



ST MARK'S AND ST GEORGE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOLS
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING
Thursday, 9th October 2025 from 4.00pm-6.15pm
(LOCATION – ST GEORGE'S)

Present: Chair – Richard Purchase (RP), Headteacher – Katy Astle (KA), Judith Bird (JB), Lindy Cameron (LC), Liz Fielder (LF), Zoey Ingarfield (ZI), Bridget Leary (BL), Poppy Maltby (PM) on TEAMS, Heather Pardoe (HP), Carole Richards (CR)

Apologies: Cheryl Sutton (CS)

In Attendance: Clerk – Jane Ramsden, Deputy Head – Amy Howe

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES The Chair (RP) welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with round table of introductions with Amy Howe (Deputy Head) and Bridget Leary (Foundation Governor) joining for the first time. Apologies received and agreed from Cheryl Sutton (new Foundation Governor). A notice of resignation has been received and accepted Angela Bell (Foundation Governor). The Head and governors gave thanks for all of Angela's support at St Georges during her time as a governor.	
1.2	DECLARATION OF BUSINESS INTERESTS None	
1.3	MINUTES, ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING The minutes of the dated 10th July 2025 were agreed as a true record and the Chair will mark as signed on Governor Hub. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <u>Actions:</u> Head to share breakdown of results – <i>provided in papers, see Item 2</i> Head to share safeguarding training information with governors – <i>RP and HP attended.</i>	RP RP
2.0	VISION AND VALUES	
2.1	<u>Nature and impact of the School's (distinctly Christian) Vision & Values</u> At St Mark's the Head said that the vision and values are wonderful and having led worship found children knew the values and (other than the younger children) are able to discuss what they mean.. Praise captains have been introduced to represent each of the four values (two Year 6 per value) and they will support with monitoring and deciding rewards etc. It was really positive to see some of the quieter children put themselves forward for these roles. At St George's the Deputy Head did similar and echoed the experience of the Head at St Mark's. A Governor asked what governors should look out for when visiting? Through discussion and observation, do children know the vision and values and are they being lived out by staff and pupils. Also, make sure that governors know them too.	

ST MARK'S AND ST GEORGE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING

ITEM		ACTION
	An evaluation of impact of worship has previously been carried out at St Mark's and this has been shared with the Head. The next steps/self-evaluation is on the Status Report. A Governor visited St Mark's had an amazing chat with the children who are happy and there are lots of things going on. Children now do the opening and closing words at worship so are more invested.	
3.0	EDUCATION PROVISION AND OUTCOMES	
3.1	<u>Evaluation of pupil outcomes last year</u> The Head reported that there are lots of positives at both schools but also some areas of focus going forward, therefore some school priorities are linked to results. At <u>St Mark's</u> the Year 6 results were lower than expected but they had a number of cohort specific challenges including staff changes. The spelling, punctuation and grammar were above national benchmark which is positive; however, there will be a focus on reading. Early Years data was quite low, though contextually (taking account of baseline) they outperformed similar schools. This is likely to be the same this year as children are joining from low starting points, though already making great progress (staff are aspirational despite the low baseline). [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Multiplication Tables Checks (MTC) are improving year on year. Leaders are making sure that access arrangements are being fully utilised. <u>St George's</u> has continued to improve over the last two years; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] staff have worked with the school improvement partner to look at next steps. KS2 were above national for writing and maths with reading in line with national. A Governor asked about pre-school children and their readiness for school. The Head said that this is very cohort specific but there is more that can be done in pre-school to raise their baseline. How closely can school staff work with Explorers Nursery at St Mark's? Staff work very closely together and children joined the school for transition activities in the afternoon during the summer term and settled well.	
3.2	<u>Evaluate the impact of last year's Pupil Premium strategy and next steps</u> At <u>St Mark's</u> there is a higher number of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium – 50%. There are lots of things in place which are really positive eg additional staff, wider curriculum, pastoral support and lots of Forest School. The Head is looking at growing capacity for the latter as there is only one Forest School trained staff member at St Georges and one at Explorers – there is currently a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant (TA) and this could be an opportunity to appoint a trained person or offer training as part of the role. A Governor asked how to best deploy staff to support children. There is an excellent intervention lead at St Mark's: children who are not reading at home read with an adult in class. There is also a golden ticket reward which the Head said she will likely replicate at St George's. Governors discussed the challenges of lack of social housing in the area and that families are having to leave the school/area when offered housing elsewhere despite wanting to remain in the town/village.	
4.0	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT	
	<u>School Improvement Plans for this Year</u>	
4.1	Priority 3: St Mark's and St Georges development of school leadership and middle leadership across both schools under the new single Headteacher model. Assistant Heads will be leading on Maths (SSM) and Reading (SGPS) at their respective schools with the Deputy Head leading on Maths at SGPS and Reading at SSM.	

**ST MARK'S AND ST GEORGE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING**

ITEM		ACTION
	A Governor asked about staff anxiety and how everyone is feeling about the new leadership arrangements. There has been a review at St George's by the CLP School Improvement team, which staff felt a bit nervous about but the review has been positive and supportive. Head to share St George's School Improvement report when available It was asked how leaders manage time between the two schools. Until half term, leaders are working on a week-by-week timetable (which staff have asked for it to be more time specific) – after that arrangements will be slightly different. There has been lots of training at the central offices and there are challenges for St Mark's on Tuesdays, so leaders are mindful of these things. How are the St George's staff finding it? The Deputy Head and SENCO are additional staff which has increased capacity. St Mark's Priority 1: Teaching of reading, particularly Key Stage 2. There is already a robust (Ofsted 'approved' phonics scheme which is working very well. The transition fluency of reading etc is being worked on and reading will be a focus at the January INSET day. St Mark's Priority 2: Mixed aged/class pedagogy. Work to look at the curriculum year on year; the Deputy Head is remapping this. St George's Priority 1: Teaching of English and breadth of the curriculum following the new writing framework which was issued in July 2025. The October INSET will include a writing input for staff. St George's Priority 2: Development of foundation subjects. The review this week showed improved consistency. St George's Priority 3: Develop an aspirational curriculum in (the recently joined) pre-school. The environment has already improved. There will be support from schools who have already worked with HIAS and two days in November lead by the central School Improvement partner. Despite having a really strong EYFS at St Mark's, there are other CLP schools more contextually matched to St George's. Is the EYFS at St Mark's hitting all the key areas for development? Yes, because it is tailored around the children. Does the Explorers Nursery use the same phonics at the school? They use pre-phonics and believe that they have and do invest in their staff to deliver effectively. The St George's pre-school scheme was quite out of date. <u>Preparation for School Inspection – St George's</u> Under the new Ofsted framework, inspection will likely be looking through the lens of SEND and Inclusion. Governors will be invited by inspectors to have a conversation as part of the inspection. On both Status Reports there is a Self Evaluation section which includes developing areas. The Clerk will arrange for governors to have a session on the new inspection framework and requirements. Safeguarding Link to liaise with the Head to arrange a SCR check visit.	KA Clerk HP
5.0 5.1	SAFETY AND WELFARE OF PUPILS <u>Impact of the School's Behaviour Policies</u> Behaviour Policies for both schools received and approved by governors. The St Mark's behaviour policy is being further reviewed in consultation with staff and will come back to a future LGB meeting to be discussed.	KA

**ST MARK'S AND ST GEORGE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING**

ITEM		ACTION
5.2	<u>Safeguarding and Pupils accessing alternative provision and part time education</u> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. There are similar issues at both schools – most concerns (MyConcern) are linked to behaviour. The Head is looking into other platforms for logging behaviour, though safeguarding and behaviour are often linked. A Governor asked if it is working having the Head as Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Head reported that it's working and that there are also a number of Deputy SLs Are all staff taking responsibility for logging on MyConcern? Yes, the Head has worked with staff on this and also resolved any login issues. There will be a Safeguarding Review on 4th December and the Head will find out if the link governor is able/expected to join.	KA
6.0 6.1 6.2	CONTEXT, STATUS, NEEDS AND RESOURCES <u>Impact of pupil numbers on school's context</u> A Governor asked if in mixed classes, when they are full can they take any more pupils as in the PP Strategy it says 'encouraging more pupils yet some are turned away. The total class size depends on key stage but sometimes it comes down to class dynamics and pupil needs. A Governor asked if enquiries vs turning away could be reported on the status report. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	KA
7.0 7.1	REVIEW OF SPECIFIC POLICIES Governors approved the following policies via email at the beginning of September. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Fire Safety Policy Governors approved the following policies: Public Sector Equality Duty Policy Intimate Care Policy Governors noted the following Trust Board approved policies: AI Policy Data Protection Policy Enhancing Provision with Animals in School Policy First Aid and Medical Conditions & Managing Medication and Allergy Policy Health and Safety Policy Managing Allegations of Abuse Policy Physical Handling Policy Relationships and Sex Education Policy Safer Recruitment Policy School Catering Nutrition Policy SEND Policy	

**ST MARK'S AND ST GEORGE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING**

ITEM		ACTION
8.0	SCHOOL /LGB SPECIFIC <u>Governance</u> The Vice Chair role appointment will be deferred to the December meeting when all vacancies should be filled. Staff governor vacancy – Clerk to send out formal advertisement Parent governors – the Chair will be sending out a letter to parents which will include reference to the parent governor vacancies. These will be formally advertised after half term. Co-opted Vacancy – interest in the role from Zoey Ingarfield, previously Parent Governor at St George's and possible lead for EYFS. <u>Websites</u> The Head informed governors that both school websites will be moving to Juniper – timings to be confirmed. Facebook pages at St Mark's – staff to take a lead in keeping these up to date. <u>Staffing</u> Interviews for Teaching Assistant on 16th October. BL volunteered to support on this day. <u>Breakfast Club</u> The Head told governors that the children at St Mark's love breakfast club <u>Health and Safety</u> visit on 24th October – Head to confirm which school The Chair suggested inviting the SENCO to the February for a focus on SEND/Inclusion.	
9.0	KEY MESSAGES FOR TRUST BOARD None.	
10.0	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday, 4th December 2025	

Half Term	SSM and SGPS LGB
Autumn 1	Thursday, 9th October
Autumn 2	Thursday, 4th December
Spring 1	Thursday, 5th February
Spring 2	Thursday, 19th March
Summer 1	Thursday, 7th May
Summer 2	Thursday, 16th July

**ST MARK'S AND ST GEORGE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS – AUTUMN 1

RP to follow up discussion re LGB status and clarify
Clerk to arrange Ofsted framework session for governors
KA to review St Mark's behaviour policy for the next LGB meeting
KA to share St George's School Improvement visit report when available
KA to liaise with Heather about a Safeguarding review on 4th December
KA to include information on enquiries vs turn aways on pupil number data
Clerk to progress governor vacancies/advertisements
KA to liaise with BL for TA interviews on 16th October
KA to confirm details of H&S visit on 17th December