
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY OF MONKSDOWN
PRIMARY SCHOOL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26th 2025 at 9.15AM**

PRESENT

Martin Reynolds - Chair of Governors
Jacquie Price - Headteacher
Gill Stewart - Deputy Headteacher
Josh Cliff – Vice Chair
Joanne Needham - Business Manager
Maya Alsafadi –Parent Governor
Sequoia Chapman – Governor (via Zoom)

Also present: Maria White - SENCo
Fabienne Spalvieri - Teacher
Stacey Rawlings -Teacher
Helen Owens - Clerk to the Governors

24/FG13. WELCOME – MR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/FG14 CONSIDERATION OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – No apologies received.

24/FG15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES – Agreed as an accurate record of the meeting with no matters arising.

24/FG16 SEND SIP REPORT – MW gave an update on SEN as follows and referred to the report sent by M Regan which had been sent to Governors earlier.

- i. SEN continues to be a major issue in school with 26% of children on the SEN Register currently higher than national average. 26 x children on EHCP's.
- ii. In September 2025 there are so far six children coming to school who are on EHCP's with one child being a 2:1.
- iii. J Regan's report highlighted the fact that some staff were coping better than others when it came to SEN children. As a result, the Code of Practice has been refreshed.
- iv. MW is meeting with K Carey to discuss the concerns she has about the children in school who should not be here.
- v. School has created a Resource Provision for the children with a high level of support. The system has been set up based on the report undertaken following Y2 teachers observing Fabienne and her good practice. Training has been delivered on the effective use of TA's and how they are utilised
- vi. It was agreed that whilst TA's are in class they should be supporting the children at all times and this is working much better. It is difficult to recruit TA's now as the role has changed so much and it is very challenging. There is constant need to upskill staff all the time.
- vii. Some concern at getting the balance right in class – sometimes you concentrate so much on pushing the brightest and supporting those in most need of support, that the middle group can be overlooked.
- viii. Consortia still providing lots of additional support eg Seedlings, Together Trust, SALT, OT and Ed Psych support too. Currently speech and language is

the biggest concern.

- ix. Inclusion Quality Mark is booked in for May and there is a meeting between Mike Mullins and SENCo to look at the September 2025 children

GOVERNOR QUESTIONS:

Do we as a school have any say in whether we have to take in children with EHCP's or are we just known as a school who will? MW – We do not have a choice if the parent names our school we have to take the child.

Is there training in place for staff to deal with the increased needs of children?

MW – yes we utilise our stronger staff and back staff up with specialised training.

Are we regularly named by parents? JP – yes our school is frequently named.

In relation to the children who require regular Speech and Language support can they not be schooled at home on an apart time basis? MW – no the Local Authority do not look on this favourably. We do it as an emergency with parental agreement and only when it is a safeguarding risk to themselves or others in school.

Are parental expectations of the SEN children high? MW expectations are very high and there are financial limitations also which can be difficult to navigate but as a school we really do support the parents and signpost them as needed.

Governors thanked MW for her detailed report.

24/FG17 HEADTEACHER REPORT – JP advised Governors that the report had been sent out to all Governors earlier and she would not go through the whole report in detail but wanted to highlight the following points:

- i. **Staffing** – one Sports Mentor has now left school and one remains. With the saving from this JP will look to employ another TA in school. She would like to retain the Sports Mentor as there has been positive feedback about him and what he has brought to school. 1 x staff member remains on long term sick and is being covered by a colleague. A Mentor is also on long term sickness absence. JP expressed thanks to J Vaughan in the office who has stepped up considerably to support following staff absences.
- ii. **Attendance** – GS gave update on this – attendance continues to improve and school is now 40th in the Local Authority. PA's are now at 15.6%. School is just below the national average. SEND pupils and PA's continue to impact on attendance.

GOVERNOR QUESTIONS:

Are the Cleaning staff being replaced? JP - No, school will be staying with the Cleaning Agency this also makes more financial sense.

Does home schooling affect attendance figures? GS – Yes as the child stays on the books and this is reflected in the data.

24/FG18 SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY REPORT – FS gave update on this and also on the Anti-Racism report as follows:

- i. School is applying for the School of Sanctuary accreditation which means that school is a welcoming school and a sanctuary of safety for families.
- ii. School has had to learn what it means to be an asylum seeker. To embed this in school there have been visitors coming in to talk with everyone about this. Workshops and assemblies have taken place.
- iii. Children have applied to become Global Buddies with two from each year group. They meet weekly and are wanting to run monthly coffee mornings for new EAL families.
- iv. FS has done a lot of research around books used in school as almost all show white people. There needs to be much more inclusivity for children. FS

has made a list of books for school and has obtained them from Knowsley Library service.

- v. There have been a number of celebrations including a Ramadan Assembly. A classroom will be used for a Fasting Room.
- vi. FS is due to meet with parents who are potential refugees. Resources such as uniform and interpreters need to be looked at for these families.
- vii. We have as a school increasing numbers of Muslim, Polish and Chinese families. We have linked with Kingsley Primary who have 80% children of colour and children have been doing lessons together and writing letters to each other, this has worked really well.
- viii. Asylum Link were due in to deliver training to staff regarding Asylum Seekers and what they need but are now coming into school in summer. Refugee Week is coming soon and school are looking to share good practice across the community.
- ix. FS advised that school needs to look at terminology used across school and referred to the Hidden Curriculum.

GOVERNOR QUESTIONS:

Have there been many incidents of racism in school? FS – yes but they have mostly been language incidents. FS highlighted the sessions she had attended had made her look at how best to deal with these incidents. There needs to be more education around the language used and the impact. Parents are also included in the lessons.

Governors thanked FS for her report and her commitment to this project.

24/FG20 ANTI RACISM REPORT – Included as above.

24/FG21 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – SR gave an update on Phonics as follows:

- i. School looking to build on the successful increase in scores over the last three years from 64% to 73% and then 80%. The programme being used is highly effective and school is seeing consistency across all year groups. Interventions have been implemented from Reception to KS2. Nursery programme was implemented last year and has embedded well.
- ii. Parents have been into Nursery and are on-board with the programme.
- iii. Learning Walks will take place this term and more Parent Workshops are planned.
- iv. There are new staff in Y1 therefore the focus is on supporting those TA's who need additional support. Peer coaching, observations of TA's and their practices are planned. SR is having weekly conversations with Y1 staff identifying training and coaching for staff.
- v. Phonics Screening Checks take place in June and there are also mock checks in Autumn and Spring term. The November check identified Phase 4 as the key area to focus on for Y1 so this is what the focus was on.
- vi. Following the second mock screening Y1 have improved hugely with some children making 10 mark leaps. Once all the data is analysed SW will give a projection for June.
- vii. In Y2 children who need extra support will be getting tutoring after school.

24/FG22 POLICIES FOR APPROVAL – Governors approved the policies sent out by JP.

24FG23 CHINA PLANNING FOR 2026 –

JP requested funding of this year and a further the year after for 20 children to visit China. JP is in process of bidding for Turing Bid to support the trip. Children from the Chinese partner school will visit Monksdown and then our children will visit visit school and it was a fabulous experience. China. School has built excellent links with China and hopes to build further on this. The Chinese Consulate Representative came to

****Governors agreed to the request of the Headteacher to help fund this trip.***

GOVERNOR QUESTION:

In terms of income are there any additional costs to the trip for parents? JP – yes parents will be required to find approx.

Could we have a costed plan of the trip? JP – Yes this will be provided for Governors.

A Governor suggested the children are eased into this trip in terms of familiarisation with food, use of chopsticks, language in order to minimise any culture shocks. JP informed Governors this was already in planning with Mandarin sessions due to take place.

24/FG24 BEHAVIOUR CURRICULUM – JP referred Governors to the Curriculum Map they had been issued with and also details provided by FS regarding the Hidden Curriculum. Governors advised to read through this and raise any questions with Headteacher.

24FG/25 NURSERY PLANNING – BN issued the Nursery proposal to Governors which outlined the school's proposal to offer 30 hours' free childcare to parents. This has been unanimously popular with parents. ****Governors agreed to this proposal.***

GOVERNOR QUESTIONS

Will this offer cover the costs of staffing? BN – Yes although school may have to employ a LSA to cover lunches.

How many places are to be offered? BN advised there would be 25 full time places available.

24FG/26 FINANCE BUDGET – JN gave update on latest budget with some slight amends since last budget was issued:

- i. Supply line is overspent by £ due to supply cover for absent staff and support for SEN children.
- ii. Money is available in DFC.
- iii. School will be taking out Insurance for support staff.
- iv. JN asked Governor approval to pay the support staff their one-day entitlement from the National Pay Award. ****Governors agreed to pay staff rather than give them the one-day entitlement as leave.***

24FG/27 AOB - None

24FG/28 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday April 3rd 2025

