

KING EDWARD VII SCHOOL
MINUTES OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Venue: Library, Upper School, Glossop Road
Tuesday 22 April 2025, 5.15pm – 7.15pm

PRESENT:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Dickson, Chair of Governors (PD) • Linda Gooden, Headteacher (LGO) • Louisa Warde, Deputy Headteacher (LAW) • Emma Titterington-Giles (ETG) • Michael Williams (MW) • Catherine Jackson, AHT Inclusion (CJ), part attendance • Marcus Brown (MJB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Galletly (RG) • Kate Williamson, Vice Chair of Governors (KW) • Chris Hood (CH) • Mohamed Ahmed (MA) • Mark Lallemand, teacher of English and Schools' Climate Education South Yorkshire Lead (MLA), part attendance
---	--

No.	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Apologies for absence	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Donna Ellerby, Business Manager (DE) 	
2.	Declaration of any pecuniary interests relevant to this agenda and to ensure the register of pecuniary interests for all governors and staff is up to date	
	None declared.	
3.	Confirmation of the previous meeting and report on matters arising from the minutes on 28 January 2025	
	<p>School budget position: DE and LGO provided an update.</p> <p>Annual Staff Survey: Governors to have an input into the next set of questions.</p>	LGO, PD
4.	Climate and sustainability: context and related areas, presentation; including identifying a link governor	
	<p>All introduced themselves to Mark Lallemand, teacher of English at the School and Schools' Climate Education South Yorkshire (SCEsy) lead, who delivered the above presentation, entitled 'The DfE Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy for Schools.'</p> <p>Governors were invited to ask questions on the above and of CJ's update below.</p> <p>KW – What is the capacity in going after funding? Mark said the organisation is working with external organisations as the Department for Education has access to clear funding streams and can signpost to processes as they know the pressures that are on school leaders.</p> <p>CH attended a similar conference in 2019 and referred to the national objective target by 2025; what are the consequences of this in terms of the plans of OFSTED?</p> <p>Mark said this is a key question; some believe the concept is statutory but it is not. Make most of positive opportunities.</p> <p>PD said there may be a difficulty with the Upper School building in terms of installing solar panels etc. due to its listed building status.</p>	

	<p>ETG referred to the national education nature park – how accessible is this? border issues etc? CJ said mapping is helpful in this.</p> <p>If any governor is interested in being the link governor for climate and sustainability please let JJ know.</p>	ALL
5.	Climate and sustainability – update on School action	
	<p>CJ gave an update on the work taking place in School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has been invited to and has attended a number of high profile events including the above. • Invited to Nature for North at the Millenium galleries recently. 600 people attended; 400 online and 200 in person, including the Mayor, Oliver Coppard. • Next steps: Key staff will draft an action plan and will meet with Mark to discuss what has been done so far and how to move forward. This will then be shared with the LT and the Governing Board. 	Key staff
6.	Feedback from the School Improvement Partner’s (SIP) visit on 27.2.25 and further action	
	<p>LGO gave an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last visit took place on the 27 February 2025 and in anticipation of this visit LGO broadened the scope as previously work was around deep dives into curriculum areas, peer coaching programme for staff and specific work with members of staff. For the visit, LGO presented an overview of the School, plus the following areas were covered: Year 13 raising attainment, focus on pupil premium and SEND; attendance; and. Key Stage 4 progress and focusing on pupil premium and SEND. Work with Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 AHTs with a focus on inclusion strategy. LAW and LGO received productive feedback at the end of the day. LGO will build any areas for development into the school improvement plan for next year. <p>Feedback included:</p> <p>Post 16: The School is positive about data and strategies that are in place to support students, not only in lessons but in additional support through the My Achievement Programme. School is pleased with how tutorial sessions have been restructured to support students. Tutorial sessions are now used for subject mentoring. LGO discussed the healthy number of Post 16 applications the School has received and are looking forward to seeing these convert to offers of places.</p> <p>Attendance: The strategy is robust. The Educational Welfare Officers in the School have done some really good work with our cohort of concerns this year. The School will continue to identify even earlier, students whose attendance is dropping off. The School is keen to strengthen links at Key Stage 2 to identify students earlier.</p> <p>Positivity around the Focus 52 initiative: The Key Stage 4 team identified a cohort of students who would benefit from additional support and mentoring. This is working really well and the SIP was impressed that LT members are involved in this. It has proven to be very productive and will hopefully have a positive impact on the students’ outcomes. Students are involved in action tutoring who provide support to students who need it. The School recognises that there is still a gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students. The SIP recommended</p>	

	<p>streamlining and narrowing the focus and this will happen in the next academic year.</p> <p>Inclusion Strategy: The School is part of the Compass Programme which was co-constructed by five schools including King Edward VII School originally. The aim of the Compass Programme is to reduce the number of students who are suspended and permanently excluded across our schools. This works incredibly well and is on the cusp of expanding.</p> <p>Suspensions decreased from the previous year. School is working with other schools to place students in other schools when a fresh start is needed to avoid permanent exclusions.</p> <p>The SIP said there is strong evidence to demonstrate that School leaders are working collaboratively alongside clear strategic direction and monitoring.</p> <p>LGO said as part of the Learn Sheffield subscription the School has access to a number of School Improvement Partner days and will repeat this next year. Some of the time will be used for the SIP to work with governors. The next visit takes place on 6 June 2025. The programme to be finalised with SLT and to look at how governors can be involved.</p> <p>Governors were invited to ask questions on the above.</p> <p>MA asked LGO if she felt that there were any areas where governor involvement could add more value? Governors can add value in terms of areas of their expertise. LGO said for example, CH has experience in student mental health. The School will revisit the skills and experience of governors to see how they can continue to support the work that we are doing as a School. MA said he has certain expertise of areas he is interested in.</p> <p>MJB said of attendance; the DfE have changed coding which has made it harder for schools in changing the landscape. The Children Missing in Education (CME) team have changed how they do this; the School has to gather information if a student has not attended School for a period of time. The School used to be able to backdate leaving the date to the last date of attendance but it is now the date of referral that is used.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Secondary sector sufficiency – School sites and School places – further discussion and suggested actions</p>	
	<p>LGO gave brief update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors are aware of the position of the School and this has been discussed a number of times. • LGO sent a letter to the Operations Manager who has oversight of School sites and their potential capacity. • King Edward VII School has been asked to consider an additional form of entry to the school for the next three years and it is not do-able. • LGO spent time drafting the letter and hopes it captured everything before any decisions are made in relation to the School. • The letter has been received and acknowledged and the Operations Manager said it will be helpful in them making decisions. • No further communication received from them to date. 	

	LGO asked governors if they had any other questions on the above or any further areas for LGO to pursue in regard to this. Governors asked questions and LGO responded.	
8.	Complaints to the School 2023 – 2024 and 2024 to date	
	<p>ETG said she attended a session recently on minimising complaints (regarding SEND). She attended the session to learn what she could do to assist in this. Governors need to be aware of the type and number of complaints coming through. LGO said all complaints received in School are logged, including subject access requests and freedom of information requests, and these fluctuate in number. The School aims to deal with them on an informal level initially in line with the School’s policy. Most complaints refer to students. LGO said it is important that the School listens, investigates and shares outcomes with the person making the complaint. All complaints are addressed in accordance with the School’s Complaints Policy.</p> <p>EW asked about the Local Authority legal team? How much support does LGO get from them if a situation progresses (complaint etc). Does she feel supported? LGO said initially yes.</p> <p>LGO asked if there were any further questions from governors.</p> <p>MA said in relation to recurring themes, SEND etc. Should the School look at patterns? LGO acknowledged this and provided a detailed response.</p>	
9.	Reports from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee – minutes circulated. • Curriculum and Performance Committee – governors allocated themselves to subject areas in the School and are looking at times to visit. JJ to send the list to new governors to ask them to sign up to some areas. ETG, along with SB, met with the SENDCO in School recently. They want to talk about pupil passports with governors. ETG will arrange a visit via JJ. LGO said the SENDCO is leaving at the end of the School year. Recruitment to this post is taking place. Link governors (if applicable)	
10.	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing Board’s Action Plan – deferred to next meeting. • Social Media, X <p>EW asked about thoughts on continuing to post on X and whether this meets the School’s values. LGO said the School had been looking at BlueSky and will stop using X in the near future. Additionally, the School will completely rebuild School website. Key members of staff are working on this. Costs will be discussed with the Business Manager before sharing with governors. The new website will be contemporary but will retain the branding of the School.</p>	
	<p>Meeting finished 7.40pm</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8 July 2025</p>	