MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF MONKEN HADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 20th OCTOBER 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	Apologies
Sarah Roth	Foundation PCC	Chair	14.07.2022-13.07.2026	Present
	Foundation Deanery Synod			
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	Apologies
Non-voting attendees				
Oliver Jones	Prospective Deanery Synod Governor			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.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 Consent was recorded to apologies for absence submitted on behalf of Preethi Daniel, Caroline Poole and Nick Stokes.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5.2 Arising from the minutes:

5.3 Item 10.19 Circulate staff list, including subject lead responsibilities This had been completed.

5.4 Item 15.5 Send HT a short-written profile for the school website This had been completed.

5.5 Item 16.6 Share LDBS training programme on GovernorHub This had been completed.

6. LEADERSHIP UPDATE

6.1 The Headteacher provided a verbal update:

6.2 Staffing It was reported that one member of staff remained on long-term sick leave.

6.3 All staff had completed their appraisals apart from the SENDCO, who would be having theirs on 24th October.

6.4 Recent staff training had included Growth Mindset next steps led by the working party and Fraud Awareness. The INSET day that Friday would be on ADHD training.

6.5 Pupil Numbers There were currently 147 pupils on roll. This meant that there had been three spaces for Census Day.

6.6 Behaviour The Headteacher reported that general behaviour remained excellent across the school.

6.7 Staff had noticed that Year 1 transition had been more challenging than usual, with children having more difficulty settling. The Headteacher had spoken to other local headteachers informally who had reported similar difficulties in their own settings. Governors were reminded that these children were Covid babies in 2020, which meant before school they had no experience of attending toddler groups, pre schools and private nursery settings. Things that they were finding more challenging than usual included paying attention, two step instructions and sitting still in the classroom.

6.8 Additional staff support had been provided where possible and staff were trained to manage challenging behaviour. External support had also been sought for a SEND child.

6.9 Along with other schools, the Year 2 cohort were also finding it more difficult this year too.

6.10 **ASKED** whether she thought that more work should be done on transition, the Headteacher said that the school already did this. This included allowing children more free flow when they joined Year 1 at the start of term. She felt that the issues this year were cohort specific.

6.11 **ASKED** what the impact was on Beech class as they were toddlers during Covid, the Headteacher said that they were livelier than previous cohorts, but the impact was more apparent in Year 1.

6.12 **ASKED** whether similar challenges would continue through the school, the Headteacher said that it was difficult to tell whether this would be resolved by the Spring term and this would be monitored.

6.13 Attendance It was reported that whole school attendance was currently 96.8%.

6.14 Persistent absence (PA) was currently 9.4%. The Headteacher reminded governors that this figure usually reduced throughout the year.

6.15 Safeguarding & Compliance The Headteacher confirmed that filtering and security notifications were in place.

6.16 The school had noticed an increase in safeguarding concerns related to emotional needs in children due to family dynamics. The Headteacher was currently supporting some families in difficult circumstances, and she had recommended them to Early Help services.

6.17 School parliament had been established.

6.18 Finance The school had had an internal financial audit and no major issues had been identified. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

6.19 Climate Plan The Headteacher reported that there would be a requirement for schools to create a Climate Plan. Although this was not yet statutory, the Headteacher had already completed this for the school and had adopted the role of sustainability lead.

6.20 The plan would be shared with governors for information.

6.21 The Headteacher suggested that the governing body assign a sustainability link governor role, and it was agreed that this be shared between Nick Stokes and Caroline Poole.

6.22 Enrichment It was reported that Bikeability had been into school the previous week.

6.23 School Parliament had been established with three committees: Sustainability, Nutrition and Charities/Fundraising.

7. SIAMS AND OFSTED UPDATE

7.1 SIAMS Update Francesco Aresco had completed the online SIAMS training.

7.2 The Headteacher and Francesco had been working to review the school's Spirituality Policy.

7.3 Governors were reminded that during visits to the school they should be looking at evidence of the big questions, wondering and being present to God.

7.4 Governors were to observe spirituality in their upcoming visits and how it was a part of school life.

7.5 The Headteacher remined governors of the importance of seeing how the school vision was lived out in school. New governors were to be updated on this.

7.6 Governors were to consider how everybody in the school community were living the vision.

7.7 The Headteacher had circulated for information a document on the four aspects of SIAMS inspections.

7.8 It was proposed that the Headteacher and Francesco provide an update session with governors on the school's vision and values as well as the development of spirituality.

7.9 Ofsted Update There was nothing to report.

Item		**Action**	**Who?**	**Deadline**
7.8		Provide update session for the FGB on the school's vision and values as well as the development of spirituality.	**HT & FA**	**Dec 2025**

8. PUPIL PREMIUM

8.1 The Pupil Premium strategy statement had been shared with governors for review.

8.2 It was highlighted that 18% of pupils on roll were currently PP which was lower compared to the national average of 25% last year.

8.3 Governors were reminded that teachers knew which pupils in their class were PP.

8.4 All PP pupils had made good of better progress last academic year.

9. SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

9.1 The safeguarding audit report had been shared with governors for information.

9.2 **ASKED** whether, as referred to in section 2.18 of the document, there was a mental health first aider in school, the Headteacher said that there was not, but all staff were trained on mental health awareness. The limitations of a very small team meant that it was not felt it would add value. All staff had professional curiosity to keep a check on the mental health of their colleagues and pupils.

9.3 It was suggested that information on what the school did for mental health be added to this section of the document including things like their work on growth mindset and zones of regulation.

10. SKILLS AUDIT AND GOVERNOR TRAINING

10.1 Skills Audit The Chair had emailed governors to request that they complete the GovernorHub effectiveness tab.

10.2 Training Francesco Aresco had attended training on SIAMS.

10.3 Governors were encouraged to book onto training either through the LDBS, which was funded, or BELS, who would invoice for any sessions.

Francesco Aresco left the meeting at this point.

11. PUPIL VOICE FEEDBACK

11.1 Pupil Voice Visit The Chair had carried out a pupil voice monitoring visit with a focus on School Council, Playground Buddies and Spy Camp. She had shared a full report on her visit on GovernorHub for information.

11.2 It was reported that the Christian vision was really promoted in school and that in 60% of the answers given by the pupils they had included school values and it was apparent that it was part of their everyday language.

11.3 During the visit the children were very happy and there was evidence that they felt that what they said was valued and heard.

11.4 The children had been given the opportunity to share some ideas that they had for the school. These included Fishfinger Fridays, monkey bars and the return of workout Wednesdays and these would be fed back to the student parliament.

11.5 Monitoring visit: Quality of Education – Oak, Cedar and Beech Cate Pendegrass had carried out this visit and a full report had been shared on GovernorHub for information.

11.6 It was reported that observing bolt-ons of learning across the year groups had been good.

11.7 It had been positive that in all three classes the pupils had demonstrated that they could understand and explain their learning.

11.8 Gratitude had been the focus in collective worship.

11.9 When observing Hooked on Books, Cate had been impressed that the pupils were clearly challenging themselves. Every child was pushing themselves which was evidence of their positive growth mindset.

12. RATIFICATION OF POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

12.1 The following policies had been reviewed by the Headteacher and shared on GovernorHub for approval:
- SEND Policy
- RE Policy
- Teacher Pay Policy
- Attendance Policy

12.2 A governor highlighted that there was reference to the Executive Headteacher within the documents, either by name or role and the Headteacher undertook to remove this.

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

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Photocopier Contract The Headteacher explained that the school currently leased their photocopier paying a quarterly lease fee, plus a per copy fee. They were currently in a five-year deal, and this was the fourth year but the copier currently kept breaking down.

13.2 Sharp, the current provider, had therefore provided a quotation for a new copier contract, a copy of which was tabled for governors information.

13.3 It was highlighted that the new quotation was for £772 a quarter, reduced from the current contract of £812 a quarter. The deal also included a free backup printer to use if there was an issue, until the usual one was repaired.

13.4 The Headteacher said that she was very happy with the service provided by Sharp and proposed that the school proceed with the new contract.

13.5 **ASKED** how quickly someone was sent to the school if there was a breakdown, the Headteacher said that they were very responsive.

13.6 The new contract was **APPROVED.**

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 The dates of the next meeting was confirmed as:
- Monday 1st December 2025 at 6.30 pm

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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

ACTION LOG

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