



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

Thursday 19th March 2026

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 19th March 2026, at 4pm.

- Governors Present:** Katie Burton, Kirsty Meakings, Chris Scoble Lisa Sprigmore (Vale View's Head Teacher), Helen Thompson (St Martin's Head Teacher)
- Others Present:** Jacky Cador (Assistant Headteacher at St Martin's School), Beth Creed (Assistant Headteacher/English Lead at Vale View), Liz Little (Assistant Headteacher/English Lead at St Martin's)
- Governance Professional:** Katie Banes

1	<u>Welcome, Introductions, Resignations and Apologies for absence</u> Governors were welcomed to the meeting.
1.1	Apologies for absence were received from Andy Wright and Francesca Bushell. Apologies were accepted by the LGB and the meeting was confirmed to be quorate.
1.2	The Governance Professional informed Governors that Carole Bennett had tendered her letter of resignation to the LGB, with immediate effect. All Governors accepted the resignation and acknowledged the length of service and support received from Carole over the years.
1.3	<u>Temporary Chair of Governors</u> In the absence of Carole Bennett as Chair of Governors and with only one more LGB meeting this academic year, all present agreed for Chris Scoble (Vice Chair of Governors) to step up into the role of Chair until the end of the academic year.
2	<u>Declaration of Business/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 new declarations of business/pecuniary interests were declared.

3	<u>Minutes from Term 2 LGB Meeting Published on the Website</u> The Governance Professional confirmed the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 27th November 2025 in Term 2, have been published on the school websites.
4 4.1 4.2	<u>Approve Minutes from previous LGB Meeting in Term 3 –Thursday 5th February 2026</u> <u>Approval of Minutes</u> Previous minutes were made available to Governors prior to the LGB meeting. The minutes of the Local Governing Body meeting held on Thursday 5th February 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record. <i>The Chair of Governors signed the previous minutes to reflect this.</i> <u>Actions</u> - <i>CS has completed Safer Recruitment Training</i> - <i>Governance Professional has set KB up on Governor Hub</i>
5	<u>Statutory/National/Local Updates – Every Child Achieving and Thriving</u> National Update: Every Child Achieving and Thriving The Local Governing Body received an overview of the Government's recently published Every Child Achieving and Thriving strategy, which sets out a ten-year vision for education. The strategy places a strong emphasis on raising standards through inclusive practice and aligns closely with the current Ofsted framework, with a particular focus on inclusion, a broader curriculum, attendance, and family engagement. Governors were informed that the key priorities include improving attainment for both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils, significant reform of the SEND system, the introduction of a new national curriculum by 2028, and the ambition for all schools to be part of strong multi-academy trusts. A strong trust was described as one that demonstrates consistently good outcomes, financial stability, and a proven track record of narrowing attainment gaps. It was noted that, whilst the Trust has engaged with the RISE programme, there is value in learning from trusts serving similar demographic contexts. The implications of the strategy were discussed, including the expectation that SEN schools would be less of an option and that mainstream provision should meet the needs of all children through earlier identification of need, with increased accountability for attendance and outcomes for all pupils. The strategy also highlights continued investment in workforce development and educational innovation. Governors noted the implications for governance, including the importance of continuing to monitor educational standards and inclusive practice, providing appropriate challenge regarding the progress and outcomes of disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, and ensuring that school improvement plans remain aligned with forthcoming national reforms. It was also noted that the strategy does not currently propose changes to the existing approach to suspensions and exclusions.
6 6.1	<u>Governor Membership</u> <u>CB Resignation</u> As already stated within the welcome and introductions, Carole Bennett has tendered her resignation with immediate effect. The Local Governing Bodies of the three schools within the Whinless Down Academy Trust are due to merge together in September to make one LGB for the Trust. In light of this and in addition to there being one LGB meeting left before the end of the academic year, Chris Scoble, the Vice Chair of Governors has agreed

6.2	to temporarily step up into the role of Chair of Governors until the new academic year. All Governors were in agreement of this. <u>CS Term of Office</u> Chris Scoble's term of office is due to expire in October 2026. CS requested to renew his term of office, at which all Governors present agreed. CS' term of office has been renewed for an additional four years, ending in October 2030.
7	<u>Headteacher Report</u> The Headteacher Report was made available to Governors via Governor Hub prior to the LGB meeting. The Headteacher Report covered an update on the school priorities, attendance, behaviour and suspensions and professional development opportunities for staff. Governors were informed that since writing the report, the number of children on a reduced timetable at St Martin's had increased from four (4) to five (5). Schools hope to reduce the number of reduced timetables quickly however, Governors were reminded that pupils on reduced timetables has an impact on the overall attendance percentage as a whole school. Governors were satisfied with the information provided within the report and did not raise any additional questions.
8	<u>Curriculum Update – Spelling</u> The English Leads, Liz Little and Beth Creed, provided an overview of the implementation of the new Pathway to Spell programme, introduced to improve spelling outcomes and support writing attainment. The programme follows a clear, structured cycle of review, explain, practise, apply and reflect, delivered over four sessions per week in Key Stage 1 and three sessions per week in Key Stage 2. Monitoring, including an IRIS lesson observation, has identified positive implementation, with both staff and pupils responding well to the scheme. Staff reported improvements in pupils' spelling of tricky words in Year 1 and increasing application of taught spelling strategies. While the impact is not yet as evident in the upper year groups, the scheme has provided greater consistency across the school, with clear progression and a positive impact on teacher workload. Further work is underway to develop pupils' spelling logs and support editing skills. A Governor asked whether resources were being shared with parents. Leaders confirmed that weekly spellings are included in home learning, Year 5 and 6 families received supporting materials at parents' evening, and a parent information flyer is being considered. In response to questions about measuring impact, leaders explained that an additional writing data collection had been undertaken following lower-than-expected writing outcomes in Term 2. Monitoring has identified gradual improvements in writing and spelling, with pupils demonstrating high levels of engagement during lessons through discussion, partner work and practical activities.
9 9.1	<u>Governor Monitoring</u> <u>Monitoring Feedback</u> - Data Analysis and Pupil Progress Monitoring – KM Monitoring report was made available to Governors prior to the LGB meeting. It was reported that the Assistant Headteacher had a very good knowledge of the data for year six (6) and as a whole school. It was agreed that the same monitoring visit would take place at Vale View.

	<u>Planned Monitoring</u> - KM to arrange data analysis monitoring visit at Vale View. - KM agreed to attend the feedback session from Graham Chisnell's visit on 20th April in place of CB. - Sports Premium monitoring to be arranged between FB, KM, the Trust PE Lead and Vale View AHT.
10	<u>Safeguarding</u> Governors were provided with safeguarding information in relation to the number of external agencies involved with families and the number of children this correlates to. It was highlighted that the needs and vulnerabilities between the two schools are very different.
10.1	<u>St Martin's</u> One (1) child is on a child protection plan, with three (3) children in need. No children/families are accessing Early Help however, it was noted that a referral to Early Help was recently declined. There are ten (10) families who are being supported through the NELFT well-being team, who work closely with the parents in the work that they do. Parents have been invited to attend workshops, one workshop topic was challenging behaviours and the other was based on anxiety. Governors were provided with data trend analysis from CPOMS to view. It was noted that some categories overlap on CPOMS due to several categories which can be (appropriately) tagged for the same incident. A Governor asked if the new CPOMS system is fully embedded now. It was confirmed that moving over to CPOMS was a big change for all involved, but that the system is being well used and the reporting features are much better than the previously used system.
10.2.	<u>Vale View</u> There are five (5) children on a child protection plan. There have been more children on child protection plans, but have been stepped down from child protection and supported through a child in need plan for at least eight weeks. There are currently twenty (20) children on child in need plans. It was highlighted that support for some children has had to be stepped up, with some children stepping down and receiving support from Early Help and have sustained changes following the support provided. Other services involved include School Nurse, Oasis, Salus and Young Carers. Data trend analysis was provided to Governors. The Headteacher made Governors aware that staff have started to tag SEN if repeated behaviours linked to dysregulation are identified as concern for an SEN need. This is then followed up by the SENCO. Governors emphasised the significant difference in data between the two schools. A Governor asked if staff are confident in raising concerns. It was reported that staff are very confident in raising any concerns and are very aware of any changes and are all very knowledgeable of the children in school.
11	<u>Any Other Business</u> No items of any other business were raised in the meeting.
12	<u>Confidentiality of Proceedings</u> It was confirmed there were no items whereby individuals could be identified and therefore, there were no items of confidentiality.

13	<u>Publication of Minutes</u> The next LGB meeting will be held on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 4pm, at which these minutes will be approved and published.
<u>Action Points</u> - KM to arrange data analysis monitoring visit at Vale View.	

Minutes written by the Governance Professional, Katie Banes

Signed  Date 

