SCHOOL NUMBER 13010

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
GOVERNOR SERVICES

WALVERDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPRING TERM MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE HELD IN SCHOOL ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.00 PM

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PRESENT: Mr M Stone *(Chair for the meeting)*
Mr S Agar
Mr R Bashir
Mr A Rehman
Miss H Ahmed *(Headteacher)*

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Zaman (Observer)
Mrs K Entwistle (Observer)
Mrs A Bird *(Clerk to Governors)*

PART A

ACTION

S26.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr R Ali, Mrs R Bridges, Mr F Khaliq and Mr M Osman.

S26.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

S26.03 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2025

It was **resolved** that the draft minutes of the last meeting be accepted and signed by the Chair as a correct record on behalf of the Committee.

S26.04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

S26.05 PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGETS

The Headteacher advised that numbers had gone up and free school meals were also up. Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP's) had gone up as well. There had also been an increase in the number of boys.

The achievement data Had been RAG rated and was used in pupil progress meetings. Reading was pretty positive but there were a couple of year groups that had dropped as they had had new children arrive. The school did have core pupil data as well.

KS2 outcomes were pretty consistent and the Headteacher advised that they did very well to get pupils to national averages. Greater depth pupils were from the core group of pupils because they were constantly filling gaps. In Y5 and Y6 the Headteacher advised that governors could see that greater death was going up. Y1 was low for reading, writing and maths but this was quite a complex year group. There were a group of boys who struggled but the school were focusing in on them. Y3 maths was low but there had been a maternity leave in that year so there was a bit of an issue with staffing in that year.

Writing was showing improvement but the school needed to keep on to it. In KS1 greater depth was improving but there were a lot of pupils who had English as an Additional Language (EAL). Core pupils were not a vulnerable academic group. In Y1 there were concerns for attainment and in Y3 with maths.

Governors received showing assessment group analysis. The Headteacher advised that girls were outperforming boys there was a disparity with non-SEND. The Headteacher advised that girls were outperforming boys in maths in every year group. The Headteacher advised that the number of pupil premium children was increasing. There were 24 in Y6 and 24 in Y3.

Q - This thing with the boy's data is very stark. Is this a national trend or peculiar to this school?
A - Boys struggle in writing and girls buck the trend in maths. The Headteacher advised that were pupils were taught well they did well, so they needed to do this elsewhere. The Headteacher advised that boys and girls perform equally well.

The Headteacher suggested that the governors had any further questions that they emailed them to her.

S26.06 MONITORING OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)

Governors received an updated Sip detailing what had been done so far this term and next steps.

S26.07 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

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Governors noted the information received.

S26.08 CHILD PROTECTION/ SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

Governors received a written Safeguarding Report.

The Headteacher gave governors an update as to safeguarding was currently looking like. A Safeguarding SIP was in place, and a Designated Senior Leader (DSL) handbook. The Headteacher advised that for external people coming in to the school they now had a referral form for them to fill in. The school had term reflections to see if there was any way to enhance practice.

Q - Mental health pupils what is available for them?
A - We do have Barnardos and MEHT can come in. There is also the District 13 hub if needed.

The school also signposted parents and got quite a lot of SEND out through newsletters.

Governors received an attendance update. Mr Donnan was the attendance champion. The Headteacher advised that parents were now getting prosecuted if their child was absent for 15 days or more. Parents now brought pupils in before their medical appointments and take them out and then bring them back after.

S26.09 CREATIVE AND SENCO LEADERS

This item was taken after apologies for absence.

Mrs Entwistle Creative Leader

Mrs Entwistle advised that there have been lots of movement around subject leader areas. Mrs Entwistle was now doing art and DT, and other subject lead changes needed time to settle in. There had been a long-term absence for the music coordinator. The new co-ordinator had been on courses to bring her up to speed. Meetings had been held on how the scheme would work. Pupils had the opportunity to play the ukulele and the children loved it and were taking them home. Pupils also had the opportunity to play the xylophone, glockenspiel and triangles. Mrs Entwistle had led a staff meeting the previous week and they were starting to see the work going on. The subject leaders were going to network meetings which met every half term

Mr Rehman arrived at the meeting.

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Mrs Entwistle advised they had not done a lot of D.T. yet and that this would be done in the next half term. The big thing that staff were working on this year were knowledge mats. Mrs Entwistle advised that up until September they used to buy ones but now were tailoring to their own subjects. These were sent out before the unit starts and teachers did a pre-learning quiz. They would then use the mats as they went through the subject. They also did an end of unit check out quiz. Mrs Entwistle advised that she needed to speak to staff on what the quizzes looked like.

Q - What are you doing for children who are disengaged?
A - They feed back to staff meetings.

There was a new art scheme in place, and she was supporting those staff with new curriculum roles. The uptake of extra-curricular activities has been low, and they were looking at how to increase the uptake. Structured activities were taking place such as Yoga balls with children joining in. Y5 pupils were having a one-hour ukulele lesson and they would go on to do a performance. Mrs Entwistle advised that next year everyone would get a turn. Knowledge mats had been brought in a while ago but had now been introduced across subjects. The school had previously used published ones, but they needed to be more bespoke. Mrs Entwistle advised that pupils did like the prior knowledge quizzes and they were quite competitive.

Q - What are major challenges you face?
A - Budget as art and DT are quite expensive for resources and also time.

Mrs Entwistle added that there was a picking order in subjects and something had to give and it was what subjects had to have less time.

Q - Does curriculum give sufficient leeway to develop creative skills?
A – I think we give them a taste and when they get to high school they get further opportunities. Children do get the opportunity to do creative homework. Children bring in amazing work which we celebrate.

Q – In the case of SEND pupils do you have enough resources
A – We have to make them, we are sure to know who they are, and we make sure that they can access. We have used AI to make adaptations to materials and buy what they need.

Mrs Entwistle left the meeting

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Mrs Zaman SENCO

Governors were advised that there was an effective SEND referral system in place. The class teacher discusses with parents if there was a course for concern. When they were in Y6 and transferring to secondary school, they had more than one transition visit.

The TLP's were smart targets from professional services such as the specialist teacher or educational psychologist. The TLP‘s were written on Insight.

Q - So each child has a target?
A – Yes, for SEND there will be specific targets.

The school had adapted the SEND curriculum to support primary needs. The school provided training and support for staff. There were 78 pupils who were classified as SEND which was slightly lower than national. 16 pupils had an EHCP and the school was waiting for five more EHCP's. Imprint 4 had now been purchased and staff were aware of the expectations. Feedback from staff and parents had been positive, pupils seem happy, safe, settled. SENCO had a positive relationship with parents and there was 100% attendance at annual reviews. There was an increase in involvement with the specialist teacher. The leadership team was upskilling teaching assistants (TA's) to lead speech and language programmes.

Governors were advised that SEND was below national averages as there were a lot of EHCP's pending. There had been an increase in SEND across Lancashire particularly with communication and interaction difficulties. There was a particularly high number of pupils in Reception. The Headteacher advised that some pupils fitted in to more than one area of need.

Q - Why is SEND skewed towards boy boys, is that normal?
A - From research girls mask behaviour and will display more at home than in school. It was only as they get older that it starts to show. Secondary school is where it tends to come out.

Q - Given delays in diagnosis does it materially impact child?
A - It depends on each child as they are all different.

The Headteacher advised the school had strategies and could try and would ask for advice from external support which they then try to put in place at school. The Headteacher advised that they had staffed heavily in

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Reception as they knew what was coming through. The Headteacher advises that the school gave over and above. The Headteacher advised that when the EHCP came through there was not a lot of difference to what the school was doing. The Headteacher advised that a lot of parents do want specialist provision.

Q - What do you provide for high functioning pupils?
A – We do the same as any other child.

The Headteacher advised that one pupil had gone to the grammar school and they had done whatever they could to support them.

S26.10 CONFIDENTIALITY

There were no items deemed as confidential.

S26.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 7 May 2026 at 7.00 pm.

CLOSING REMARKS

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and continued support and duly closed the meeting 7.25 pm.

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