



THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE FEDERATION OF BARTON AND
GODSHILL PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Governing Board

Held in person on Thursday 19th March 2026
at Barton Primary School

Name	Role/Governor	Attended * online	Sent apologies
Naomi Smy (NS)	Co-opted Governor - Chair	✓	-
Ursula Hutchinson (UH)	Local Authority Governor	✓	
Diane Barker (DB)	Co-opted Governor - Vice-Chair	✓	
Carolyne Meer (CM)	Co-opted Governor	✓	
Mark Snow (MS)	Headteacher	✓	
Verity Bird (VB)	Co-opted Governor	✓	
Charmaine Murphie (ChM)	Staff Governor	✓	
Sarah Morrison (SM)	Parent Governor	✓	
Mark Atkins (MA)	Parent Governor	✓	
Matthew Price (MP)	Co-opted Governor	-	✓
Jamie Dickinson (JD)	Co-opted Governor	-	✓
Amy Martindale (AM)	Co-opted Governor - Co Vice-Chair	✓	
Yvette Leppard (YL)	Co-opted Governor	✓	
Karen Darby (KD)	Co-opted Governor	-	✓

Non-Governors in attendance

Name	Role/Designation	Attended	Sent apologies
Alison Starnes (AS)	Clerk to Governors (Barton)	✓*	
Leigh Mannix (LM)	Clerk to Governors (Godshill)	✓	
Lisa Morgan Huws (LMH)	Head of School (Godshill)	-	✓
Su Meredith (SuM)	Head of School (Barton)	✓	

Vacancies

1 x Co-opted Governor

Quorum

The meeting achieved the minimum number to be considered quorate (8) and remained at or above this number for the whole meeting.

Start & Finish Times

The meeting convened at 4.00pm and finished at 5.20pm having considered all items on the agenda.

Key: **Red: Action**, **Blue: Challenge**, **Green: Support**, **Purple: Ring-fenced funding**.

1. Welcome and Introductions

NS welcomed all present to the meeting. AS attended the meeting online.

2. Agree any items of urgent business

No urgent business was declared.

3. Receive and agree whether to accept apologies

MP, JD and KD sent apologies for this meeting, which were accepted.

LMH (Head of School, Godshill) also sent apologies for this meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest

YL and ChM are sisters.

5. Finance

DB reported on the 5th March meeting of the FWP, where KW gave a financial update on both schools.

Godshill remains in deficit, most of which is down to additional pupils with no funding due to SPP (school place planning). KW is liaising with the Education Finance team at County Hall. Budgets have been submitted, each with a recovery plan, which for Godshill will take longer than three years. Barton's deficit is much less than predicted. Both schools are on budget within the current financial year.

SFVS – this is evaluation of both schools' financial procedures and practices, requiring governor oversight. This was discussed in detail at the FWP meeting and AM and DB put together the proposed document submitted to this meeting. If ratified, both SFVS documents will be sent to the LA by 31st March.

It is important that all governors have a clear idea of where both schools are financially, so they are able to hold leaders to account and help support where needed. Value for money was part of the discussion.

Financial processes can be checked far more robustly with the finance committee in place.

Governor Services SLA – the clerk confirmed this is renewed on an annual basis. DB is happy to propose subscribing for the 2026-27 year.

Governors agreed to renew the Governor Services SLA and approved the SFVS documents for both schools. NS to sign off SFVS documents.

6. Agree Minutes of Federation GB Meeting (27th November)

The 29th January Federation FGB minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record, and will be signed electronically by NS.

7. Matters Arising

GD was unable to attend the meeting today. NS is meeting GD on 13th or 14th April and will confirm a date for GD to attend a meeting in either May or July. **NS to confirm visit date for Gordon Duff.**

DB to action Godshill PAN increase request.

VB's STEM visit reports were being sent for background information. It was agreed to discontinue this item.

UH has completed visits, and VB has planned joint visits to GE (SENCo) with DB.

The AI Policy is to be discussed and voted on later in the meeting.

8. Receive and Consider Governor Visit Reports

Several reports were received.

Barton walkaround – this was a positive visit, and children were engaged throughout.

UH (3 visits – SIP, Maths, English) – UH was impressed with the SIP. Much has been done, with the main achievement being more consistency. SLT learning walks will throw up areas of support – the aim is to have a consistent approach to behaviour, teaching etc. Many constructive things have been put in place.

Attendance has been flagged as having an effect on SATs results. LW (Barton office) and MS are dealing with this. [Who is governor for attendance?](#) A report is needed on attendance. DB has mentioned attendance in her behaviour report, but an overview is needed of both. **DB to undertake attendance visit.**

English (Barton) – this was an excellent visit. The English Lead is aiming for consistency. Book monitoring was completed recently, with small group work going well.

There are maths booster groups running at Godshill to help children that may not achieve ARE.

NS thanked UH for her visits.

UH to arrange visits for English (Godshill), Maths (Barton) and follow-up visits for SIP (both schools).

AM, MA visit to Barton – this was really positive, with children engaged. Children spoken to are positive about their new uniform.

MS reported that Ofsted made an impromptu visit to Barton to look at the nursery. Despite challenges, the nursery team do a great job of managing with limited resources.

Visit to Godshill – governors commented on MS's very positive interaction with children. An update was requested on planning of the outside area. MS explained that this is in hand, but listed building permission is required.

VB (SEND) – a very positive meeting. Federation has been beneficial to Godshill, and GE is at the school two days a week; however, GE's workload at Barton is stretched on three days a week, meaning she can only deal with statutory items. SEND numbers are pretty similar across the past few years. SLT support GE as much as possible.

Richard Quigley (Isle of Wight West MP) is on the Island on Saturday and VB has signed up to meet him. Her main focus will be money for resources. MS explained that Barton has insufficient funding to look after children with significant needs, and local services are overstretched. Barton has the right structure going forward and can meet need for the vast majority of children.

Less money is available to support children with most need. One child is waiting for a specialist placement where they will attract funding of £30,000; however, Barton only receives £11,000. Osborne Bay is the calm room in the school. The school and community need these additional resources.

There are two children at Barton requiring specialist places. MS feels the school has levels right. Most vulnerable families are facing challenges and the school is dealing with a bureaucratic system. This is a national issue.

The IW has special schools but don't currently have a behavioural resource provision for primary age children.

Is Osborne Bay staffed? This isn't staffed all the time. GE and CA spend time there, with another staff member doing Thrive and small intervention work. Capital investment needs to be targeted sensibly and where the need is.

9. HT Report

Child in Care information (GE). This explains how governors have a responsibility to check. LAC numbers at Barton are quite low at present. There are more LAC at Godshill and GE does all tracking. The biggest concern at present is the breakdown of adoptive families.

LLP visits – Sam Sillito. SS worked well with the schools and understands the contexts. There were positive comments about Barton's school culture, and SS was robust in challenges, such as the level of persistent absence.

The observation on learning walks ties into UH's conversations, and making sure all children have consistency. SLT has carried out further monitoring, reminding teachers of the importance of this.

Next steps include making sure children have the ability to move on within their setting, and teachers developing working with split input. Children need to have independence to try their next task. The teaching of Years 5 & 6 was praised. Leaders need to develop the skill set of less experienced teachers.

SuM has been on training with REST (formerly Primary Behaviour Service). PACE training addresses how to approach and support children in situations of disregulation. This training is being filtered through the school. SuM and MS are good at empowering their staff team in this area.

The school has worked hard on inclusion and subject leaders show core subject depth of knowledge.

Data has some positives to look forward to. GLD data has improved, and Year 1 phonics has gone up from 61% to 70%. Last year's Reception had really good phonics input. 95% of children in Year 2 have passed phonics.

Leaders are hoping for considerable progress for Year 4 multiplication outcomes. The team is working through systematically and showing good outcomes. Year 6 reading should be at national average.

Seven children in Year 6 have EHC plans. FFT data is significantly above what the predictions are. Barton usually achieves good GD scores; however, there are still gaps in national benchmarking.

The SCR was found to be robust, with two minor areas to address. SS also looked at the phonics provision and understands the upskilling of support staff. A lot of CPD has been completed, empowering staff and growing confidence.

Actions identified in the report are being worked on, including around teacher expectations and the monitoring cycle of school culture by leaders. Maths fluency and attendance are areas for work.

Godshill's report was also very positive. Attendance is a major issue, especially in Years 5 & 6. This is due to turbulence, as 74% of the current Year 6 are not original Godshill children. There is a focus on persistent absence of 39%, which increases to over 50% for Year 6.

The walk around was positive, and behaviour excellent. SS was pleased to see phonics teaching in action, which gave a positive view of the scheme. Behaviour management was positive and core subject leaders able to articulate. Data showed real positives. Two Year 6 children are being home schooled. Year 1 phonics is projected at 79%. Year 6 should be above national average for SATs. MS is optimistic, despite attendance, that Year 6 will achieve what they need to. There is concern for high achievers and GD (greater depth) children at Godshill.

Targets for Godshill include attendance, and a growth mindset around GD.

What about the low take-up on school trips? There has been some apathy, which ties into SPP.

Attendance at both schools has improved. Reception and Year 5 are the most challenging cohorts at Barton, with some issues with children on part-time timetables. Godshill was bottom of the DfE similar schools attendance comparison last time, but not this time. The school has historically always been above average for attendance. Year 6 represents the biggest challenge.

Governors suggested asking Godshill School Council to work with MS around incentives to improve attendance.

Godshill Year 1 attendance is an area of strength.

Some structural building is to take place at Godshill over the summer. The introduction of the nurseries has been successful, there have been no complaints or issues raised with MS. The nursery team has integrated very well and children feel safe and are engaged. Despite challenges, the nursery team do a great job of managing with limited resources. Longer term, payments from the nurseries will help with school budgets and getting children through the door.

Whose job is it to follow up on absence? It's a whole school responsibility. The school buys into the Education Welfare SLA, but MS is not seeing officers in school in line with the terms of the SLA. The school is paying for the service and EW officers should work with the school to knock on doors.

Governors feel responsibility for attendance should go back to parents.

10. Approve Policies

AI Policy – two suggested amendments were sent by VB, who proposes approval of this policy.

A simplified version of the AI Policy will be produced for children.

The AI and SEND Information policies were both agreed. LM to amend AI Policy as per VB's suggestions.

11. Any Additional Business

There were no further items of business.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday 30th April 2026 – FWP, 4.00pm, Barton
- Thursday 14th May 2026 – FGB, 4.00pm – Godshill

13. Impact of Meeting

- AI and SEND Information policies approved.
- SFVS documents for both schools approved and to be submitted to LA.
- Governor Services SLA approved for 2026-27.
- HT report shows detail, especially around attendance
- School improvement reports show many positives for both schools.
- Data shows positive progression being made, including in phonics.
- Short-term impact of interventions and leader support being seen and evidenced.
- Persistent attendance issues being addressed at both schools.

End of meeting – 5.20pm.