



Gildredge House

Full Governing Board - Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday 26th March 2026
Meeting Venue: EHT Office at Gildredge House School
Meeting Time: 5:15pm

Governors: Richard Thornhill, *(RT)*, Chair
Julian Mace, *(JM)*, Vice Chair
Len Callnon, *(LC)*
Eddie Erasmus, *(EE)*
Lucy Haggis, *(LH)*
Nicoleta Uzorka Ion, *(NUI)*
Gabrielle Mace, *(GM)*
Lea Owen, *(LO)*
Katharine Paradas, *(KT)*
Jonathan Searle, *(JSe)*
Joyce Swann, *(JSw)*

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

Also in attendance: Vickie Jenkins, *(HOS)*, Head of Secondary
Helen Punter-Bruce, *(HOP)*, Head of Primary

Clerk to Governors: Rif Aslam *(RA)*

Apologies: None received

Full Governing Board – Minutes 26th March 2026

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies for absence - Chair welcomed Governors & SLT to meeting. Chair welcomed JM, GM & HPB who joined online. - Chair noted absence of MT.	
2.	Declarations of Interests There were no declarations of interest made.	
3.	Minutes of previous Governing Board Meetings - Governors agreed the Minutes as an accurate record of 11th December 2025 FGB. Chair to sign a copy. - Governors agreed the Minutes as an accurate record of 22nd January 2026 Education Committee Meeting. Chair to sign a copy. - Governors agreed the Minutes as an accurate record of 12th February 2026 Enterprise Committee Meeting. Chair to sign a copy.	
4.	Action Summary Report EHT explained current position regarding items. Tours completed. Training for governors booked for July.	
5.	Items not already on the agenda Chair confirmed there were none.	
6.	Chair's Correspondence Chair advised that JSe has decided to step down as governor at end of this academic year. Chair congratulated him on his well deserved promotion and expressed regret that we will lose him as a governor. Governors & SLT echoed comments. LO arrived at 17:37	
7.	Executive Head Teacher's Report - Governor Ofsted Toolkit and White Paper Update - EHT advised that this was launched in September. We're starting to see inspections taking place. Inspections consider pupils achievements as well as how they thrive in school. EHT clarified the 5 possible outcomes and that old grading should not be compared with these. Inspections will look and feel different, greater expectation on Heads to know the detail and prove you have met every single bullet point in standard. Deep dives out. Instead, there is sampling of 6 to 12 children from key groups. - IDSR Response – EHT referred to paper and explained that we must be able to articulate where we are with bank of evidence for Ofsted. Children who face barriers to learning will be chosen in case sampling. Ofsted want to see what we want to celebrate, and we need to highlight what we're still working on. All school leaders need to say the same thing. All areas must show improvement. Leaders and governors will be held accountable for PP Strategy. Focus of inspections is on Inclusion. Illustrate how needs are identified and met. Function of governance unchanged. Inspectors will gather evidence on governors, on governance. Governor pointed out that Monitoring Visit Form needs to reflect challenges.	

	Governor asked if notice of inspection had changed. EHT advised not. Call on a Monday to advise Inspection will take place Tuesday or Wednesday. Governor queried number of case sampling. EHT advised 6 for a school. An all through schools will have 6 for each phase. Chair encouraged governors to read booklet. EHT went on to highlight falling birth rate will impact funding. Rising cost of inclusion. Progress measure moved to percentiles in White Paper. Attendance targets to be over 94%. Enrichment framework to be published. Crack down on off rolling. Focus on local partnerships. Trust will be judged on their community work. Vice Chair noted need to explore more collaboration with other schools. Chair confirmed EHT will continue to examine options for the future. EHT advised that the IDSR highlighted 3 year trends. Reading Strong in KS2. Weakness in writing and maths. KS4 in a more stable position. Match national position in most measures. Gaps narrowing in English and maths at 4+ but widening on higher grades. Governor noted SEN numbers are higher – HOS advised that this was due to increasing private diagnoses. Governor requested local data as well as national for both primary and secondary. HOS advised that this will be available in December. Governor questioned “what close to national” means and echoed need for data on local schools. We need to be able to compare where we are with local schools. EHT agreed it was challenging document. Our progress 8 has improved. Work put into Reading clearly shows progress. HOS added that our heavy focus on KS3 will show impact when these pupils reach KS4. HOP outlined progress in teaching & learning. Current work on writing will come through later in year. Our focus on maths showing in Year 5 cohort. Chair noted that we have significantly improved our understanding of where children actually are. Chair queried how we can learn from improvements in Primary and apply them elsewhere. EHT advised that our internal data shows where we have made progress. IDSR starting point and will be backed up with evidence to show where we actually are. • Primary SDP Update - HOP referred to paper and advised that visit took place last Thursday and we continue to focus on Teaching and learning. • Secondary SDP Update – HOS referred to paper and highlighted RAG rating. Pleased with progress made. 3 faculty reviews done. Local Authority report validated our Teaching & Learning. Shows we are making progress. Governor questioned how much inconsistency there was now. HOS advised that we are seeing less inconsistency in Secondary. Numbers of teachers we are having to work with on this is reducing. No year group has difficulty.	
8.	Safeguarding • Executive Summary ○ Safeguarding Audit - EHT referred to report provided by ESCC and pointed out compliance. Actions recommended are already in place. Lead Governor Safeguarding advised that she carried out a Monitoring visit this week and we are already seeing the results of funding given by Enterprise Committee.	
9.	Finance • General Finance Update - EHT highlighted surplus. Expect to outperform budget with new lettings agreement and plan to host 2 sets of students. • Admissions - Lead Governor gave an update. Year 7 filled. Consultant has produced a marketing strategy.	

10.	Policies Complaints Policy and Procedure – EHT advised alterations come from DfE document. Section added on data protection. Guidance on AI use. <u>Governor suggested</u> adding breakdown of timescales into Panel structure. <u>Governors approved policy.</u>	
11.	Monitoring - Monitoring Visit SEND Primary 020326 – Governor noted good things happening in school. Reintegration of children into bigger groups. There are challenges related to getting specialist support. Education Psychologists reports via LA taking a long time. Governor queried whether school could provide any funding. HOP advised that LA's do accept private reports now. We have looked for funding in speech and language therapists. We would like to train our support staff by going into specialist schools and learning. - Monitoring Visit SEND Secondary 020326 – Governor noted inclusion teaching has embedded well. AH-I has already started future potential for evidencing work. Higher behaviour incidents around SEN but there is a strong plan moving forward. - H&S Monitoring – Governor provided a hard copy to those in room. He advised he found no issues during visit. He felt school was well above standard H&S Executive would expect to see. No qualms at all with reporting	
12.	Any other urgent business VC advised that all governors need to do the Companies House ID verification by 7 th April. HOP asked for volunteers during SATs from 11 th May.	
13.	Confirmation of future Governor Meeting Dates for 2025/2026 FULL GOVERNING BOARD: 2 nd July 2026 EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 14 th May 2026 ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE: 11 th June 2026	
	Meeting Closed Chair thanked governors & SLT and closed the meeting at 19.42 hrs.	