



Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting

Monday 3 February 2025 at 6.00 pm

Membership

Name	Initials	Term Expiry Date	Governor Category
Leon Choueke	LC	N/A	Head Teacher, Ex-officio(1)
Debby Kuypers (Chair)	DK	09-11-2025	Co-opted Governors (7)
Richard Holmes (Vice Chair)	RH	01-02-2026	
Nomi Tysman	NT	01-12-2028	
*Jean-Michel Garcia-Alvarez	JGA	10-02-2025	
*Becca Monahan	BM	17-11-2027	
Christian Wang	CW	01-07-2028	
Andrena Emin	AE	04-02-2028	
Melian Mansfield	MM	19-01-2026	LA Governor (1)
Kirsten Schmidt	KS	04-02-2028	Staff (1)
Sarah Boffey	SB	05-01-2029	Parent Governors (2)
Ian Chapman	IC	05-01-2029	
Also in attendance:			
Tim Ibbotson	TI	N/A	Asst HT
*Ben Strange	BS	N/A	Deputy HT
Ben Miller	BMi	01-07-2028	Associate Governor
*Eddie Webb	EW	01-12-2028	Associate Governor
Morinade Akinbobola	MA	01-12-2028	Associate Governor
*Claudia Simms Abrahm	CSA	04-02-2028	Associate Governor
*Corrina Phillips	CP	N/A	Asst HT and SENCO
Louise Foulkes	LF	N/A	Deputy HT
Adam Crosier			Clerk

* Denotes absence

PART 1

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

DK opened the meeting at 6.05 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had also been received from JGA, DH, BS, EW, CSA and CP.

The meeting was quorate.

2. Declarations of interest, pecuniary or otherwise in respect of items on the agenda

None.

3. Governing board business

- Membership

Parent Governors:

SB and IC were welcomed to the board. Governors introduced themselves. Sarah said that she was a parent of 3 children at the school. She worked as a lawyer in property law.

Ian said that he was a parent of 2 children at the school and that he worked as a Deputy Headteacher at a secondary school.

CSA had resigned as a Governor since the last meeting and would become an Associate Governor instead.

CW was elected as a Co-opted Governor.

DH had reported that he would step down from being an Associate Governor.

- Governor visits

Safeguarding

NT reported that she had met with BS to review the single central record and had also reviewed staff training relating to safeguarding. Everything was in order.

She said that BS had reported that attendance was 95.3%; it was 89.8% for children with an EHCP and at 94.27% for children with SEND. There were no children unaccounted for.

The safeguarding audit had been completed and the school was awaiting the report.

- Governor training

IC and SB were asked to complete safeguarding training and induction training for governors.

4. Minutes of the meeting 4 December 2024

The minutes of were approved as an accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Chair.

- Actions:

ACTION 1: LC to update/re-write the rationale for home learning and expectations of parents and children to be clarified, including time to be spent on reading and maths
STATUS: On agenda. Closed

ACTION 2: CP to circulate the Judicium link for Governors to also confirm they read the KCSIE24 via this link so it was recorded on the school record.

STATUDS: Completed. Closed.

ACTION 3: Governors to confirm they had read and understood KCSIE24 via Gov Hub.
STATUS: Completed. Closed.

- Matters arising

None.

5. Chair's report

None.

6. Headteacher's report

LC had circulated a written report and invited comments. He highlighted the following areas.

Pupil numbers

Reception places: these were looking positive for September 2025. Other schools in the borough appeared to be hopeful too.

Behaviour

This was a continuing concern. LC said that the staff survey had showed that many staff members felt that there had been a positive impact of the school's approach, especially in terms of interaction between TAs and teachers. The next area for focused work was on parents' expectations and how the school communicated its approach to behaviour. He said that he had begun this work in his newsletter. He acknowledged that behaviour could be a very emotive issue. There was always a need to see the 'big picture' and not just a one-sided view of incidents. The Behaviour Policy had been reviewed and was presented for approval.

He reported that the school had been looking at working with a behaviour specialist in the borough to run sessions for some parents with concerns over behaviour. He was considering how to develop and support parents with behaviour on specific issues, including screen time, online matters. In the past a specialist had provided sessions on misogyny and social media. He was considering seeking funding from Friends of Coleridge for this.

Y6 predicted outcomes 2025

The forecast outcomes for KS2 SATs were not looking very good. He reminded governors that the current Y6 cohort had always been of concern: 51% of all behaviour incidents currently were among children in Y6.

The year group had always needed a lot of support from external services (ELSAs etc). The group had been impacted by Covid significantly.

Q. MA asked how the year group compared with other schools.

A. LC said that at a recent Headteacher's forum this matter had been discussed and several local schools had raised a similar concern. There was a view that the year group had been particularly hit by the combination of Covid, and budgets having been stretched that had limited the number of interventions provided.

DK asked if LC could provide some time trend data on the behaviour of previous years for comparative purposes.

ACTION 1: LC to include time trend data on behaviour from previous year groups for comparison with the current Y6 cohort.

MA asked that LC provide the predicted outcomes from the previous Y6 at the equivalent point in time from 2024.

ACTION 2: LC to provide predicted outcomes for the Y6 cohort for previous years, recorded in December/January.

LC said that there was a large proportion of children with complex needs entering the school, including in Y6. He added that the number of children with SEND was increasing, and that this was a national trend. As children were lost in year (because they moved out of borough) and were replaced with new children, the new arrivals were frequently those with complex needs.

Home learning

Work was continuing in this area: senior leaders had reviewed what work was going home each week and each half term. The senior leadership team was working to consolidate this work and there would then be clear communication to parents about expectations.

Q. SB asked what the message was to children: was home learning optional?

A. LC agreed that there was a need for clarity of communication to children over the rationale and expectations, especially if home learning was not marked.

Wrap around care

This item was reported separately under Confidential Minutes.

Staff survey

LC reported that this had focused on continuing behaviour and parents' views on this matter.

School finance

The budget report for Q3 had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting. There was an overspend of around £122,000, due largely to the increase in children with special needs who required additional staffing support.

LC said that he had sent to the finance working party, a paper on the Coleridge Voluntary Fund (VF). He said that this would be forwarded to all governors, and that his proposal was to relaunch the CVF to enable the school to increase its income.

ACTION 4: LC to circulate his paper on the relaunch of the CVF to all governors.

Q. MM asked whether the local authority had been helpful with the school's financial position.

A. LC said that he was due to meet shortly with the Cllr for Children and Education and that he would press the school's case for additional funds.

Cleaning contract: LC reported that he was looking to let the cleaning contract and would instigate a competitive tendering process, with the new contract to begin from April 2025. He said that he expected this to lead to a saving of around £15,000-£20,000 per year.

7. Safeguarding

No concerns.

8. Policies

- Behaviour Policy

Q. MM said she had reviewed the policy and asked that a section be removed, relating to the 'removal of playtime as a sanction'. She said that removal of playtime should not be included as part of the policy.

A. LC noted her concern but said that it was important for children to understand that there were consequences to unacceptable behaviour.

MM pointed to a case of a child who had received 14 behaviour sanctions and asked which had been most effective in changing the behaviour.

LC said that it was too difficult to comment on a single case especially where there were significant challenges at home. But he said that the child in question needed to understand that there were consistent boundaries.

MA said that children with SEND often found it difficult to regulate behaviour and asked whether this group was disproportionately impacted by the sanction of loss of playtime. She asked for data relating to SEND and behaviour sanctions to be provided to governors.

LC said that alongside such numerical data, it would be more valuable to have a series of case studies

ACTION 5: LC to present SEND data on behaviour with case studies.

Q. MM asked what prompted the review of the policy

A. LC said that it was a consequence of constant review on behaviour among staff team.

The Policy was APPROVED.

9. Any other business

LC said that the school was still awaiting an Ofsted inspection. The school should be inspected under the current Ofsted framework. He said that there was a consultation on a new framework.

10. Date of next meeting

10 February 2025 at 6.00 pm

11. Confidential items

None.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Governors