MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF MONKEN HADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT:

Name	Governor Type	Other Information	Term of Office	Present/Apologies/ Absent
Pippa Reid	Foundation LDBS		21.03.2023-20.03.2027	Present
Preethi Daniel	Foundation LDBS		22.11.2023-21.11.2027	Apologies
Caroline Poole	Foundation PCC	Vice Chair	04.11.2023-03.11.2027	Present
Sarah Roth	Foundation PCC	Chair	14.07.2022-13.07.2026	Present
Oliver Jones	Foundation Deanery Synod		25.11.2025-24.11.2029	Present
Duncan Paulson	Foundation (Andrew Hopegood Trust)		01.07.2023-30.06.2027	Apologies
Francesco Aresco	Foundation		N/a (ex-officio)	Present
Anita Bhogaita	Elected Parent		05.10.2024-04.10.2028	Present
Cate Pendegrass	Elected Parent		16.05.2025-15.05.2029	Apologies
Julie Eyres	Staff	Headteacher	N/a (ex officio)	Present
Nina Howard	Staff		23.09.2023-22.09.2027	Apologies
Nick Stokes	LA		22.09.2025-21.09.2029	Present
Non-voting attendees				
Catherine Howell	Finance Officer			In attendance
Caroline Winston	Clerk		N/A	In attendance

PART ONE

1. OPENING PRAYER

1.1 The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

2.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, extending a special welcome to newly appointed Foundation Deanery governor, Oliver Jones.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 Consent was recorded to apologies for absence submitted on behalf of Preethi Daniel, Cate Pendegrass, Nina Howard and Duncan Paulson.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 No business or other interests were declared for this meeting.

5. FINANCE OFFICER MID -YEAR BUDGET REPORT

5.1 The finance officer was in attendance to discuss the October budget forecast which had been shared with governors for review.

5.2 It was highlighted that the budget was in a good position.

5.3 Governors were reminded that there had been a closing balance of £120,711 at the end of 2024/2025. When the budget for 2025/2026 had been ratified, the projected closing balance had been £39,163 and this was now forecast to be £77,384.

5.4 It was recognised that the smaller leadership model currently in place had helped the school financially.

5.5 Although the school was running an in-year deficit, it was positive that it was not yet in a full deficit due to the recent carry forwards.

5.6 Pension contributions had reduced significantly this year for support staff, and this would continue for the next two years.

5.7 Schools had received a grant to cover the 4% teacher pay increases and this had not been included in the original forecast.

5.8 Governors were reminded that 50% of Barnet schools were now in a deficit budget. The school was not expected to reach that point for at least another two years.

5.9 **ASKED** what the roll number had been on Census Day, this was reported to be 147 so the school missed out on three pupils' worth of funding.

MOTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY

It was resolved that, because of its nature, the business to be discussed be treated as confidential and not for publication.

(Part I resumed)

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

6.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

6.2 Arising from the minutes:

6.3 Item 7.8 Provide update session for the FGB on the school's vision and values as well as the development of spirituality The Headteacher tabled a document, originally produced by Thomas Renz, which outlined how the school values were linked to the vision.

6.4 Francesco Aresco and the Headteacher would be meeting to discuss this matter further, including the development of spirituality in school.

6.5 The Clerk was asked to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting in January 2026.

6.6 Item 6.21 Climate Plan **ASKED** about his new shared role as sustainability governor, the Chair undertook to arrange a school visit with Nick Stokes.

Item		**Action**	**Who?**	**Deadline**
6.5		Add update on the school's vision and values as well as the development of spirituality to the next agenda	**HT & FA**	**Jan 2026**
6.6		Arrange school visit with Nick Stokes in his role as sustainability governor link	**Chair**	**Jan 2026**

7. LEADERSHIP UPDATE

7.1 The Headteacher provided a verbal update:

7.2 Roll Numbers It was reported that there were currently 147 children on roll.

7.3 Behaviour Governors were informed that behaviour continued to be excellent.

7.4 **ASKED** about the Year 1 cohort discussed at the last meeting, the Headteacher said that they were continuing to be supported with their behaviour challenges.

7.5 Attendance It was reported that whole school attendance was currently 96.4%, which was above the national average. Persistent absence (PA) was currently 8.7% which related to 12 pupils, 6 of whom absences were related to medical needs, bereavement or family emergencies. The 6 other children had taken unauthorised holidays or had repeated lateness arriving after the register.

7.6 SDP Governors were reminded that the priorities for the new SDP would be shared in January.

7.7 Safeguarding The Headteacher said that there had been no referrals this term. For the two families who were Early Help in October, the LA had now stepped back.

7.8 Filtering The school used the LGfL system for filtering and this was working well with no issues to date.

7.9 **ASKED** whether the system blocked pop up advertisements, it was reported that it did not.

7.10 **ASKED** whether it would prevent children from being able to click on ads, the Headteacher said that it would depend on what was being advertised and teacher vigilance was important.

7.11 Beyond the Classroom It was reported that there had been a variety of trips, parent engagement and enrichment activities in the Autumn term including:

- Remembrance Service
- Mountfitchet Castle trip
- British Museum trip
- Maths afternoon for parents
- Parents' evening
- Anti-Bullying week
- Launch of Growth Mindset
- Charities Committee – Royal Free Charity
- Forest School
- Two class assemblies
- Football matches
- Links with Church: 6 pupils took Communion (with Bishop)

8. PREMISES/HEALTH & SAFETY

8.1 The Autumn term premises report had been shared on GovernorHub for information.

9. STAFFING STUCTURE

9.1 There was nothing further to report.

10. RATIFICATION OF POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

10.1 The following policies had been reviewed by the Headteacher and shared on GovernorHub for approval:

- Health & Safety Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Charging & Remissions Policy
- Finance Policy

10.2 **ASKED** whether, in her role as Chair, she needed to be added to the signatories on page 15 of the finance policy, the Headteacher said that she did not.

10.3 After full consideration, the policies were **RATIFIED.**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Governor Training The Chair reminded governors to record any training attended on their training profile on GovernorHub.

11.2 It was recommended that new governors complete induction training provided by the LDBS.

11.3 The school currently bought into the LDBS training, any BELS training would be invoiced so governors were asked to notify the school if they booked onto anything.

11.4 All governors would be attending safeguarding training at the school on 26th February 2026 at 6.00pm.

11.5 Treasurer's Report It was reported that there was currently £18,965 in the governors fund account. The next LDBS payment of £1,350 was due soon.

11.6 Governors had pledged £6,000-£7,000 for the door replacement project. Consideration could be given to donating funds for the Willow class toilet upgrade, ensuring that £8,000 was held in the account.

11.7 Gift Aid claims for the current cohort of 20 new Reception parents would be processed.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12.1 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as:
- Monday 19th January 2026 at 6.30 pm

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

13.1 A discussion was held on confidential items, which were subject to separate confidential minutes.

ACTION LOG

Item		**Action**	**Who?**	**Deadline**
6.5		Add update on the school's vision and values as well as the development of spirituality to the next agenda	**HT & FA**	**Jan 2026**
6.6		Arrange school visit with Nick Stokes in his role as sustainability governor link	**Chair**	**Jan 2026**