

/KINGSKERSWELL C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
MINUTES OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD
28 April 2026 - 5.30 PM
(face to face)

Part 1

Governor Name		Attended	Apologies received	Apologies sanctioned
Revd. Michael Wilkie	MW	n	y	y
Karen Strachan HT		y		
Becky Hutchens	BH	y		
Amy Vine	AV	y		
Sam Vine	SV	N	Y	Y
Susan Robinson Chair	SR	Y		
Adam Devine	AD	N	y	y
Paul Dodd	PD	N		
Danny Brown	DB	Y		
Simon Gibbs	SG	Y		
Chris Murphy	CM	Y		
Ollie Abercrombie	OA	N	y	y
In Attendance				
Louise Lloyd/Clerk	LL	Y		

	Minutes
1	Welcome, apologies and sanctions of apologies
	Apologies were received and sanctioned.
2	Declarations of any potential conflict of Interest for Items on the Agenda
	There were no declarations of interest
3	Approval of minutes from FGB 24.03.26
	Minutes were approved.
4	Matters Arising from previous meeting
	1. Lockdown procedures - KS reported that a date would be booked in for a trial , once SATS were over – Action Point Carried Forward 2. Strategic Governance plan - KS further reported that she was waiting for OA to get back to her with some dates, she hoped to meet up with OA before the half term holidays.
5	Chair's Action
	SR informed Governors that on 21.05.26 the PPG have a finance training session for governors to help understand the school budget – venue to be confirmed.
6	Monitor Lead Governor visits Reports from Maths Lead Governor & PE Lead Governor
	Reports from Maths Lead Governor and PE lead Governor visits were emailed to Governors prior to the meeting. DB provided a brief summary of his report to Governors:

The governor visit provided a detailed overview of the current position of mathematics within the school. It was noted that maths does not feature strongly within the current School Improvement Plan, which is predominantly focused on oracy. Although there are some connections through the use of STEM sentences.

Curriculum and Provision

The maths lead is currently working on developing foundational knowledge for each year group, aiming to ensure consistency and progression. Identified gaps in number knowledge are a key priority. Plans are in place to relaunch homework, with a particular focus on NumBots to support fluency. Enrichment opportunities are being introduced, including an upcoming "Robots and Rockstars" day to increase engagement and enthusiasm for maths.

Use of Data and Strategic Awareness

When reviewing data, it became apparent that the maths lead was not aware of the 3-year trend data highlighted in the IDSR, indicating a gap in strategic oversight.

Current focus is on supporting the bottom 20% of pupils, including disadvantaged learners.

Attainment and Progress Overview

A positive attainment picture is evident

Greater Depth (GD)

Greater Depth attainment is not strong across most year groups. Year 1 has 0% at GD, despite 85% achieving expected standard (EXS) Action: Maths lead (Jo) to investigate this discrepancy with the Year 1 team.

Disadvantaged Pupils

Positive outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in: Year 1, Year 5, Year 6

Areas of concern: Year 2 and Year 3, where attainment is weaker

Quality of Education and Teaching

Improvements noted in behaviour for learning in Year 3, which is beginning to have a positive impact on outcomes.

Previous concerns around inconsistency of teaching in Year 1 (last academic year) have now been successfully addressed and are no longer an issue.

Overall, while there are clear strengths in certain year groups and improving areas such as behaviour and teaching consistency, maths requires a sharper strategic focus and more consistent outcomes across the school.

SG provided a brief summary of his report to Governors:

Governor Visit – Friday 20th March

Prior to the visit, Becky shared the 25/26 PE Action Plan.

Key Discussion Areas

Inclusion & Pupil Premium

Club attendance remains slightly lower for PP pupils (58.2%) compared to overall attendance (61.5%). Discussion focused on possible barriers and strategies to improve participation, including targeted promotion, student voice through School Council, and monitoring attendance through whole-school tracking. BH plans to use Sports Ambassadors to record lunchtime club attendance and monitor PP participation more closely.

Oracy in PE

The PE curriculum includes partner talk, stem sentences and reflection opportunities. Staff have received whole-school oracy training and key vocabulary is being embedded. Governors noted this is not yet fully consistent across year groups and suggested revisiting later in the year to review progress.

Competition, Participation & Assessment

Plans include competitions each half term, increased participation, active minute tracking and termly assessment using GeSetPE. Some systems are not fully established yet. Discussion included possible end-of-term competitions and use of the MiMove app to track activity in and out of school. Governors questioned how PE assessment data is reviewed and used to support targeted interventions.

Staffing, Facilities & Logistics

Challenges discussed included limited hall space, swimming access and transport costs. Governors explored possible timetable adjustments, students attending school in PE kit, and alternative swimming arrangements through local partnerships or minibus funding opportunities.

Additional Discussion Points

BH had visited Dyrons and was awaiting further information regarding swimming sessions.

SG asked whether it would be possible to hire or borrow a minibus from other schools, or explore funding options for purchasing one. AG and KS explained that the school had previously investigated purchasing a minibus, but

	costs were prohibitively high. SG suggested reviewing the structure of Sports Day and possibly moving towards a carousel format to increase participation and activity levels. KS explained this had previously been in place, but parents preferred a more competitive format. However, this could be revisited for next year. KS stated that staff are encouraged to request additional time if needed for PE planning. The idea of pupils attending school in PE kit was discussed. KS noted concerns around consistency and appropriateness of clothing, but agreed it could be discussed further if managed carefully. A governor asked whether Year 6 pupils donate PE kits when leaving school. KS explained that many kits are heavily worn, but families are encouraged to donate usable items. The school already receives PE kit donations from families whose children have outgrown them. A governor also asked when pupils begin swimming lessons. KS explained that swimming previously took place in Year 3, but due to disruption it was moved to Year 5. Year 6 pupils who are not yet able to swim receive additional top-up sessions.
7	<u>Head teacher's report</u> - Receive Head teacher's report - Receive Head teacher's update re safeguarding - Update on school development and improvement plan
	The HT report was emailed to Governors prior to the meeting, summarised as follow: Analysis of the School's IDSR (Inspection Data Summary Report) Attainment - KS2 outcomes in 2025 were significantly stronger than 2024 across all subjects, returning to broadly in-line with or above national outcomes. - Reading has remained stable and in line with national figures for the past three years. - Writing outcomes have been more variable, improving from 56% in 2024 to 74% in 2025. - Maths outcomes have remained consistently close to national, with a strong 2025 result of 77%. - EGPS showed significant improvement in 2025. Pupil Groups - Disadvantaged pupils showed improved outcomes in 2025 across reading, writing, maths and combined RWM (58%), with previous gaps beginning to narrow. - Middle prior attainers generally perform close to national figures, although occasionally slightly below. Behaviour & Attendance - The school remains within the strongest 10–20% nationally for persistent absence and behaviour indicators over several years. - There have been no suspensions for the past three years, including 2024/25. SEND - SEND representation is below national for SEN Support and close to national for EHCPs. - Primary areas of need are speech and language and moderate learning difficulties. - Attendance for SEND pupils remains strong, with SEND attendance in 2025/26 currently at 94.9%, well above national figures. Priority Actions - Embed greater consistency in provision for middle prior attainers. - Sustain the improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. - Consolidate the strong KS2 improvements seen in 2025. - Strengthen subject leadership in writing and EGPS. - Maintain strong attendance and behaviour practice. Attainment Projections for 2026 - EYFS reading/phonics: 90% predicted on track. - EYFS GLD: projected 80–85%. - Year 1 Phonics Screening: 95% projected pass rate. - Multiplication Tables Check (MTC): projected 54%. - KS2 statutory assessments: estimated 84% combined RWM. KS additionally reported that staff would be meeting the following evening to review the analysis data, evaluate current interventions, and consider what support was already in place for pupils. Staff had been asked to identify any areas requiring change or improvement and to report these back to KS. KS also confirmed that she was

working on the SEF alongside Dale and Dan.

Governor question: did parents provide reasons when deciding to electively home educate their children.

KS noted once parents had made the decision to home educate, it was often difficult to persuade them otherwise. KS confirmed that there were no safeguarding concerns and that the parents had written to the school confirming that their decision was unrelated to the school itself and was instead a personal choice.

Governor question: who monitors children once they move to home education.

KS confirmed that this responsibility sits with the Elective Home Education (EHE) Team at Devon County Council.

A Governor requested clarification regarding the term “pupils making expected or better progress.”

KS explained that she had not broken the data down in greater depth and that the figures referred to pupils attaining at or above expected levels.

Governor question: while headline figures were useful, it would also be helpful to see a more detailed breakdown of the data.

KS responded that the detailed breakdown is always emailed to Governors, although it does not currently include greater depth information.

Governor question: the School Development Plan was entirely focused on oracy.

KS clarified that the priorities also included writing, inclusion, and pupil premium (PP). She added that these areas now needed further development in light of the increasing amount of available data, and that PP remained a key priority.

Governor question: KS previously mentioning the development of an Ofsted toolkit for Governors.

KS confirmed that she would be working on this the following day with Dale and Dan, alongside the SEF, and would bring it to the next meeting.

A Governor noted the significant improvement shown in the performance table for Year 6 pupil premium pupils, which had increased from 29% to 50%.

Governor question: which year groups were taught by Jo Borthwick and Patricia Kent, and who taught Reception.

KS confirmed that Jo Borthwick and Patricia Kent taught Year 3, while Reception was taught by Lynsey Cahill.

A Governor noted that KS appeared to be considering changes to the staffing structure for September.

KS explained that BH would be leaving the school JW was pregnant and due to begin maternity leave in October. The budget had been prepared based on the information staff had shared with her regarding their plans. KS also confirmed that Patricia Kent would step into the SENCO role.

Meeting moved into part 2 discussion recorded in Part 1(BH left the room)

Governors referred to discussions at the previous meeting regarding roles, responsibilities, leadership, and the significant workload being undertaken by KS. Governors noted that the school was approaching a period where an Ofsted inspection was likely, and inspectors would expect leaders across the school to showcase their areas of responsibility. Governors expressed concern that too much responsibility currently rested with KS.

KS responded that she had no concerns about staff being able to demonstrate leadership responsibilities. She explained that all staff had successfully done so during the previous Ofsted inspection and she had full confidence in them to do so again, despite the inspection framework now being different.

Governor comment: at the previous inspection there had been four senior leaders, whereas there were now three.

KS responded that she was confident the school could manage effectively. She stated that she would ideally like to have a Deputy Headteacher, but the current budget could not sustain this. In addition, the school could not afford for Dale and Dan to spend significant time out of the classroom, although they were released when necessary. KS added that she felt very fortunate to have a highly experienced, hardworking team who cared deeply about the school.

Governors discussed that their role was to both support and challenge.

AV added that the school could afford a Deputy Headteacher if pupil numbers were at full capacity. However, if the school could not sustain its current model financially, there was a risk that Devon County Council could intervene and restructure the school. AV stated that, looking ahead four years, the budget position would likely look very

	different. Although pupil numbers had dipped recently, this trend was affecting almost all schools, with only a small number of exceptions. Governor question: did all schools within the PPG group have Deputy Headteachers. KS responded that many of the smaller schools did not.
8	Primary Partnership Group
	KS reported that, just before the holidays, Abbotskerswell Primary School had contacted the school as they were having a new kitchen fitted, which would not be ready until after the holidays. They asked whether the school could assist with providing meals. KS confirmed that the school was currently providing meals for Abbotskerswell and that the arrangement was working very well. KS informed Governors that the PPG would be meeting the following Thursday. Alison McShane would be attending on behalf of the Local Authority. The school no longer had an Inclusion Officer following the previous officer's departure and was paying £13,000 per year for inclusion support but was currently receiving no service in return. The PPG intended to discuss with Alison McShane the possibility of no longer paying the Local Authority for this provision, instead pooling resources across schools and using the funding more effectively.
9	Analyse use and impact of additional funding (Pupil Premium, PE funding, catch-up funding etc)
	Discussed in previous agenda item.
10	Report from School Business Manager
	AV apologised for not providing Governors with a report, explaining that there was nothing new to report. AV informed Governors that five new doors had been replaced in school and confirmed that there had been no incidents. AV stated that she would not go into detail on the budget at this meeting, as Governors would officially need to approve it next month. The school now has until the end of June to submit the budget to the Local Authority. She explained that the situation remained uncertain. The school operates on a five-year budget plan, although Devon only projects as far as Year 3. At present, AV did not yet know what the Year 3 figure would look like. AV noted that many schools were now moving into deficit due to falling pupil numbers. She stressed that there was nothing wrong with the school's financial structure and that the school does not overspend. Devon would inform the school during the autumn term if a recovery plan needed to be submitted. AV stated that, based on the current situation, this was likely. The school had expected to receive 60 pupils, but currently only has 52 first-choice applications. AV explained that little could be done until the second round of applications in May had been completed. The current budget projections are based on the staffing changes and 52 pupils on roll. At present, the school is projecting a deficit of approximately £120,000, which AV said would still be submitted as this was the most accurate position available at this stage. A Governor said they recalled at the previous meeting AV had stated that, due to issues with Bromcom, the figures had appeared significantly inaccurate. AV explained that Devon uses a system called Unit 4, which allows her to log into the finance system and review live financial data. When AV reviewed the figures, the budget appeared to show a positive balance, as she had not realised that the salaries for that month had not yet been processed. Governors thanked AV for all her hard work.
11	<u>STATUTORY POLICIES, DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SCHOOLS.</u> <u>STATUTORY COULD BE POSTED WS</u> a) Health and Safety Policy b) SEND Policy

	c) Supporting Pupils at school with medical conditions <i>c/forward to the next meeting.</i>
	Decision – Governors approved the Health and Safety policy* and SEND policy. *subject to amendment name - of caretaker removed , replaced with AV
12	Any Other Business Date of Next Meeting 23 June 2026 – online