



**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 27th November 2025
at Barton Primary School**

Name	Role/Governor	Attended * online	Sent apologies
Naomi Smy (NS)	Co-opted Governor - Chair	✓	
Ursula Hutchinson (UH)	Local Authority Governor	-	✓
Diane Barker (DB)	Co-opted Governor - Vice-Chair	-	✓
Carolyne Meer (CM)	Co-opted Governor	✓	
Mark Snow (MS)	Headteacher	✓	
Verity Bird (VB)	Co-opted Governor	✓	
Charmaine Murphie (ChM)	Staff Governor	-	✓
Sarah Morrison (SM)	Parent Governor	✓	
Mark Atkins (MA)	Parent Governor	✓ Joined 4.14	
Matthew Price (MP)	Co-opted Governor	-	✓
Jamie Dickinson (JD)	Co-opted Governor	✓	
Amy Martindale (AM)	Co-opted Governor - Co Vice-Chair	✓	
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)	✓ Joined 4.08	
Karl Whiting (KW)	School Business Manager	✓ (item 5) Joined 4.08, left 4.26	

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 4.05pm and finished at 5.15pm having considered all items on the agenda.

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

NS welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Agree any items of urgent business

No urgent items were received.

3. Receive and agree whether to accept apologies

DB, ChM, UH and MP sent apologies for this meeting, which were accepted.

4. Declarations of Interest

None received for this meeting.

5. Finance Update (KW)

KW joined meeting, 4.08pm. Papers had been circulated in advance.

Pupil numbers are reducing and costs rising. Barton restructured over the summer and made budget savings; however, the school remains in a deficit position, and the deficit will increase over the next three years. There is a consultation across both schools regarding the new nursery provider – the school will lose funding but still incur wage costs for staff. The next part of this paragraph is recorded as a confidential minute.

The financial situation is having a negative impact on existing staff, and the income the school receives won't be sufficient. DB, MS, and KW attended a meeting with the LA two weeks ago, and they are asking how the school will recover the deficit.

Godshill has a similar picture. Pupil numbers were affected by school place planning (SPP) and the support staff restructure is under way. Two LSAs have already left. There is a consultation to lower the age range with a view to another provider. The school will lose funding for excess staff, but this is a better offer long-term for both schools.

The deficit is increasing, but the budget includes potential restructure savings.

KW circulated the SRMA visit report and this was seen by the FWP two weeks ago. There were no surprises. The school is doing everything it can. There are many high needs children coming into both schools, needing more support than the teacher, and the funding is not sufficient to cover staffing costs for these children.

MA joined the meeting, 4.14pm.

High needs issues are a concern, especially in primary schools on the Island, due to a lack of resources and alternative provisions for children with complex needs.

Some success stories have happened with these children, but it requires investment from the start.

MS wishes governors to make representation to the LA via a letter.

Staff going off sick will cost the school yet more money.

DB, UH, NS and MS have written a brief letter to Ashley Whittaker (AW, IW Council) but this is still to be sent. AW has visited Barton to see the challenges first-hand.

What is the content of the letter? The letter didn't go as it needs adding to.

There are facilities at Westridge - can we use any more? The school has already used it a lot. It's the day-to-day consumables that are needed. Chromebooks need updating and these are expensive.

Other items also need replacing. The combi oven in the kitchen has broken down and the cheapest replacement is around £6,000. There is also a problem with the dishwasher in the staff room.

SuM is regularly looking for staff to help in the nursery, dining room etc.

Next year, an amount of around £50,000 in funding will be lost from pupils that are leaving the school.

Does the price per pupil go up every year? It does with inflation. There is funding for deprivation. Several children have IDACI postcodes, due to living in an area of deprivation, and there is also EAL (English as additional language) funding. The funding works out at about £4,500 – £5,000 per pupil.

Staffing wise, there is natural wastage most years, and there are staff currently on maternity leave in both schools. SPP clearly impacted both schools.

Two children joined Barton nursery this week, with no funding, and both are high needs.

Governors feel that both Island MPs should be kept in the loop, especially Richard Quigley.

Governors agreed both budgets, which were signed by NS and MS.

KW was thanked by governors. KW left the meeting, 4.26pm.

6. Agree Minutes of Federation GB Meeting (16th October)

The 16th October 2025 Federation FGB minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record, and will be signed electronically by DB (NS sent apologies for this meeting).

7. Matters Arising

The letter referred to wasn't regarding school closures. MS explained the school has effectively lost eight TAs before the holidays. Year 6 has six children with EHCPs and one TA per class. Several children require 1:1 support.

EHCPs attract around £11,500 for the higher band and each TA costs £25,000 per year. Extra planning is needed. The cost per child goes up to around £40,000.

A small percentage of children are not coping and, for many, school is their safe space.

Barton is at a critical stage, taking MS away from Godshill more than he would like.

The letter to AW is a request for help. MS explained that Beth Dyer (BD, IW Council) has visited, with the DfE SEN advisor, and offered advice. MS met the DfE advisor the night before to explain the issues. The second DfE visit will look at how the Children and Family Centre works with the school. There is disconnect on what is available.

The SEN advisor saw the challenges some of Barton's children have, such as speech and language and SEMH, and also saw a number of enrichment activities.

On this basis, MS and NS decided to hold back on the letter until they had spoken to all governors.

One EHCP application was turned down as not meeting the threshold. MS met with the mediator after the parent challenged and the decision was subsequently overturned; however, this process took four months.

Children are presenting with more complex needs, and parenting has changed.

A governor suggested putting together an anonymised spreadsheet to list children and what each costs for doing what is required to support them.

[What happens if the school refuses to take more children with additional needs until they receive funding?](#) The LA will send the children if that is the school requested by their parent / carer.

NS explained that the letter is saying where the school is at and the LA needs to come and have conversations. **Governors agreed that challenge is needed.**

MS mentioned an open day for prospective teachers held at the school today, which was very poorly attended.

The present system appears to be at breaking point. The Island needs a special deal for education, as the LA currently lacks the capacity to support its schools.

NS to amend and share letter to LA with all governors.

All other matters have been completed.

8. Receive and Consider Governor Visit Reports

ChM sent a visit report, which was uploaded – this was covered at the last meeting.

At the last meeting NS attended, governors were asked to try to get link visits in by Christmas. KD, YL, and AM have made a visit to Barton. VB is meeting GE on Monday and will do a catch-up ahead of the March FGB meeting.

VB to send previous Science and Technology reports to new link governors.

9. Approve Policies

No policies were brought to the meeting. The clerk suggested an AI policy. **Clerk to share AI policy templates.**

10. HT Report

Both schools are included in the nursery consultation. MS met with parents invited to come in. Very few parents attended Barton. Godshill parents are worried about flexibility with payments as the new providers won't offer that.

The majority of parents were happy overall and the consultation will hopefully be signed off tomorrow.

There will be impact on staff at Godshill, which is why whole school restructure is needed. The consultation at Godshill has started and MS has met the TAs potentially involved. KW is working on redundancy packages.

Staffing – maternity leaves are impacting both schools, as these are expensive to manage. Five staff are out across both schools on full-time pay, with one staff member from each school on long-term sick leave. Temporary cover has been arranged to help support vulnerable children at Barton. The receptionist at Godshill is resigning.

Behaviour at Barton – BD will come in and do some work with the school, and has offered guidance.

Both schools have been chosen for **EYFS moderation**. Feedback is seen to be very strong at Barton, but it is also evident that several children come with challenges.

DB and UH to make visits around SIPs and SEFs.

Attendance – Barton attendance numbers are improving. There are some persistent absence issues at Godshill, which are down to two children and this is skewing data quite a bit. Barton attendance remains above national.

There is a knock-on effect for children paying two bus fares to get from Ventnor to Godshill, due to road closures. This will be mentioned in the letter to the LA.

Numbers on roll – PP is currently 41% at Barton. Godshill PP remains around the national average.

There are eight EHCPs in process at Barton. Barton has two LAC children, which is low for the school. Godshill has three LAC children.

There are four children at Barton with a total of thirty days in suspensions. One permanent exclusion was made from Barton this week and a panel is being convened. Godshill has no suspensions.

The LA has been made aware of all children at Barton that need exceptional support.

Safeguarding – Thirty children remain under Early Help at Barton, with nine at Godshill. Barton has fourteen CIN (Child in Need) cases, with one case at Godshill. Barton has two Child Protection cases at present, which is low. One child at Barton is being supported by the Youth Offending Team.

Data - Phonics scores this year are really strong and Early Years data is improving.

Need to focus – Barton outperforms Godshill at higher levels, which shouldn't be the case and needs looking at. Progress scores will gradually come back after Covid.

H&S – the climbing frame at Barton has a broken rope and will cost £1,200 to fix. There are damaged doors in the hallway and the scooter racks require attention. A new cooker is needed in the school kitchen. The nursery relocation is funded. A fire drill (accidental) was completed.

Godshill – a shelter will be built outside the Years 1, 2, 3 area as a cloakroom but needs listed building consent. Work will be done over Christmas. A new ramp will lead into the small Portakabin, which is being funded by money from the government. Kitchen remedial work has been completed and a new hygiene inspection requested.

Staffing – two TAs have left Godshill. Staff that have left need to be taken off the school structure.

Challenges going forward – as for Barton.

Are governors involved in the consultation with Godshill? Once the consultation is finished, governors will start getting involved. Unions have visited to meet with staff.

NS thanked MS – it is helpful to see things in context.

11. Any Additional Business

FWP chair – AM offered to be Chair and MA offered to be Vice Chair. Both were elected.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday 29th January 2026 – FGB, 4.00pm, Godshill – Gordon Duff to attend
- Thursday 5th March 2026 – FWP, 4.00pm, Godshill

13. Impact of Meeting

- HT report – nursery consultation due to be signed off, staff restructure under way at Godshill.
- FWP Chair and Vice Chair elected.
- Mid-year budgets agreed.
- Letter going to IW Council regarding support around children with additional needs.

A governor asked about Barton’s active school uniform. The children love it. MS is looking to introduce this to Godshill and will discuss more in the New Year. Governors briefly discussed some issues, mainly around cost.

SLT at Barton have been spoken to by parents of children with sensory needs, as some have found shirts scratchy.

Clerk to invite Gordon Duff (Governor Services & Clerking Manager) to attend FGB on 29th January.

End of meeting – 5.15pm.