



**ST MARTIN'S
SCHOOL**



**WHINLESS DOWN
ACADEMY TRUST**



**VALE VIEW
SCHOOL**

St Martin's School and Vale View School Local Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 26th June 2025

St Martin's Head Teacher: Mrs H Thompson Vale View Head Teacher: Mrs L Sprigmore

Minutes of the Local Governing Body Meeting held at St Martin's School on Thursday 26th June 2025, at 4pm.

Governors Present: Amanda Abbott, Carole Bennett (Chair of Governors), Francesca Bushell, Kirsty Meakings, Chris Scoble (Vice Chair), Lisa Sprigmore (Vale View's Head Teacher), Helen Thompson (St Martin's Head Teacher)

Others Present: N/A

Governance Professional: Katie Banes

1	<p><u>Welcome, Introductions, Resignations and Apologies for absence</u> Governors were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies for absence, due to being on the Year 6 residential, were received from Billy Wilson and Jacky Cador. Apologies for absence were accepted and the meeting was confirmed to be quorate.</p>
2	<p><u>Declaration of Business Interests/Pecuniary 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 declarations of business/pecuniary interests were raised.</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes from Term 3 LGB Meeting Published on the Website</u> The Governance Professional confirmed the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 30th January 2025 in Term 3, have been published on the school websites.</p>
4 4.1	<p><u>Approve Minutes from previous LGB Meeting in Term 4 –Thursday 27th March 2025</u> 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 27th March 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record. <i>The Chair of Governors signed the previous minutes to reflect this.</i></p>

	<p>Governors suggested it would be good to schedule staff wellbeing monitoring to take place again in six month's time.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> <p>7.5</p>	<p><u>Headteacher Report</u></p> <p>The Headteacher Report was made available to Governors prior to the LGB meeting. Following the support received from Graham Chisnell this year, a Governor asked if this would continue into the new academic year. Governors were informed that this has not yet been decided upon. If external support is sought in a similar way for next year, it is thought it is not likely to continue to focus on writing. There is a clear plan for writing progress in place.</p> <p>Governors were informed SATs results will be available in July and shared at the next LGB meeting. It was commented that changes implemented to the curriculum are demonstrating good results, with fewer gaps in learning lower down the school. Gaps should continue to reduce as children move through the school. There are more gaps in learning in children higher up the school; this is due to the children having not been exposed to the same curriculum for the duration of their school journey.</p> <p>Active play zones are in place at both schools, with the provision improving at St Martin's since the school's sponsored walk which raised funds for new equipment.</p> <p>Governors were provided with an update on children in care and those previously in care; with data progress and attainment data shared within the Headteacher Report. For context, Governors were informed there are four (4) looked after children at St Martin's School and one (1) at Vale View.</p> <p>Staffing at St Martin's has remained stable, with a recent new appointment of a part-time high needs funding TA. Following the resignation of the previous postholder, a new ICT Technician has been appointed to work across both St Martin's and Vale View. Staffing at Vale View has been a challenge across the year, with intensive support implemented for some staff. Long-term absence and the additional support have impacted the capacity available across the school significantly at times. There is currently a vacancy for a teacher at Vale View.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><u>Leadership</u></p> <p><u>School Development Plans</u></p> <p>School Development Plans for both schools were made available to Governors prior to the LGB meeting. A Governor asked if there are many networking opportunities across the trust for staff. It was commented that the shared planning approach across trust year groups is no longer the same and that teachers have to ensure they have planned for their own classes; this has resulted in better accountability and pupil outcomes. Opportunities are still provided to allow for supportive and collaborative working across the trust. However, governors were made aware that TAs do not get the opportunity to network very well due to the nature of their roles and the hours they work.</p> <p>A governor asked about how emerging leaders are identified and supported. Emerging leaders have been identified and developed via national professional qualification routes and succession planning and coaching takes place to further develop and support staff. Teachers completed preference forms for the new academic year; these forms also provided opportunities for teachers to share their aspirations and other areas they would like to develop.</p> <p>The Leading Parent Partnerships Award (LPPA) provided support to both schools with improving parental engagement and communication. Since achieving the LPPA award, both schools have continued to gather feedback from parents and act upon any suggestions as and when necessary. Governor monitoring at parents evening has demonstrated that this is taking place successfully.</p>

The Heads across all three schools in the trust have been working with a local trust; the Samphire Star Trust. They have been specifically focussing on the transition between primary and secondary school for children in year six (6) and seven (7). The WDAT have also provided additional transition sessions for children across the trust.

CS left the meeting at 5:25pm.

At St Martin's there had been a reduction in the number of children achieving greater depth. A pattern is now emerging which is demonstrating an increase in greater depth for Maths and Reading, but not yet in writing. Writing continues to remain an area of for St Martin's. 20% of children in year six (6) achieved greater depth in writing, however, this is not yet reflect across the rest of the school.

Data in some classes is less positive but, this is due to cohort specific needs. The focus has been ensuring provisions are in place to bring children to the expected level of achievement for their age. Therefore, gaps in learning have decreased, with a significant increase in those children making accelerated progress.

Year five (5) booster groups have not taken place as planned at St Martin's due to the School Improvement Lead needing to be re-deployed elsewhere across the trust. However, booster sessions were led for children in Year six (6) during term five (5) and six (6), which have proven positive for the children involved.

The Headteacher at St Martin's commented that parents had been particularly supportive following recent flooding, which affected the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and Year one (1) classrooms and several outages of internet. It has been a very disruptive time for staff, pupils and their families.

At Vale View, Year six (6) have had a good level of extra provision and additional support in place to support pupils achieving the best they can in their SATs. The School Improvement Lead has been supporting and coaching staff at Vale View.

Staff Well-Being

Posters displaying an overview of the staff well-being surveys were shared with Governors prior to the LGB meeting. There are school specific overviews and in addition to this, a whole trust overview. The CEO has initially met with focus groups to work through some key areas.

As a result of the survey, the staff room at St Martin's is due to be renovated over the summer holidays.

At Vale View, results from the survey found that staff find it difficult to get support with pupil behaviour. The Headteacher informed Governors that this is usually a small number of children who have high levels of need. Behaviour has been challenging across the year, with available support decreasing over time.

Both Governor monitoring and the external well-being surveys highlight that staff feel well-supported and listened to. The implementation of the new staff care services package has been very positively received across the trust.

Initial Data Information

Governors were given a brief overview of predicted data outcomes.

It was commented that patterns are difficult to identify due to small class sizes.

In EYFS at St Martin's, many of the children started school at very low levels. Writing data was very low in December 2024, with only 17% at the expected standard, which has been impacting GLD (Good Level of

	<p>Development). This has since increased by 40%, bringing GLD to 57%. The extension of the Drawing Club provision to Curious Quest is expected to support pupils further.</p> <p>There is a trust-wide pattern of poor levels of language understanding and development, which is negatively impacting writing.</p> <p>50% of children in EYFS at Vale View are on track to achieve GLD.</p> <p>The number of children passing the Year one Phonics screening at Vale View had reduced in comparison to last year; 59% passed in comparison to 76% last year. At St Martin's, a higher percentage of children passed (82%) however, it was noted that the cohort size was significantly lower than last year.</p> <p>At St Martin's, five (5) children in Year two (2) who had to re-sit the Phonics check did not pass. Four of those five children are on the SEN register with additional needs and there is also a child who has missed lots of teaching due to medical reasons. Although these children did not pass the phonics screening in Year two, it was highlighted that these children had still made exceptional progress through the year. These children will start the SEN Little Wandle programme, which will support cognition and learning processing. At Vale View, three children did not pass the phonics check in year two.</p> <p>It was shared with Governors that the Little Wandle programme continues to have its challenges in delivering the programme due to the number of staff needed to deliver the programme successfully.</p> <p>There is no official pass mark for the Year four (4) multiplication tables check. However, the number of children answering 80% or more of the questions correctly has increased at both St Martin's and Vale View in comparison to last year.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p>	<p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>Annual Safeguarding Reports for each school were provided to the LGB prior to the LGB meeting. Governors were directed to the breakdown of vulnerable pupils and the number of referrals and incidents for both schools.</p> <p>It was highlighted to Governors that some of the concerns raised are unsubstantiated, but the figures include the overall total number of concerns raised.</p> <p>Governors were invited to attend Priory Fields School on Tuesday 2nd September for safeguarding training, which is taking place as part of the Trust's staff development day.</p> <p>Governance Professional to email Governors to confirm the time for the Safeguarding training.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Meeting Day and Time</u></p> <p>Governors were asked if the current day of the week and time would continue to be suitable for all Governors for the new academic year. All Governors present agreed a Thursday at 4pm was well suited. Governance Professional to contact CS to check with him too.</p> <p><u>ID Badges</u></p> <p>Those Governors who do not have a Governor ID badge were requested to send a photo to the Governance Professional.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><u>Confidentiality of Proceedings</u></p> <p>No items of a confidential nature were raised during the meeting.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><u>Publication of Minutes</u></p> <p>These minutes will be approved and published following the next LGB meeting in the new academic year.</p>

Action Points

- *Schedule staff well-being monitoring to take place later in the next school year.*
- *Governance Professional to email Governors to confirm the time for the Safeguarding training.*
- *Governance Professional to check meeting day and time with CS for the new academic year.*
- *Governors who do not have an ID badge to send a photo of themselves to the Governance Professional.*

Minutes written by the Governance Professional, Katie Banes

Signed  Date 16/10/25

Katie Banes