lead will focus across Year 7 to 11. Attendance and engagement with parents crucial. HOS reminded everyone that current Year 11 did not sit SATs. They have not had 3 years of KS3 teaching that earlier year groups have had. Our Year 9 have had the stronger curriculum. Data for that year group coming through positive. Year 11 have been our trickiest cohort with behaviour all the way through their 5 years. Their change has been unbelievable. Their focus and drive for these exams has been impressive. Students who have we have struggled to get through the door are turning up for exams. EHT added that attainment is one thing, but where we have brought these students from and to is impressive. ● Secondary Phase LA Adviser Visit Report – HOS highlighted that report recognises that our children are understanding what we are trying to do. Chair thanked SLT for comprehensive reports and all that they are doing.	COG/EHT
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5.	Admissions Chair of Admissions shared information on next year's intake and an update on the Marketing Strategy.	
6.	Monitoring - Monitoring Visit SDP6 Personal Development – Governors referred to paper and both stated that it was an interesting visit with generally positive feedback. - Monitoring Visit Safeguarding & Mental Health – Chair referred to comprehensive paper provided by the Lead Governor who was absent. - Schedule & Forthcoming Visits Monitoring Form – Chair highlighted visits due to take place. Form will have to be re-examined in light of Ofsted changes ready for next academic year.	
7.	Any other urgent business Chair confirmed there was none.	
8.	Confirmation of future Governor Meeting Dates for 2025/2026 FULL GOVERNING BOARD: 2 nd July 2026 ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE: 11 th June 2026	
	Meeting Closed Chair thanked governors and SLT and closed the meeting at 18:55 hrs.	