MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF MONKEN HADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2026 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	Present
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	Present
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	Present
Julie Eyres	Staff	Headteacher	N/a (ex officio)	Present
Nina Howard	Staff		23.09.2023-22.09.2027	Present
Nick Stokes	LA		22.09.2025-21.09.2029	Present
Non-voting attendees				
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.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 There were no apologies.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2026 AND MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2026 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5.2 Arising from the minutes:

5.3 Item 5.3 Add update on the school's vision and values as well as the development of spirituality to the next agenda This had been completed.

5.4 Item 7.1 Add school development plan to the next agenda This had been completed.
5.5 Item 8.2 Add governor self-evaluation and skills audit to the next agenda This had been completed.
5.6 Item 9.1 Add risk register update to the next agenda This had been completed.
5.7 Item 10.5 Add equality policy to the next agenda This had been completed.

6. LEADERSHIP UPDATE

6.1 The Headteacher provided a verbal update:
6.2 Roll It was reported that there were currently 147 pupils on roll.
6.3 There had been 157 applications for the 20 Reception places for September 2026. The Headteacher said that 33 of these had been first choice applications, 29 second choice and 46 third choice.
6.4 The Admissions Committee had ranked the applications and sent these to the LA. There had been 8 siblings and 11 CIFs, so places in Reception should be full for September. The Headteacher added that 10 applicants live within 0.6 miles of the school.
6.5 An overview of the criteria was provided for the benefit of new governors.
6.6 There had been no applicants from Monken Hadley Church attendees this year. One family who did attend the Church met the higher criteria as they lived within the 0.6 mile area. The Headteacher said that Monken Hadley was now becoming the school of choice for families living close by.
6.7 Governors were reminded that the Church criteria used to be higher up than the distance criteria, but that this was changed due to falling rolls and had had a positive impact on Reception intake.
6.8 The deadline to update the criteria for 2027-2028 intake had been February, so this would remain unchanged.
6.9 Governors were informed that schools did not know the individual choices of their applicants.
6.10 There had been one application for a PLAC and no EHCPs.
6.11 **ASKED** when a school could admit over numbers, the Headteacher said that there could be exceptions if the LA requested a place for a child with an EHCP.
6.12 Attendance Whole school attendance was currently 96%.
6.13 It was reported that there had been a big push in school with families who were persistently absent (PA). This had included face-to-face meetings, and the school were also aware of some of the challenges individual families were facing.
6.14 PA was currently 8.6% and related to ten children, 2 of whom had medical needs, 1 child was on a reduced timetable and 1 was new to the school.
6.15 Behaviour Whole school behaviour was reported to be good.
6.16 A risk assessment had been undertaken for one SEND child, and additional support had been provided for them in the playground, and they was now on a reduced timetable to ensure their safety and that of all children.
6.17 Filtering The filtering system remained in place and was effective.
6.18 Wellbeing The week before half term, the school had held wellbeing week, which had been positive for staff and pupils and received great feedback through pupil voice.
6.19 Financial Benchmarking The Headteacher presented benchmarking data which compared the school with a selection of local Barnet schools of similar size, plus the Barnet average. It was explained that this data, generated by Barnet, related to the financial year 2024/2025.
6.20 It was highlighted that the school was below other schools and Barnet for most areas.
6.21 Governors were reminded that grants and payments included the recharge for the SENDCO's time so these figures were skewed.

Nick Stokes joined the meeting at this point.

6.22 The school looked higher than the other schools for donations, but this included one-off donations for the outside studio.

6.23 Some fixed costs appeared higher for the school, but for things like heating, this was because they had less children but still needed to heat the building in the same way that they would if there were more children on roll.
6.24 The Headteacher said that she had thoroughly analysed this data with the school's finance officer.
6.25 Teaching costs were in line with the Barnet average and other schools.
6.26 Support staff costs were on the lower side as the school was cautious about the number of TAs they employed.
6.27 Energy costs were in line with the Barnet average.
6.28 **ASKED** why building maintenance appeared high compared to the other schools, the Headteacher explained that this included the garden studio project and donations came in to cover those costs.
6.29 The Headteacher reminded governors that 89% of the budget covered staff salaries.
6.30 A brief discussion ensued, and it was highlighted that the benchmarking data reflected the advice from the LDBS at the last meeting to 'keep with the pack'.

Preethi Daniel joined the meeting at this point.

7. AUTUMN PROGRESS DATA

7.1 The Autumn term data booklet 2025/2026 had been shared on GovernorHub for information.
7.2 An overview was included on points of progress and expectations by term.
7.3 Governors were reminded that the data could be easily skewed by a few pupils when the class sizes were as small as they were at the school.
7.4 **ASKED** for further information about the Year 1 cohort data, the Headteacher explained that they could be below standard at their starting points in Year 1, which was common in the Autumn term. This data was expected to move from red to green in the Spring term.
7.5 **ASKED** whether this was a common trend in Year 1, this was confirmed. Governors were also reminded that this cohort were born during Covid. There was a trend of these children having less focus, struggling to listen to stories and having a lack of resilience, but generally less progress was common in Year 1.
7.6 **ASKED** whether there were interventions in Year 2, the Headteacher said that the school was fortunate to have some retired teaching staff volunteers providing this support and one ex pupil who was currently a university student.

8. UPDATE ON SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

8.1 The SDP had been shared with governors before the last meeting, along with a summary document.

9. EYFS/PHONICS UPDATE

9.1 The Headteacher had shared EYFS and Phonics update reports for information. She explained that schools had to report outcomes in these areas annually to the DfE.
9.2 She highlighted that it was currently early to look at the Early Years children, as outcomes would be much different by June.
9.3 A discussion ensued about the significant difference being summer born could have in Early Years. A child could be born at the end of August yet would be in the same class as a child born at the start of September and this could have an impact on their earlier outcomes.
9.4 The Headteacher highlighted that the teaching of Phonics was robust in the school and was taught daily, and tracked and assessed to plug any gaps. The children were developed to fluent readers as quickly as possible.
9.5 Current Phonics outcomes were on track and there were no concerns to report.
9.6 **ASKED** whether when assessing whether a child was GLD in Reception whether allowances were included for children with SEND/EHCPs, the Headteacher said that this was not the case in the data, but in school the child would have an LSP (learning support plan) with small steps of progress for them to make.

9.7 It was reported that one child this year would not sit the Phonics Screening test but would be counted within the data despite their needs.

10. UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL'S VISION AND VALUES AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUALITY

10.1 It was reported that time had been assigned after lunch for quiet time for spirituality.

10.2 Teachers were asking open ended questions for pupils to think more deeply.

10.3 A meeting group now took place in the garden studio where pupils read the scripture, and they were finding this really engaging.

10.4 Francesco had started to review the school values with the Headteacher. They would be reviewing the document previously produced to provide an overview of the vision and values, with the aim of making it more significant to pupils and parents. There were no plans to change the vision and values, but it was planned to make it more accessible to all.

10.5 Ten children in the last year had done their first communion and they said that they felt a sense of belonging.

10.6 Work continued to develop the relationship between the church and the school.

11. RISK REGISTER UPDATE

11.1 This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Item		**Action**	**Who?**	**Deadline**
11.1		Add risk register update to the next agenda	**Clerk**	**March 2026**

12. ADMISSIONS CRITERIA REVIEW

12.1 As discussed earlier, the Admissions Criteria would not be amended this year.

12.2 The Headteacher undertook to clarify when they had last been formally reviewed as there was a 7-year cycle for this task.

12.3 Francesco Aresco informed governors that there were several toddlers attending Church now with their families, and that they could therefore potentially apply to the school.

Item		**Action**	**Who?**	**Deadline**
12.2		Clarify when the admissions criteria had last been formally reviewed	**HT**	**March 2026**

13. PUPIL VOICE REVIEW

13.1 Wellbeing Governor Visit A full report had been shared on GovernorHub for information.

13.2 This visit had taken place for a morning during wellbeing week.

13.3 The children had collated whole school views on nutrition and the weekly menus.

13.4 The children who had been nominated to speak with the governor had been confident and keen to express the views of others as well as their own on how to bring change.

13.5 RE & SIAMS Visit The Chair had been into school on 6th February and a full report had been shared on GovernorHub for information.

13.6 The purpose of the visit had been:

· To evaluate the quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education across the school

· To explore how the school's Christian vision and values shape behaviour, curriculum and relationships

· To explore pupil voice and attitudes towards Religious Education and collective worship.

13.7 There had been the opportunity to seek the views of pupils on the school vision and collective worship. The children had been able to clearly articulate their views.

13.8 The school was a safe space for the children to challenge religious ideas.

13.9 The teaching staff were seen to be asking for opinions and were allowing the children to get a greater depth of understanding.

13.10 The Headteacher reported that there would be big changes to the RE curriculum over the coming year, as this was currently being reviewed for church schools. The LDBS were currently working on this, which would be launched for September. The updated curriculum would be bringing in religious views and non-religious views like humanism. It was explained that the current curriculum was 70/30 with Christianity and world religions. The updated curriculum would be 50/50.

14. GOVERNOR SELF EVALUATION AND SKILLS AUDIT

14.1 The Chair thanked governors for completing the skills a competency audit on GovernorHub.
14.2 Anita Bhogaita had produced an evaluation of the data which had been shared with governors.
14.3 She reported that there was strong operational capacity in the skills of the governing body.
14.4 Areas of development highlighted included succession planning for the role of Chair, ability to chair meetings in the absence of the Chair, SEND depth of knowledge and knowledge of Cyber Security in education.
14.5 There was only a demand of 30% for specific training across the governing body.
14.6 A list of actions had been provided for the governing body.
14.7 Caroline Poole recommended the cyber security training offered on GovernorHub.
14.8 The Headteacher highlighted that not every governor needed in depth knowledge of every area.
14.9 Pippa Reid was the current SEND governor who had in depth knowledge of this. Anita Bhogaita undertook to do some training on SEND to support the link governor role.
14.10 Duncan Paulson undertook to attend cyber security training and be linked to this area.

15. RATIFICATION OF POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

15.1 The following policies had been reviewed by the Headteacher and shared on GovernorHub for approval:
15.2 Admissions Policy After full consideration the document was **RATIFIED.**
15.3 SFVS The document was **APPROVED** and the Chair would sign this electronically before it was sent to the LA.
15.4 Antibullying Policy Subject to a suggested small update to section 18, the policy was **RATIFIED.**
15.5 Equality, Race & Gender Policy After full consideration the document was **RATIFIED.**

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Feedback on SIAMS training The slides from this session had been shared on GovernorHub for information.
16.2 Pippa Reid had attended this session on 10th February 2026.
16.3 The trainer had been Tim Wright, the school's SIAMS link, who had said that he was willing to go into schools to support leadership with SIAMS. The Headteacher said that she already had a date arranged with him for this.
16.4 An LDBS template was available for a Developing Spirituality Policy, and this would be shared on the GovernorHub noticeboard once the Headteacher had populated it.
16.5 ICT Support 2026/2027 Governors approved the SLA for ICT Support for the new financial year.
16.6 Clerking Support 2026/2027 Governors approved the SLA for Clerking Support for the new financial year.

Item		**Action**	**Who?**	**Deadline**
16.4		Populate the template Developing Spirituality Policy and share with governors	**HT**	**May 2026**

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17.1 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as:
- Monday 27th April 2026 at 6.30 pm

18. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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

ACTION LOG

Item		**Action**	**Who?**	**Deadline**
11.1		Add risk register update to the next agenda	**Clerk**	**March 2026**
12.2		Clarify when the admissions criteria had last been formally reviewed	**HT**	**March 2026**
16.4		Populate the template Developing Spirituality Policy and share with governors	**HT**	**May 2026**