



MEETING OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 11TH 2025 AT 4PM IN THE SCHOOL

“We are a community with a lifelong passion for learning.”

Present: Hilary Priest (HP), Head, Jo Counter (JC), Becky Nel (acting chair),
Rich Gibbon (RG) Jo Counter via TEAMS

In attendance: Dawn Pettipiece (clerk)

Minutes

1	Welcome & apologies for absence Please send apologies to the clerk before the meeting Ian Stewart sent his apologies
2	Attendance & declaration of interest - Please sign attendance form - Governors are reminded that they must declare any conflict of interest which becomes apparent during the meeting The governors signed the attendance form and there were no declarations of conflict of interest.
3	Minutes of last T&L meeting 24.6.25 Please read the minutes (in folder) The governors approved the minutes of the last meeting and BN signed them.
3.1	Matters arising - Early Years report to be shared by the Early Years link teacher now the nursery children have started. JC: It is going really well and there will be three new children joining the nursery after Christmas bringing numbers up to 11. The curriculum development is ongoing. BN: Have there been any issues? JC: Surprisingly, some of the reception children are getting more fatigued than nursery children. RG: What time does the nursery start and finish? HP: It follows the normal school day, but children can do mornings or afternoons or both. HP: We are working on a system that gives information to the parents about their child's progress. JC: Parents can access Seesaw and we put up photographs of the children doing activities in nursery. HP: I will get feedback from the parents about the best way to give them information. - Date of next EDI (equality, diversion and inclusion) meeting to be provided by deputy head Helen Fernyhough (HF). HF has emailed the lead about the next meeting twice, with no response and will inform the governors when she hears when the next meeting is.
4	Chair and Vice-Chair of committee Annual election. The post of Chair is vacant. The governors had a discussion and the outcome was that Becky Nel was approved as Chair and Richard Gibbon was approved as Vice-Chair.
5	School Improvement - Pupil Progress, Curriculum developments and Data monitoring (Items discussed in Head's report section). PE HP: We work with the Sports Partnership. - Update, monitoring and information (Items discussed in Head's report section) Head's report - Number of children on role and available spaces. HP: We need to be careful with year one places as we have extra reception children. BN: Could you go to a two form entry school?

HP: We would need five more classrooms. We will have approximately £100,00 extra in the budget with the extra new pupils and I am doing show a rounds to the parents of potential new pupils.

RG: Do nursery children have a priority for a reception place?

HP: Not at the moment and if we wanted to change the policy it would take around three years.

RG: Are the parents aware of that?

HP: Yes.

- Leavers/joiners/alternative provision/part time timetables

HP: We have two children currently attending alternative provision.

- Attendance

HP: Attendance is in line with how it always is. I look at the attendance figures to monitor it and with the children who are low attenders we are aware of the reasons why.

- SEN (special educational needs) data

This has increased to 23% of the children.

BN: Is that because there has been an improvement in diagnosis?

HP: I am surprised that the national figures are so low.

JC: With the OAIP (ordinarily available inclusive provision) that should go down.

HP: Hopefully.

- Free school meals/pupil premium

HP: Free school meal numbers have increased as the government have changed the system and parents do not have to apply for them.

BN: What is the impact of the higher SEN children and free school meals children?

HP: 23% is an average of all the classes, but if a class has more SEN children it can be difficult.

However, continuous provision in key stage (KS) I is really inclusive and working well. It is very different in years three and four. We are getting more money from pupil premium.

- SATS (standard assessment tests)

HP: The results for the school are very high

JC: Where you happy with the timetable test results?

HP: They improve every year.

- Staffing

HP: This comes under the remit of the Resources Committee.

Due to the sad death of one of the teachers recently staff are really struggling, but have been supporting each other and the school community overall have been really supportive. His replacement is well liked by his class.

SEN training is the big focus this year.

- CPD for staff

Discussed later in the meeting

- Behaviour report

HP: Generally, behaviour has been very good. We have had a couple of SEN children who find it difficult not to be physically aggressive, but we have staff in place to manage that. We have had an increase in racist incidents.

- The committee discussed this and the reasons it was happening.

RG: What are the “friendship” issues?

HP: It is when children decide they like no longer like another child/children.

RG: So every incident is recorded?

HP: Yes, on CPOMS.

BN: What are the 300 wellbeing concerns? Is that high?

HP: There is definitely an increase in anxiety in the children and they are worrying more about things like death.

- The committee discussed reasons for this e.g. concerns about foreign government and wars, bringing it home with refugee children now pupils of the school and the pandemic.

HP: Pastoral care has been increased to support these concerns and the staff know the children really well and can sense when there is an issue.

- Additional school activities

We are looking at developing enhanced provision in KS2, with more self-discovery and looking deeper into a subject. For instance, experimenting in play with electricity, using the playground and mud kitchen.

Earth care is going really well with Mr Munro.

With climate care we are moving away from getting the children concerned about climate change and showing them how to love the world and that is going really well.

RG: I presume the school is expanding in this area?

HP: Yes, if we can get funding and we are looking at that.

	"Little Wandle" is difficult to complete by the end of reception, but is required by the time they move up to year one. JC: It is difficult to teach them and ensure it is embedded. HP: Lots of schools use the Read, Write, Inc, phonics programme but it is very dull, so we do not. With continual professional development we are focussing on OAIP. BN: How is that happening? HP: It was the main part of the recent INSET day. The teachers have been developing a new provision map system and now the whole class will do sensory and movement breaks (not just SEN children) as it benefits all children. Some children are getting additional support. BN: Is that an area of strength? JC: The provision is being streamlined with a best-fit primary need for SEN children, using the guidance to look at barriers. BN: Where is the strength in the school? HP: Year one and two are exceptional and in nursery as it is very play based, but it is hard to meet the need as they get older. One of our year six girl's is cooking in the kitchen. She loves it and constantly talks about it and her communications skills are improving. BN: Are there any issues with communication now? HP: No and the WhatsApp group helps. RG: It has improved considerably over the past couple of years. - Primary Partnership BN: How do you feel the primary partnership (PP) is developing? HP: We are working on emergency plans for the short, medium and long term to support other schools. For instance, if the head is off on long-term sick leave. In the recent tragedy of our teacher passing away, other PP teachers came in to support us. The PP want all school governors to be aware of the plans so they can be initiated and it will prevent another school becoming an academy. This happened to one of the schools in the PP recently. BN: Is that in process? HP: Yes, and it worked well for our school and another school. JC: Do the school get support from Devon County Council? HP: Yes, their school improvement team came in and supported staff and there will be a follow-up next week. For the last few years they have been very effective. - RG left the meeting at 4.48pm
6	Destinations of July leavers and quality of transition arrangements Update Two thirds go to KEVICC (King Edwards VI Community College) and roughly a third go to grammars and a few out of area etc. It does take a while to get placements for SEN children who need a specialist school.
7	Curriculum Leads Which meetings should they come to and when? BN: Is this your staff ones? HP: We will be working on those in the New Year as it has been delayed? Action: Decision about which meetings Curriculum Leads should attend to go on next agenda. DONE.
8	SEND Update HP: The SENDco's (special educational needs and disabilities coordinator) are working really well and are a strong team.
9	KEVICC Sex education update - Human reproduction, contraception and childbirth update JC: New guidance came out on the 15th July. We looked at today and it is really tricky as we have to decide what we should be teaching, based on their physical and emotional maturity. HP: I was extremely surprised at the age KEVICC cover this subject, I think it is year nine and by then children have mainly gone through puberty. In the past it was always taught in year six. Although many parents will discuss this subject with their children, some do not. BN: Also it is so easy for children to access porn etc. on the internet. HP: Our school teachers have not been trained to deliver this subject to the older children. Children at our school are quite naïve and we notice that when they move on to senior school they start to wear mini-skirts etc. BN: They do know animals mate. - The committee discussed this issue looking at various ways to approach it. Action: JC to schedule a video call on the subject of reproduction in humans etc. with the teacher who leads in this area at KEVICC and herself and HP.

10	Looked after children report To monitor report from staff lead - if there are any. HP: We do not have any looked after children in school.
11	Policies for review Data Protection Policy (for review then adoption by board) JC: I looked at the policies. The last time the Data Protection Policy was updated was in 2018. Clerk: I have a document with webpage links to the latest ones and that is the one in the folder. Action: Data Protection Policy to be updated and brought to next FGB meeting by HP. DONE.
11.1	- Governors Induction Policy Following a discussion JC will draft the wording and share it with IS and bring it to the next FGB meeting. DONE. Action: JC to update the Governor Induction Policy in discussion with IS and bring to the next FGB meeting. DONE. - Sex and Relationship Policy (PHSE education policy) for monitoring HP: That is up to date. JC: It says it will be updated in 2026. HP: I look at it every year as the government add statutory changes to it. I updated the policy in July. Statutory reports - Pupil Premium Strategy and funding HP: I write the report for the website. BN: Anything to note? HP: No. - SEND information report – to review updated version. HP: Tonya Stirrup from the SEN team is updating it. Action: Bring forward SEND information report to next FGB meeting for monitoring. DONE.
12	Reception baseline assessment To monitor HP: It was done as it is a statutory assessment. The government collate figures and document the level each child is in reception, as a baseline and compare their progress against this when they reach year six.
13	Governors' monitoring visits from this committee Impact and learning from visits undertaken BN: I would like to come in to school to do this. HP: I would like governors to see continuous provision in action and to look at the new nursery. BN: I would like to see how the Behaviour Policy and continuous provision are managed in school. HP: You can come in any day or time. Action: BN to look at how the behaviour policy and continuous provision work in school in January 2026. DONE
14	Governor training Identifying needs BN: I would like to do the head teacher appraisal training in the new year as I am aware that now there are two of us on the panel instead of three and only IS has done this. Action: Clerk to look for a head teacher appraisal course for governors for BN from January onwards. As RG is a new member of this committee HP suggested he come and talk to her about relevant training. DONE. Action: RG and HP to meet to discuss relevant training for his role as a new T&L committee member.
15	Matters brought forward by the Chair None.
16	Date & time of next meeting T&L Tues 27th January 2026 at 4pm

The meeting ended at 5.20pm

Summary of Actions

	To do	By whom	When
7	Decision about which meetings curriculum leads should attend to go on next agenda. DONE.	C'mittee	By next meeting
9	A video call on the subject of reproduction in humans etc. to be scheduled with the teacher who leads in this area at KEVICC, herself and HP. DONE.	JC	By next meeting
11	Data Protection Policy to be updated and brought to next FGB meeting. DONE.	HP	By next FGB meeting

11.1	The Governor Induction Policy to be updated in discussion with IS and brought to the next FGB meeting. DONE.	JC/IS	By next FGB meeting
11.1	SEND information report to go to next FGB meeting for monitoring. DONE.	HP	By next FGB meeting
13	Governor to come into school to look at how the behaviour policy and continuous provision work in action in January 2026. DONE.	BN	By next meeting
14	Meeting to discuss relevant training for governor in his role as a new T&L committee member.	RG/HP	By next meeting
14	Clerk to look for a head teacher appraisal course for BN. DONE.	Clerk	By next meeting