



PRIORY FIELDS
SCHOOL

Priory Fields School

Local Governing Body Meeting

Tuesday 10th February 2026

Head Teacher: Miss Casey Hall

Minutes of the Local Governing Body Meeting

held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at Priory Fields School at 4:15pm

Governors Present: Malcolm Bowler, Henry Coates (Chair of Governors), Casey Hall (Headteacher), Keith Woods, Shelley Yalden

Others Present:

Governance Professional: Katie Banes

1	<p><u>Welcome, introductions, resignations and apologies</u> Governors were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were received from Alison Mackintosh, which the LGB accepted. The meeting was confirmed to be quorate.</p>
2	<p><u>Declaration of Business Interests Update/Business Interests Against this Agenda</u> Governors were given the opportunity to declare any new business interests and/or declare any pecuniary interests against this agenda. No new declarations of business/pecuniary interests were raised.</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes from Term 1 LGB Meeting Published on the Website</u> The Governance Professional confirmed the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 9th October 2025 in Term 1, have been published on the school website.</p>
4	<p><u>Approve Minutes from previous LGB Meeting in Term 2 – Thursday 4th December 2025</u></p>
4.1	<p>Approval of Minutes Previous minutes were made available to Governors prior to the LGB meeting. The minutes of the Local Governing Body meeting held on Thursday 4th December 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record. <i>The Chair of Governors signed the previous minutes to reflect this.</i></p>
4.2	<p><u>Actions</u> - <i>Monitoring visits carried out – to be discussed under agenda item number 8.</i></p>

5 **Statutory/National/Local School Updates**

5.1 **National Update – Changes to EYFS Statutory Framework (Effective from September 2025)**

Governors received an update on the changes to the EYFS Statutory Framework. Many of the requirements were already in place across the Trust, with only minor adjustments needed to policies and procedures.

The changes with the framework strengthen safeguarding practices already in place. An overview of some of the changes and how this affects the Trust have been outlined below:

Safeguarding training is already established, with a focus on ensuring training translates into practice. Early Years students and trainees can only be included within ratios if they have completed paediatric first aid training.

An amendment within the framework requires children to have appropriate privacy during nappy changing while maintaining safeguarding. Trust policies have been reviewed, updated and implemented across the trust. EYFS have access to suitable changing facilities and staff follow good practice for nappy changing.

Nutrition, Food Safety & Safe Eating

New guidance strengthens expectations around nutrition and food safety in early years settings. Meals should be healthy, balanced and nutritious, limiting foods high in salt, sugar and saturated fat. Raisins are not recommended for Reception-aged children but will continue to be offered in KS1, and other fruits must be cut up into smaller pieces for EYFS.

School menus have been reviewed and updated, including the introduction of a meat-free day. New guidance includes strict expectations on food textures, supervision and choking prevention, with procedures for recording any incidents.

Paediatric first aiders must be present during lunchtime and snack time, which can present staffing challenges. Additional members of staff have been trained in paediatric first aid training to support these changes, as managing with the pre-existing levels of paediatric first aid trained staff was challenging at different times of the school day.

Most requirements were already embedded within current practice in the EYFS provision, with updates primarily involving policy refinements, improved documentation and clearer communication with parents.

5.2 **Local Update – Community of Schools Bid**

At the last Community of Schools meeting, the Trust SENCo team placed a bid for £12,000, which would be to implement play therapy for children across the trust. The Trust were successful in getting the bid approved and are due to receive funding in due course.

Based on the figures outlined in the bid, funding should be received for twenty (20) children, which will be for weekly sessions across an estimated period of twelve (12) weeks. The funding is estimated to be allocated for five (5) children at Vale View and St Martin's and ten (10) children at Priory Fields. Figures are based on estimated costs following the initial research completed by SENCOs and some adjustments may be necessary upon securing work with a Play Therapist.

6	<p><u>Pupil Premium</u></p> <p>Governors were provided with an overview of the plan for addressing the disadvantage gap. The Strategy for Year 2 of the three-year plan was shared with Governors in the meeting.</p> <p>The Headteacher recently attended training on Pupil Premium, which highlighted the importance of ensuring all staff focus on addressing the disadvantage gap. Additionally, the training highlighted the importance of aligning Pupil Premium plans with whole-school priorities as set out in the school's strategic plan.</p> <p>At Priory Fields, 64.5% of pupils are eligible for pupil premium. Pupil premium at Priory Fields is very high in comparison to the national average, which is 18% per school.</p> <p>There are five main challenges the pupil premium strategy focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic barriers - Addressing SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) and pastoral needs - Addressing attendance barriers - Addressing wider social economic challenges - Intended outcomes <p>Governors to email any questions in relation to the Pupil Premium Strategy.</p>
7	<p><u>School Strategic Plan</u></p> <p>School Strategic Plans were made available to Governors prior to the LGB meeting.</p> <p>The School Strategic Plan (SSP) had been updated, which included reviewing the Autumn Term and updating the actions for the Spring Term. The School Strategic Plan has been developed in line with the new Ofsted framework.</p> <p>The school did not deter from the priorities for writing and handwriting last year. From a staff perspective, the school priorities are well engrained in the school.</p> <p>Persistent absence remains an issue, which impacts pupils in a variety of ways. It can impact the relationships between pupils and their peers, make closing gaps from missed learning difficult and consequently impacting pupil resilience and friendships.</p> <p>The complex needs of the EYFS cohort were discussed; last year, EYFS made significant progress, resulting in achieving 62% GLD (good level of development). Children not attending nursery prior to starting primary school can often create barriers to learning which, could have been identified and addressed earlier.</p>
8	<p><u>Governor Monitoring</u></p> <p>The following governor monitoring took place, with monitoring reports tabled in the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviour Pupil Voice – MB <p>Pupil voice was carried out with children from across all year groups, selected at random from the register. The overriding feedback was that children feel happy, confident and very safe in school. Children commented that teachers are very clear with their expectations, as is the children's understanding of the expectations. Some children commented there is occasional disruption to learning, but that this is dealt with quickly and children's learning is not disturbed for long periods of time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring the impact of CPD – Teaching and Learning & SEN Adaptations – HC <p>Governors feel a follow-up visit at the end of the academic year would be beneficial to see if CPD has had a sustained impact.</p>

	<p>- Monitor achievement through Class Reviews – HC</p> <p>A Governor attended the EYFS Class Review and commented the process was very rigorous. All children and data were discussed in depth and at length. Due to the low levels and complex needs of some children, there are some concerns surrounding outcomes for some pupils. However, staff have an excellent understanding of their pupils and are addressing needs to the best of their ability, with the resources available.</p> <p>The Headteacher commented that the school have sought help and support from the local authority (LA) and requested some additional funding. The school is awaiting feedback from the LA.</p>
9	<p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>The safeguarding update for Governors was included within the statutory update within agenda item number 5 – changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework.</p>
10	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Governors were reminded of the IDSR training session from Graham Chisnell which is due to take place on Thursday 26th February, 4pm – 6pm. All Governors welcome to attend.</p>
11	<p><u>Confidentiality of Proceedings</u></p> <p>No items of a confidential nature were raised during the meeting.</p>
12	<p><u>Publication of Minutes</u></p> <p>The next LGB meeting will be held on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 4:15pm, at which these minutes will be approved and published.</p>

<u>Action Points</u>
- <i>Monitoring visits carried out as agreed.</i>

Minutes taken by Governance Professional, Katie Banes

Signed by Chair of Governors:  Date: 26/3/26

Henry Coates