Meeting of Full Governing Board and Strategy Day
17th September 2026
9.30pm in School Library

MINUTES

Governors:	Mick Baker, Sarah Bakhtiari (Chair), Rob Bradshaw, Alice Duvernois, Matt Elliott, Eleanor Fagan, Matt Hillier, Matt Nott, Eugenie Teasley
Officers:	Clare Doran (Clerk)

	Agenda item	**Actions**
1	**Introduction** **a) Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Full Governing Board meeting of the academic year and to the Strategy Day. The Chair thanked all governors for their attendance and for giving their time to support the work of the Board and the school. The importance of the day was noted as an opportunity for governors to come together at the start of the new academic year and consider the key priorities and focus for the year ahead. **b) Apologies for absence** Apologies for absence from Neal Young and Emma Hill. Jessica Verdugo was not in attendance. **c) Declarations of interest** There were no declarations of interest in relation to agenda items.	
2	**OFSTED prep** Paula Sargeant, an experienced Ofsted Inspector who has undertaken a number of inspections under the new framework, provided governors with an overview of the Ofsted inspection framework and its implications for governance. Paula summarised the main inspection areas: safeguarding; inclusion; curriculum and teaching; achievement; attendance and behaviour; personal development and well-being; and leadership and governance. Safeguarding is assessed as either met or not met, while the remaining areas are judged separately, with no single overall grade. Paula outlined the key changes to the framework, highlighting the increased emphasis on inclusion and the importance of identifying and addressing barriers to learning for vulnerable students, particularly disadvantaged students, students with SEND and children known to social care. Governors were reminded of the importance of understanding the school's context, including key strengths and areas for development, and the impact of actions taken to secure improvement. The Head showed governors the Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR), which provides an overview of the school's performance, key trends, demographics and behavioural data, helping to identify strengths and areas for further investigation. Governors were given the opportunity throughout the session to ask questions and seek clarification on the practical implications of the framework for governance. Discussion included how governors can evidence effective challenge and assurance through monitoring and minutes,	

	and how inspectors will consider the impact of governance and governors' assurance of information provided by leaders. Paula emphasised the importance of being able to demonstrate the challenge made, action taken and resulting impact. Paula Sargeant left after the training. Also in attendance were staff from Patcham Infants who also left after the OFSTED training.	
3	**Safeguarding and KCSIE** The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, Giles Ward, joined the meeting and delivered annual safeguarding training to the governors, covering current safeguarding requirements and school procedures, in light of the updated Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). Governors engaged actively throughout the session, seeking further information from the DSL on trends in harmful behaviours and the impact of the Yondr pouches. Governors also asked how the school was measuring the impact of the Yondr pouches. The DSL explained that this was being monitored through analysis of safeguarding incidents recorded on CPOMS, alongside spot checks to ensure that students' phones were secured in their pouches. Governors also sought clarification on the continuum of harmful sexual behaviour, including when incidents such as sexual harassment are reported to the police. Further discussion focused on safeguarding risks relating to adults, including vetting, whistleblowing and low-level concerns, with governors specifically asking how concerns are recorded and how the school maintains a strategic overview to identify any emerging patterns. Governors also explored how school leaders and peer mentors could be further involved in challenging inappropriate behaviours. The discussion concluded with governors identifying the importance of greater diversity and lived experience on the Governing Board to support effective oversight and challenge.	

4	**Exam Results** The Head presented an overview of the 2026 examination outcomes. Key highlights included: • **75%** of students achieved grade 4+ in English and Maths, compared with 80% the previous year; **52%** achieved grade 5+, compared with 62% previously. • **28% of all grades** were at grades 7–9 and **77%** were at grade 4 or above. • **Science and Humanities** performed strongly, with particularly strong outcomes in Science. • English achieved **84% at grade 4+**; Maths achieved **77% at grade 4+ and 57% at grade 5+**. • Attainment 8 placed the school within the **top 27% nationally**, based on FFT benchmarking, with Maths within the **top 20%**. • Higher prior attainers performed strongly, while disadvantaged students had an indicative Progress 8 figure of **-0.36**, with the Head noting that there remained a gap in outcomes. • SEND outcomes were affected by students not completing sufficient qualifications to fill all Progress 8 subject areas, rather than solely reflecting attainment within the subjects studied. • A strong correlation between attendance and outcomes was highlighted, with examples demonstrating that students with strong attendance could achieve significantly above their expected outcomes. Governors sought clarification on the negative Progress 8 impact arising where students do not fill all eight qualifications and whether this was a wider issue across schools. The Head confirmed that it was, noting that some schools require students to retain a full range of subjects, whereas the school seeks to balance performance measures against the individual needs of students requiring additional support. Governors explored outcomes for different student groups, including higher prior attainers, disadvantaged students and SEND students, and discussed whether the school had achieved the right balance between student-centred support and its impact on overall school outcomes. The Head acknowledged that further work was required on curriculum provision for lower-attaining and SEND students, particularly around the limited range of suitable vocational qualifications currently available, alongside staffing, skills, timetabling and cost implications. Governors asked what support from the Governing Board would be helpful in addressing this, with the Head advising that future considerations were likely to be budget related. Matt Nott left the meeting after this item.	
5	**Department visits** Governors carried out learning walks with staff within their respective statutory and curriculum areas of focus, providing an opportunity to gain further insight into current practice, key priorities and areas of development. The visits also enabled governors to strengthen their understanding of their link areas and support their ongoing monitoring and assurance responsibilities. The lead Governor for Physical Education and the Chair of Governors, inspected the school's changing facilities as part of the department meetings. It was confirmed that the adaptation of the	

	facilities had been successfully completed in accordance with updated KCSIE guidance effective 1st September 2026. Eugenie Teasley left the meeting after this item.	
6	**Last Meeting Dated 13th July 2026** **A) Approval of Minutes** The Full Governing Board reviewed and approved 6 pages of minutes from the meeting held on 13th July 2026. The Chair signed the minutes as confirmation of their accuracy.	
7	**Policies** **a) Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy** It was noted that on page 26, the sentence 'All instances of sharing nudes or semi nudes requires a safeguarding response and ***can be*** reported to the police', should be changed to ***'must be'.*** **AGREEMENT – The Full Governing Board approved the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy subject to the updated wording.** **b) Offsite Activities and Educational Visits Policy** The Policy was updated to reflect the latest KCSIE requirements and presented to governors for information. The staff governor sought clarification on several aspects of the policy, including trip risk assessment approval, staff-to-student ratios and pre-visits for overseas trips. The Senior Deputy Head confirmed that he approved all trip risk assessments, ratios are activity-specific and overseas pre-visits are undertaken wherever possible. The staff governor also suggested clarifying the approval process within the policy and considering reference to the school's new mobile phone app system at the next review. **c) Equalities Policy** **AGREEMENT – The Full Governing Board approved the Equalities Policy as presented.**	
8	**AOB** The Clerk to Governors collected all Diversity Forms, Skills Audit Forms and Declaration of Interest Forms from those in attendance.	

Dated:

Signed by Chair of Governors: