

Beaminster School
Minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting held on
Wednesday 8th July 2026, 9.15am

Governors (12):	N Chalkley (NC), L Donaldson (LD), D Ennals (DE), P Fleming (PF), K Hales (KH) Headteacher , B Millwood (BM) Chair , G Montague (GM), C Moss (CM), K Patten (KP), S Rollick (SR), R Tanner (RT), S Thompson (ST).
In Attendance:	T Harley (TH) Clerk , R Barnes (RB) Associate member , K Quigley (KG) Associate member , R Barker (RB) Prospective Governor , S Walters (SW) KS5 DOLA <i>from 10.15 to 10.50am only</i>

Item	Detail	Actions
75.1.	Welcome & Apologies: Apologies: S A Palmer (SAP), C Shead-Jones (CSJ), P Tanner (PT), A Taylor (AT), all accepted. Absent: None. The meeting was quorate.	
75.2.	Declaration of Beneficial Interest: None declared.	
75.3.	Governor appointments: New appointed Parent Governor: - The governors approved the appointment of Mrs S Thompson as an appointed Parent Governor, four-year term from 8th July 2026. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: - There had been one nomination for Chair; B Millwood, and one nomination for Vice-Chair; R Tanner. All governors present at the meeting were given ballot papers to ensure a majority. TH collected the completed ballot papers and after counting confirmed that BM and RT had both received a majority vote and were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair for a 1-year term.	Update records for GB appointments
75.4.	Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2026 (non-confidential minutes, previously circulated): The governors approved the non-confidential minutes as a true and accurate record and agreed for them to be published on the school website. They were signed by BM.	TH /NC – publish non-confidential minutes
75.5.	Matters arising and action list update from the minutes: The governors reviewed the minutes and actions NOTING: 74.5: R Howes would be invited to the September FGB meeting to discuss his ECL visit reports and maintained schools. - KH would circulate an anonymised student report for governors to review. 74.12: CSJ had attended the HTPM training and would replace BM on the panel from September. - All other actions were either complete, in hand or on the agenda and there were no other matters arising.	Update action plan
75.6.	School Improvement: (School Strategy 2030, SiP's and KPI papers, previously circulated). <i>RB left the meeting at 10.10am and SW entered the meeting at 10.15am</i> KS5 DOLA Report: - SW had been in the job for 3 years, which she found very fulfilling. It was a small (joint) sixth form offering A-levels and one Btec and student recruitment was an issue. Not all students at KS5 were fit for A-levels and students had the ability to travel elsewhere. - There was good communication with SJ Colfox School, with management and department meetings throughout the year. - Marketing; the 6th form branding and a new school prospectus were being developed (draft prospectus's tabled).	

	- Over 60 applications had been received this year. 30 students at Y12 were usual, but 45 would make the 6th form much more viable. - Induction day was on 19th June, and students were given three A-level option blocks and one enrichment block, studied in Y12 only. English and Maths retakes were in low numbers and through intensive teaching support usually finished by the end of the autumn term. GQ: How else is the 6th form promoted, what else do we offer students to encourage them to stay? There was a post 16 taster day for Y10, A-level provision regularly reviewed, interviews and opportunities to apply, but a higher profile within the school and better social media marketing would help. The unit had a dedicated study area, kitchen and lounge and students were given privileges. Developing the expectation that this was a Y7 – Y13 school needed to be fully addressed. - Improving outcomes was the main driver with a deep dive into quality of teaching, improving independent study, analysing data and student mentoring. There was good enrichment entitlement with competitions, speakers, sports teams, clubs and UCAS support, including for apprenticeships and practice interviews. - This year a small group of high achieving students had linked with Colyton School. - Current Y13; 24 university applications with several unconditional offers. - All (9) PP students had applied for university, apprenticeship, work or the armed forces. GQ: Are you actively supporting students worried about the cost of university / availability of graduate jobs? Yes, students are given lots of support to make the right choices for themselves and being directed to degree apprenticeships and other opportunities including Open University. - SW thanked SR and the English dept for their support in developing a literacy link between Primary and the 6th form. <i>SW was thanked for her hard work and left the meeting at 10.50am. RB re-joined the meeting at 10.55am.</i> School Improvement Plan and School Strategy (Strategy document, tabled): - The school strategy was drafted last year as a five-year plan detailing four strategic aims and the key SiP objectives, which would change over the 5 years. The strategy had been shared with stakeholders and would be included in the prospectus. Behaviour & Attendance SiP: - This was linked with the Ofsted framework of raising achievement, leadership and management and inclusion. - There were five objectives with clear strategies and high expectations. GQ: After you understand where behaviour comes from, what happens next? There were clear rules within the classroom with the same boundaries and consequences for all students, including those with SEND, but then after, support for the why, with appropriate interventions is given. This was an evidence based graduated response to meet needs, clearly recorded and communicated to all staff. Curriculum & Teaching SiP: - The main focus was the Inclusive Classroom model. Evidence based allowing for teacher autonomy within a framework to ensure high standards are being met. - Curriculum plans were in place with no real changes as the new National Curriculum was due in 2027. - Homework was embedded well in KS3 and the good practice would now be carried through to KS4.	
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	• GQ: Is there anything in the curriculum to stretch the more able student? The new inspection framework demanded the highest standards for all, to pull everyone up. This was a change of language and mindset. There was nothing specific to being stretched but rather raising standards for all and putting interventions in place to remove barriers. The approach was that every pupil had the ability to reach a grade 9, but some needed more work, time and intervention than others. Personal Development SiP: • There were four key areas through curriculum, enrichment opportunities, leadership and staff support and careers education with new KS3 Gatsby benchmarks. • GQ: Is there too much information in the SiP's for staff? What questions should we be asking to know that they are working? The SiP's explain the shared responsibility for SLT and staff, feed into the departmental plans and align with the strategy. A workshop for governors was suggested to help understanding and support challenge. Headteacher's KPI Summer term Report: • Suspensions were up this year; there had been a spike in vaping issues with a sustained effort and boundaries set. • Attendance; Y7 and Y9 had seen dips with meetings and interventions put in place. • Behaviour; 6.6% negative, but nothing of concern to report. • Governors were asked to review the draft prospectus and forward feedback and any suggestions to NC. A governor commented that they felt the SLT had a good handle on the school, with good support from all staff and there was no reason it could not be an outstanding school.	Arrange workshop on SiP for GB Forward feedback on new prospectus to NC
75.7.	Safeguarding: KQ tabled a Safeguarding lead report for governors NOTING: • KQ had been the DSL since September 2025, arrangements were well embedded and continued to be effective across the school. • Staff demonstrated a strong understanding of procedures and were confident in using the systems and processes in place. • The DDSL's met weekly and ran the day-to-day needs seamlessly, identifying trends and ensuring interventions were put in place where required. • Strong working relationships with external agencies and specialist providers helped deliver early interventions including targeted group work and one-to-one sessions. • There were no significant issues to report to governors, it had been a steady year. • The governors were reassured and congratulated KQ for taking on and succeeding in the role.	
75.8.	SEND & Inclusion: KH updated governors NOTING: • The new Inclusion Hub had had a very successful first year and the LA had requested an increase in numbers from 10 to 12 students in 2026 and up to 14 in 2027. This would allow for funding to support a further TA member and greater capacity to support all the students. • The government had launched the new Inclusion strategy, and all schools would need to publish their strategy on their websites annually at the end of December (like the PP report published each year); agenda item for FGB 2. • £32,000 extra funding would be received to support bringing the strategy into place. Beaminster had over 120 students on the SEND register.	Inclusion strategy – FGB 2 agenda item

	Inclusion would become central to all training and integral to the SiP and teaching & learning.	
75.9.	Standards Committee: (draft minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2026, previously circulated): Minutes; received for information only, with no further matters raised for discussion. Church involvement in school life: DE, as a Foundation Governor, had worked with D Withers on revising the schools common worship policy, in line with the school's recognition of its historical Christian religious character and values. Minor amendments within the policy had been agreed and DE was looking at ways to help develop and deepen the Christian ethos within the school. DE had contacted the RC Church in Beaminster and was hoping to forge a good link between the two, with a meeting set up for later today. - KH confirmed there were links with the CofE Beaminster outreach worker.	
75.10.	Resources Committee (draft minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2026, previously circulated): Minutes; received for information only, with no further matters raised for discussion. - RT confirmed he had engaged with the IT department on cyber security concerns.	
75.11.	Governance Committee ((draft minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2026, previously circulated): Minutes; received for information only, with no further matters raised for discussion. Governor training: it had been agreed at the governance committee meeting that all governors should complete finance training (setting the budget, or similar) as this was a whole board responsibility. New expectations would be written into the Governors guidance document. - A guidance for governors tailored to BS on the new Ofsted toolkit would be written and uploaded onto the shared document file for reference. - Governors were encouraged to attend training sessions and to upload relevant and interesting articles onto the shared document file. - A governor suggested holding face to face training sessions and workshops prior to or as separate GB meetings to aid participation. Training on the navigation and use of Office 365 was requested. Skills Audit results: - The results showed that there were key strengths and a good spread of knowledge across the board. A full report and link to statistics had been circulated with the meeting papers and the governance committee would drill down further into the responses and produce an action report. - Equality & diversity was an area that governors felt a greater confidence was needed and KH & KQ agreed to discuss and share CPD at a future FGB meeting.	Update guidance on training. Write guidance on Ofsted toolkit. Consider bespoke face-to-face training. O365 requested Produce action report on skills audit results
75.12.	Link Scheme (8 reports, previously circulated): - Computer Science; challenging questions on the IT provision and AI had been raised, which governors felt required a wider discussion across all subjects and practices including GDPR, invest and student access to equipment. Action; Standards Committee meeting agenda item. - PE: the link governor had found the suggested questions and termly themes very useful resulting in good dialogue and room for informal conversation. - Support Staff; it was pleasing to see this link established.	AI – Standards Comm. agenda

75.13.	Chairs Report: BM updated governors NOTING: - SR, who was retiring in August, was thanked for her time as staff governor and the huge contribution she had made to the English department and the whole school. - Governors were encouraged to attend school events (School Concert 9th July at 6.30pm) and Governor Training opportunities for learning (DC Nolan's principles and good governance 19th October).	
75.14.	Clerk's Report (Clerks Report, previously circulated): TH introduced the report for information NOTING: The draft meeting dates for 2026 /27 would be circulated before the end of term. Timings for two of the resources committee meetings were still to be confirmed.	Circulate GB meeting dates for 2026 27
75.15.	Any other business: BM asked governors if they had any other business to discuss: None.	
75.16.	2026/7 Meetings, Next meeting dates not yet set.	
	With no further business the meeting ended at 11.30am	

Chair.....Dated.....

Item	Action	Owner	By when /report
75.3	Update governor records	TH	Completed
75.4	Publish approved minutes	TH / NC	Completed
74.4	Interim Budget update to FGB each October (year planner updated)	KP	Res 1, FGB 2 Nov 26 -
75.5	Invite R Howes to attend FGB Sept 26 meeting Anonymised student report for GB review	KH KH	Sept 26 Completed
75.6	Arrange workshop on SiP for GB Forward feedback on new prospectus to NC	KH All Gvs	Sept 26 ASAP
75.8	Inclusion strategy – in year planner	KH	FGB 2 Nov 26
75.11	Update training guidance, write Ofsted toolkit guidance, consider face-to-face training session, organise O365 training session. Produce action report on skills audit results including raising confidence in equalities & diversity	TH/BM BM/SAP	Sept 26 Dec 26
75.12	AI – standards committee agenda item – in year planner	KH/RT	Standards 1 Nov 26
75.14	Circulate GB meeting dates for 2026 27	TH	ASAP