

Trust Board Confidential Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 15th October 2025 – Central Offices

Present: Paul Howieson (PH), Martin Copsey (MC) (Chair), Brendan Mullany (BM), Jo Levasier (JL), Lucy Waterhouse (LW) Rod Woodford (RW), Paul Chadwick (PC), Claire Lawrenson (CL), Les Lane (LL), James Mikolajewski

Apologies: Mark Gilbert (MG)

In Attendance: Sue Bennett (SEB) Minutes, John Varney (JV) Observer, Dan Roberts (DR) (part)

		Action
6.	Strategy for Falling Role (document circulated with the agenda) Dan Roberts from Salisbury Diocese joined the meeting via Teams to discuss the future of St George's and St Mark's schools. PH provided an overview of the schools' histories and outlined the reasons why their future is under consideration, highlighting the challenge of falling pupil numbers. To ensure long-term viability, trustees are asked to consider the potential amalgamation of the two schools into a single entity, with discussions to be held in liaison with the diocese and the local authority regarding which site—St George's in Langton Matravers or St Mark's on the edge of Swanage. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <u>Trustee questions / comments</u> What is the suggested PAN for the combined school? 15, across four classrooms, with a reception class and three mixed-age classes, similar to the setup at Wool. The parent communities differ at each school, and we need to ensure the chosen capacity meets local demand without reinforcing existing biases. We need to prioritise the best interests of the children, as well as understanding parental perspectives, and considering the broader role of the school in the community; it is also important to look at the financial and estate implications for CLP. With regards to community consultation, do we consult on a range of options or reach a provisional decision first and consult on that basis? We need to plan for long-term sustainability, rather than a short-term fix. Not doing anything yet is an option and we need to consider what that looks like. What is the decision path?	

Meeting closed at 8:10

Next meeting: Wednesday 10th December 2025 – Teams