

## **Minutes of the Full Governing Board Meeting Held on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 6pm**

### *In-person meeting*

**Governors present:** Reem Al Rasheed, Anne Canning, Mark Chapman (*Chair*), Helen Da Silva, Jo Davey (*Co-headteacher*), Tessa Hauswedell, Rachel Howarth, Zoe Judge (*Co-headteacher*), Ian Macaulay,

**Staff present:** Lauren Common, Florence Herrero, Kirsty Holder, Louise Prodromou, Ewan Scott, Kirsten Sullivan

**Also present:** Sam Murray (*Clerk*)

1. Apologies were received and accepted from Antonia Shortall and Lorraine Hudson.

### **2. Declaration of interests**

There were no meeting specific declarations of interest made by anyone present. Governors were reminded to ensure their entry in the register of business interests is kept up to date.

### **3. CoHeadteachers' Report**

Governors had received a copy of the CoHeadteachers' written report. The following points were highlighted:

Updated pupil numbers were considered and the increased mobility noted. Governors commented on the ratio of girls/boys in certain year groups. CoHeads responded that this raises particular issues and has an impact on the cohort. An Associate Assistant Head post for equality and diversity has been created and will cover this area. The gender split is similar in other local schools.

Pupil profile data shows an increase in the number of pupils eligible for FSM and therefore pupil premium funding in Y7/Y8. The school encourages parents to apply for free school meals.

Prior attainment data shows that the figures for Y7 are close to the national averages. Historically the school has been used to more pupils with high prior attainment at levels above the national level.

Admissions data indicates that the number of first preferences for places at the school have reduced but the context in London is a falling birth rate and falling school rolls. The school is still oversubscribed with lower preferences.

Attendance is at 93.8% and getting closer to pre-covid levels. Data is tracked and monitored closely and the school works with the LA Education Welfare Service.

Inclusion data (from Sept 2024 onwards) shows 36 suspensions. The reduction is a result of a fully embedded Behaviour policy, a full set of Pastoral Support Managers actively managing and supporting student behaviour and good staff training. Governors were pleased to see a reduction in the number of suspensions.

Data for managed moves and students in alternative provision were considered. CoHeads outlined the type of need that alternative provision is used for and how the school uses this.

Data for in-year admissions via IYFAP were considered and governors noted the high numbers for Y9-Y11. Data for Finch was considered and CoHeads described how the KS3 and KS4 programmes are used.

Figures for students coming on and going off the school roll were considered. CoHeads advised that the issue of LA wide mobility was discussed and monitored at IYFAP meetings. A governor asked about the risk to children who move around multiple schools. KS explained that there are tight procedures for removing a student from the school roll and that the borough has information sharing duties between schools to reduce the risk of children going missing from education.

Data for referrals to the school in-house mental health provision were considered. There have been 96 referrals since the start of the academic year. The school has a new School Police Liaison Officer but this person is shared with APS and this doesn't give us the capacity we would like to have.

The CoHeads informed governors that funding for the Social Worker in Schools Service is ending in July 2025 so the role will not continue at Fortismere beyond this academic year. The review at the end of year one was positive about the programme but national funding has come to an end.

### **3.1 Standards update**

Governors received information on staff CPD. Staff have attended a three-part Autism Education Trust training course and this has helped staff and benefitted students. The January INSET day covered a range of pastoral training and training for teaching and learning on passive disengagement. Feedback from staff on the carousel format of the training was positive. Governors heard how departments are using exam board feedback to direct their CPD sessions.

Governors received an update on the Early Careers Teachers who are following the two-year induction programme. KH outlined specific in-house sessions to support our cohort of ECTs. KH also described how the school is benefitting from working with those new to the profession with ECTs getting involved in school working parties and school trips.

### **3.2 Finance update**

A newly formed Resources Committee is now in place and has scrutinised budget information in detail. Governors received quarter 3 figures which forecast a deficit of £53K. The school have informed the LA that a licensed deficit agreement may be required.

Funding information for 2025-26 has not yet been received but pupil numbers are up on last year which should increase income. There are still a lot of unknowns for the budget 2025-26 including unresolved issues about class size and contact time and an unfunded teacher pay rise.

A governor asked about SEN funding and if more detail could be shared. RH (SEN link governor) reported that she can explore this with NF in their link meetings and share information with the rest of the governing board at a later date.

**Action: NF and RH to discuss SEN funding and share information with governors.**

### **3.3 Community & Partnerships**

Governors received an update on events to engage with parents and carers. CoHeads reported that they were pleased with the turnout at the recent Y9 Options Evening. A group

of parents have approached the school to set up a new PTA which is really positive news. CoHeads had recently met with the group who are now starting the formal process and will host a launch event soon.

#### **4. IDSR data**

Governors received the full IDSR data report. The final data supports the provisional data shared in the autumn FGB meeting and discussed by governors. Governors were very positive about the final report. Governors would like to come back to this when Key stage 5 data is published. Link governors will also work with ES on this.

##### **4.1 Internal progress data**

**Key stage 3 & 4 data:** Governors received and considered the latest progress point data for all year groups. ES highlighted:

At KS3 data by gender and numbers at mastery level is a focus. Also looking at the number of pupil premium students reaching mastery level. Link governors will work with ES to agree the data reporting style for Key stage 3.

Governors also received and considered a KS4 data sheet setting out headlines from the progress point 1 data for Y10. Y10 data shows some pleasing results. Attainment 8 is 56.59 and Progress 8 is 0.61.

Governors also considered Y11 progress point 1 data. The Y11 mock data will be analysed next week. The mock data will give a better indicator of where students are than this data set. Link governors will meet with ES to look at mock results in detail. Y11 is boy heavy and this will be a focus in interventions.

Link governors reported that they had discussed the progress point data with ES and scrutinised the assessment – how much is being tested and what is being tested. Governors discussed pros and cons of gradually upping what we expect of students in assessments. Do we assess students in Y10 on something more akin to the final Y11 test or build up to this gradually. Link governors will explore this further in their meetings to fully interrogate the assessment exercise.

**Key stage 5 data:** LC reported that Y12 data is generally pleasing overall and students have made a good start to their courses. The Head of Year is setting up interventions in conjunction with the Departments for students needing support. There is some work to do on the assessments and what is actually being assessed.

LC reported that Y13 data looks good with an average B grade. Mock data is showing a slightly different picture with an average C grade. There is further work to do on the two data sets and LC will pick this up with link governors at a later meeting.

#### **5. Teaching & Learning update**

Governors received a report setting out the teaching and learning related improvement priorities and ES gave an update on progress. The aim is to get students front and centre in their own learning. By the summer term the linked policies and procedures (assessment, marking and homework) will be updated and will give a sense of what the approach will look like, ready for implementation next academic year.

#### **6. Pupil premium update**

Governors received an updated document. EB advised that the three year strategy is currently being updated. EB outlined what has gone well including maths and science mentoring which has helped PP students to prepare and get exam ready. Wellbeing support for PP students is

provided through in school counselling provision and part of the PSM role is funded by the grant.

PP funding has been used to enhance our Y6-Y7 transition programme for vulnerable and SEN students. Attendance work has helped to narrow the gap between attendance of PP and non-PP students.

Governors thanked EB for the update and noted that they would like to see more detail reported on the impact. EB will bring the updated three-year strategy back to the governing body before the information is published on the website.

IM agreed to be the named PP governor.

## **7. Minutes of the last meeting & Matters arising**

Governors considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting. There are no outstanding matters from the last meeting.

## **8. Committee reports**

Governors received and noted the minutes from recent committee meetings. Governors can access committee papers in the relevant GovernorHub folders.

**Resources Committee** had met on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and received an update on finance and site related matters from the Director of Operations. Terms of reference were agreed and are presented for approval by the FGB. Governors **agreed** the terms of reference for the Resources committee.

**Admissions Committee** had met on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The committee had considered medical social applications and agreed the ranking list for September 2025 entry. The committee had also agreed the papers for the statutory consultation process on a proposed change to the school Admissions policy. The committee will meet again shortly to consider the consultation responses and propose a final policy for 2026 entry.

**Strategic Estate Committee** will meet on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## **9. Membership update**

MC is recommending the appointment of an Associate member to the Resources Committee. Claire Montgomery has relevant financial skills and experience that will be helpful to the work of the committee. Governors **agreed** to appoint CM for a 3-year term of office.

## **10. AOB**

MC is proposing that the governing body restores a formal Curriculum and Standards committee. Governors **agreed** the proposal. MC will work with the link governors in this area to set up a programme and draft terms of reference.

*Part one meeting closed.*