



**THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE FEDERATION OF BARTON AND  
GODSHILL PRIMARY SCHOOLS**



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Governing Board**

**Held in person on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
at Godshill Primary School**

| Name                    | Role/Governor                            | Attended<br>* online | Sent<br>apologies |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| Naomi Smy (NS)          | Co-opted Governor - <b>Chair</b>         | -                    | ✓                 |
| Ursula Hutchinson (UH)  | Local Authority Governor                 | ✓                    |                   |
| Diane Barker (DB)       | Co-opted Governor - <b>Vice-Chair</b>    | ✓                    |                   |
| Carolyne Meer (CM)      | Co-opted Governor                        | ✓                    |                   |
| Mark Snow (MS)          | <b>Headteacher</b>                       | ✓                    |                   |
| Verity Bird (VB)        | Co-opted Governor                        | ✓                    |                   |
| Charmaine Murphie (ChM) | Staff Governor                           | ✓                    |                   |
| Sarah Morrison (SM)     | Parent Governor                          | -                    | ✓                 |
| Mark Atkins (MA)        | Parent Governor                          | -                    | ✓                 |
| Matthew Price (MP)      | Co-opted Governor                        | ✓<br>Left 5.28       |                   |
| Jamie Dickinson (JD)    | Co-opted Governor                        | -                    | ✓                 |
| Amy Martindale (AM)     | Co-opted Governor - <b>Co Vice-Chair</b> | ✓                    |                   |
| Yvette Leppard (YL)     | Co-opted Governor                        | ✓                    |                   |
| Karen Darby (KD)        | Co-opted Governor                        | ✓                    |                   |

**Non-Governors in attendance**

| Name                   | Role/Designation              | Attended                             | Sent apologies |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Alison Starnes (AS)    | Clerk to Governors (Barton)   | ✓                                    |                |
| Leigh Mannix (LM)      | Clerk to Governors (Godshill) | ✓                                    |                |
| Lisa Morgan Huws (LMH) | Head of School (Godshill)     | ✓                                    |                |
| Su Meredith (SuM)      | Head of School (Barton)       | ✓                                    |                |
| Gail Eagar (GE)        | SENCo/Inclusion Lead          | ✓ (item 5)<br>Joined 4.31, left 4.36 |                |
| Karl Whiting (KW)      | School Business Manager       | ✓ (item 6)<br>Joined 4.37, left 5.28 |                |

**Vacancies**

1 x Co-opted Governor

**Quorum**

The meeting achieved the minimum number to be considered quorate (8) and remained at or above this number for the whole meeting.

**Start & Finish Times**

The meeting convened at 4.28pm and finished at 5.58pm having considered all items on the agenda.

Key: **Red: Action**, **Blue: Challenge**, **Green: Support**, **Purple: Ring-fenced funding**.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

DB welcomed all present to the meeting. DB is chairing in the absence of NS, who has mainland work commitments.

**2. Agree any items of urgent business**

No urgent items were received.

LM was delayed joining the meeting, due to a medical situation. VB may have to leave the meeting early.

ChM has a Pupil Voice report, which will be discussed under item 9.

### 3. Receive and agree whether to accept apologies

NS, SM, MA and JD sent apologies for this meeting, which were accepted.

### 4. Declarations of Interest

ChM and YL are sisters.

### 5. LAC (Looked After Children) Report (GE)

[GE joined the meeting, 4.31pm.](#)

GE is also Designated Teacher for both schools. Part of GE's role as LAC leader is to give a presentation to governors once a year – this is a statutory requirement.

**Barton** – has 2 LAC currently, one with SEN. The SEN child is on track for ARE but has speech and language difficulties and significant health needs. The school is putting in an EHCP request after half-term, following a request from parents, although GE does not feel the criteria are met.

The other LAC child isn't at ARE, due to poor attendance as a result of going into care. The child will soon be subject to a special guardianship order. The school will continue support, including emotionally.

**Godshill** – has 3 LAC currently, none of whom are SEN. Two are siblings who moved from the Portsmouth area (September) and have settled well. Both are at ARE, and the school is ensuring their emotional needs are met.

The other child is working towards, due to not attending nursery or reception, and seems settled at present.

The next part of this item is recorded as a confidential minute.

Barton will lose funding for the non-SEN child as a looked-after child, but they will stay with the school.

GE was thanked by governors. [GE left the meeting, 4.36pm.](#)

The SEN link governor commented that GE is incredibly dedicated and well organised. She knows the criteria for applying for EHCPs, but parents have the right to request.

### 6. Finance Update (KW)

[KW joined meeting, 4.37pm.](#)

An additional document will be emailed later by the Barton clerk. **Clerk to email additional finance document.**

The FWP and FGB meetings in November will discuss both schools' mid-year budgets.

Neither school's submitted May budget was accepted by the LA, and they now wish to see recovery plans. KW / MS met with the LA finance team during the summer term, and a further meeting is due after half-term.

Barton went through a restructure in the summer term, which has concluded. The school made savings, but the downturn is that the staffing complement is struggling to deliver the same standard of education as before.

An Early Years (EY) consultation is under way for both schools at present, which will affect finances. The proposed changes come at an initial cost, as the school will effectively lose EY funding; however, staff in the nursery will be retained. The school will lose income and take in funding.

The next part of this item is recorded as a confidential minute

There is a projected £60,000 deficit, increasing to £300,000 over three years.

Godshill is in a more serious situation. The school's deficit is larger now than when initially submitted, due to expected growth funding from school closures not happening. Twenty pupils joined from schools proposed to close that subsequently didn't close. The net gain is one pupil from Cowes Primary, generating additional funds of £4,500.

KW has removed the surplus growth funding from the budget. There has also been a reduction in SEN funding. The proposed changes to the nursery will have an initial impact.

Godshill received a SRMA visit – this is the School Resource Management Auditor, who came to give an independent view. They will write a report to the LA, which is then shared with the school. KW is not aware of their recommendations yet. The school is reviewing its age range in order to take on a private provider.

The next part of this item is recorded as a confidential minute

[VB temporarily left the meeting, 4.45pm.](#)

The present deficit is £180,000 and will be nearer £300,000 by the end of this financial year. The projected deficit at the end of three years is £450,000. This is unacceptable to the LA, and they expect to see a business case put forward.

MS reported that the impact on staff in both schools is different, and becoming untenable.

The next part of this item is recorded as a confidential minute

Two support staff resigned in the last two weeks, but this reduces the school's capacity to do things, such as covering wrap around care. Parents need to be made aware of this.

The school is going forward with a PAN of 20, and it will take time to shrink as present class sizes don't work.

There are a number of children with EHCPs needing support and other children needing EHCPs. The LA chose Godshill for some of these children.

VB returned to the meeting, 4.49pm.

Barton has many children with additional needs and accompanying social issues. Thresholds for EHCPs changed over the summer.

Impact on staff is significant and this then impacts the SLT.

The next part of this item is recorded as a confidential minute

Barton's biggest issue is resources, and 5% of children at Barton are probably not in the right placement.

MS has visited the Lionheart School (formerly Island Learning Centre – Pupil Referral Unit) – this is a great resource, but has a much larger budget.

If Barton's staffing structure keeps shrinking, a lot of extracurricular activities will not be able to continue. Children with the most challenging behaviour and trauma issues need much more of staff's time.

MS met with senior governors around this issue last Friday and a letter has been sent to Ashley Whittaker (IW Council) today.

LM joined the meeting, 4.55pm.

There is particular concern for Godshill over the proposed new round of school closures.

NS has put together a letter – UH and DB were also involved. It is proposed the letter is published in the minutes and goes out to all governors. **Clerk to send Chair of Governors letter regarding school closures.**

NS, UH and DB will attend the meeting with the LA after half-term, as both schools have different issues, including lack of provision for children with severe needs.

The staff governor has asked teachers to send examples of what happens in their class from day to day, and this will be forwarded to senior governors before their meeting with the LA (sent to MS first).

The school cannot give all children support at present, due to the many behaviour issues.

Governors are concerned at the whole school closure situation, especially for Godshill. The LA asked Godshill to take up to 30 children in one class and the school went over its published PAN to support them.

The present deficits, especially Godshill's, are unrecoverable without an injection of cash.

The Primary Behaviour Service (now REST) was set up by Hampshire and placed at Chillerton school but there aren't facilities like the "Lionheart" (formerly Island Learning Centre) at a primary level. This has become a secondary provision, with a budget of £20,000 per child; however, MS only receives £4,500 per child.

The next part of this item is recorded as a confidential minute

**Is there no primary provision on the Island?** Brighstone opened its resourced provision last week with limited numbers.

**Is there a financial model that could be sustainable?**

MS has RAG rated children due to level of need. Provision could be put in place at Barton if properly funded.

**Why has the Island never gone down the Hub route?** The Island is missing a specialist SEMH provision.

Governors noted the significant rise of Island primary schools in a difficult deficit, with 11 out of 38 last year, which has risen to over 30.

The schools went to the LA to get a consultation to expand nursery provision. Neither school has the infrastructure or resources to build that and it made sense to talk to a local provider. It isn't possible to carry on as now.

MS has offered an informal meeting at 9.00am tomorrow (Friday 17<sup>th</sup>) regarding Godshill nursery. The school has eight children (babies) signed up to start.

[Is there a meeting tomorrow?](#) There will be another meeting after half-term for everyone. The consultation deadline has been moved to appease some of the concerns raised.

DB thanked governors that responded to parental concerns around the consultation.

A letter has gone out to alleviate some of the concerns raised, and MS will offer to chat with nursery parents tomorrow. DB will also attend.

[MP and KW left the meeting, 5.28pm.](#)

## **7. Agree Minutes of Federation GB Meeting (10<sup>th</sup> July)**

**The 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Federation FGB minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record, and will be signed electronically by DB.**

## **8. Matters Arising**

All matters arising have been dealt with. VB and LM were thanked for their ongoing work with policies.

## **9. Receive and Consider Governor Visit Reports**

ChM gave a verbal **Pupil Voice** report and will send the clerk her written report. The meeting with children was mainly to see how they are settling in. Do they feel calm, safe and ready to learn? **ChM to send report to Clerk.**

As reports are posted into the public domain, the report will be sent confidentially in the first instance.

Children are positive about their new year groups.

Mention was made of classes being smaller with more children in, as well as outdoor provision.

Children are being impacted by staffing changes, but are very happy with the new school uniform.

[Will Godshill have Pupil Voice?](#) JD will carry out a visit.

MS reported that children are showing a lot of resilience.

UH submitted an **English** report (Barton) – this was a very useful meeting. Children don't have as much writing stamina and are not doing things like colouring, drawing etc and learning fine motor skills This is a reflection of how society is changing.

Reading results are not as good as writing for Year 6 SATs, and therefore teachers will have to teach to the test, which is essential to improve results. Several cultural references are not familiar to children.

Interventions are continuing and teachers carry out gap analysis to find out weaknesses, which are addressed in small groups.

## **10. Approve Policies**

Some suggested amendments have already been made. VB went through all policies in detail.

VB feels it would be useful if policy review was carried out as a 2-stage process – the first stage will be for VB to send suggestions back to the policy drafters, as they are the ones with knowledge of the schools.

Definitions are not always consistent across policies.

**It was agreed to defer agreement of policies to the next meeting.**

The clerk advised that NS can sign off any urgent policies as a Chair's action once the necessary amendments have been made.

## **11. Any Additional Business**

**Pay Committee** – several attendees left as they are staff members (MS, ChM, YL – sister of ChM, SuM, LMH). The meeting remained quorate as the number of governors eligible to vote had changed.

Several teachers' pay grades were advanced via natural progression and MS has no concerns regarding standard of teaching. **Pay governors accepted all recommendations made.**

**HTPM** – appraisal was carried out with DB / UH present. MS is currently at the top of his range. A letter has been sent to MS thanking him for his efforts last year. A proposal has been received from MS and SuM – in light of the 4% increase coming in for all staff, they wish to drop by one point on the leadership scale as the pay rise will take them slightly above their present salary level.

Having discussed the offer at length, DB and Pay Committee members concluded that it was made in very good faith. **Pay governors therefore accepted the offer and agreed a yearly review should take place.**

Governors expressed gratitude to MS and SuM for their offer.

**All governors present agreed to ratify the recommendations of the Pay Committee, including for HTPM.**

Staff members and YL returned to the meeting.

**MS report** – MS circulated a document to governors, sharing what the schools do in terms of activities and enrichment. Staff deserve big thanks for all they do, especially on the residential trips.

Staff still go above and beyond to deliver a broad and enriched curriculum. DB mentioned that she is running a chess club.

**Governors agreed a formal thank you should be sent to staff for their hard work.**

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 4.00pm Finance Working Party, Barton
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 4.00pm, FGB, Barton

**Clerk (AS) to send updated meeting schedule** – some changes have been made to venues.

## 13. Impact of Meeting

- Pay Committee recommendations ratified
- LAC update received from GE covering both schools
- Visit reports received from ChM (verbal) and UH
- Financial situation discussed in detail
- Meeting with LA to take place after half-term and be supported by senior governors
- Nursery consultation deadline extended
- Policies to be agreed at November FGB meeting
- Both schools offering a wide range of enrichment and other activities to children
- Governors to send a formal acknowledgement to staff for their hard work

**End of meeting – 5.58pm.**