



Learning is ACE

Astley Primary School



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Astley Primary School
Minutes of the LGB held at the school on 27th January 2026
on the school premises.

Governors Present:		Other Persons Present:	
		C Peacock	Clerk
G Pickhaver	Chair - Trust Appointed Governor	E Harrold	Staff
M Hodge	Parent Governor	I Borley	Staff
F Anderson	Staff Governor		
H Pegg	Trust Governor		
J Edgeley	Staff Governor		
R Bellow	Trust Appointed Governor		
J Blaker	Parent Governor		
Key:			
FSM	Free School Meals	AO	Alistair Ogle - CEO Synergy MAT
RWI	Read, Write, Inc	MT	M Thorogood (Estates Manager)
SEN	Special Educational Needs	RL	R Lord (Deputy CEO (Primary))
NOR	Number on role	J Cla	J Claxton (Director of People)
SLT	Senior Leadership Team	Green text	Governor challenge / support
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage	Blue text	School response to challenge
MAT	Multi Academy Trust	Red text	Governor decision
LGB	Local Governing Board		
PST	Pastoral Support Team		
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health		
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan		
PAN	Pupil Admission Number		* documents available on Govhub
A Meeting of the Local Governing Body of Synergy Multi Academy Trust on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 4.30pm at the school.			
Agenda no.	Item		
1	i. Apologies JG and KA sent apologies.		
	ii. Quorate check		

	<p>Clerk confirmed the meeting quorate</p> <p>Welcome to Jess joining as Staff governor</p>
2	<p>i. <u>Governors' declaration of pecuniary and prejudicial interest relating to any item on the agenda</u></p> <p>None declared</p> <p>ii. <u>Governors' annual declaration of pecuniary and prejudicial interest – (minute returns)</u></p> <p>None declared</p>
3	<p>1.School Performance, Teaching and Learning:-</p> <p>i. Foundation stage *</p> <p>Curriculum – 7 areas of learning, broken down into 17 learning goals to be assessed at the end of the year. Aim for all children to reach expected in all 17. Balance of indoor and outdoor learning, adult and children lead activities. Challenging with only 2 adults in the classroom. This year not using tapestry. Parents can come in during open morning and chat to children. Parents and adults can add speech bubbles to work.</p> <p>Gov – do you get a good turnout of parents? EH – yes. Lots of parents coming in to Bears.</p> <p>Gov – how do you engage parents who don't come in? EH – now using Instagram, also can make contact and ask parents to come in.</p> <p>Information evening at start of year, could have another workshop later in the year.</p> <p>Curriculum – RWI, White Rose Maths and Mastering Number, Charanga, Cornerstones, Pathways to Write, Life Skills, Real PE and Open the Book. A packed timetable and balanced with play.</p> <p>Data – increase GLD (good level of development) need expected in all areas. Last year above national. This year identifying more needs, down to 68% currently. 5 disadvantaged in class. Maths increased – mastering numbers is sequenced and small chunks so embeds learning.</p> <p>Gov – how far back does the data go? EH – I think back to 2019</p> <p>Challenges – 1 TA, 46% summer born, high level of need in Communication and language – 29% joined with support plans, physical development and personal, social and emotional behaviour. Using Wellcomm assessments to identify needs - 4 support plans for behaviour issues.</p> <p>FA – speech and language come in and then hand over care to school, so school needs to upskill staff to do this.</p> <p>1:1 TA has SALT time Wellcomm activities Bucket time Finger gym activities Pre-writing shapes Dough disco Positive support plans Early help support for family Strategies in class – sand timers, communication book, reward charts TA toilet training and recording</p>

Gov – how much link do you have with preschoolers next door?
EH – I feel like this could improve, but it needs cover/timetable
Gov – they could play games around drawing shapes. It is about doing what is best for the children.
GP – has the nursery had impact on your work?
EH – definitely. If I have forgotten something I can knock on the door and ask. I have met with them a couple of times. Nursery come for transition party and came to watch the nativity, remembrance service and joined apple day/forest school
FA – it's a balance – want EH in class as well as building relationship.
EH some don't have the motor skills to put clothes on peg.
Gov – nursery can be helping to reduce the gap
Gov – 2 difficult aspects to the job. Getting them ready to learn but also getting them ready for school – do you have enough time?
EH – we need to start learning immediately
Gov – what I find frustrating is that children are under-developed – their motor skills at 4 are not as developed but expected to be ready.

ii. Art *

Children should explore and experiment with art. Look at different crafts and designers.
Analysing art – Post-it evaluation, in sketchbooks with ideas on.
Colour theory repeats throughout school. (every 2 years)
National curriculum – KS1 need to use a range of materials. KS2 explore materials.
Learning about artists. Links with DT.
Colour theory KS1 primary and secondary colours. KS2 tertiary and complimentary colours, Upper KS2 tints, tones and shades.
Art competition coming up.,

ACE art day went well. Local artist came in - a retired high school art teacher – delivered art club for KS2. Those children created a series of train installations which will be displayed in the church. Not running club this term but hoping to do more.

Resource audit. Lots of good resources. It would be good if each class had a supply of paint, water paint, aprons etc.
ACE art day started with decorating a t-shirt to use as an apron for day. Next year, IB class will do this first week of the year to use throughout the year.
Kiln – very labour intensive. Looking into whether it is being used and by who. Want to explore further.
Gov – when was it last used?
FA – a few years ago
Gov – is it PAT tested?
IB – CL is getting it serviced
FA – ideally an expert will come in to use it.

Actions

Adapt cornerstones curriculum – change artist for more local artists. Would be amazing for children to learn about an artist and then the artist visit and see their work
VNET peer review – hoping to go to other schools and support other teachers and take best practise ideas.

iii. P.E.

P.E is important for physical and mental wellbeing and increases self-esteem and confidence with teamwork. Children support each other and are taught how to be part of a team and encourage listening and communicating.

Most staff do not have a TA in the afternoons.
Curriculum uses REAL PE. Links in with gym and end of year performance (dance)

Part of WNSSP – transport is organised and the events. Generally positive feedback. Some

	<p>children don't enjoy this so be good to know why. Events like dodgeball, swimming galas, and competitive events.</p> <p>Attended a 3-day PE course for training. Enrolled JE as well. Booked on outdoor training course – children should do this in autumn, teambuilding skills. Gathered resources but going on training to develop further. House team events - also brings in sports.</p> <p>Will do a staff audit to find any support wanted. Plenty of equipment. Active education going well, has a big waiting list. These are free to students thanks to funding.</p> <p>. Gov – thinking about progression from top to bottom, you are doing lots about inclusion, looking at the top, how are you encouraging/helping them do better? IB – within each lesson there are videos that show skills and as soon as someone is showing they can do the skill you can uplevel this.</p> <p>Actions – IB has coaching qualification in dodgeball. Initially wants to offer a club in spring/summer specifically for years 5 and 6. Has links with other teachers who teach dodgeball, would like to start dodgeball competition.</p> <p>Assessment is not yet consistent. After meeting with SSP, coming up with new way to assess. Will trial in summer, then roll out.</p> <p>MH left 17:27</p> <p>2. Progress and attainment</p> <p>i. Analysis of School Performance Progress against end of Key Stage targets for the current year.</p> <p>3. Curriculum</p>
4	<p>Minutes of Meeting and Action Points from LGB meeting 25th November 2025 and matters arising:</p> <p>HP proposed JB seconded. accepted <u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>Annual governance statement – actioned Class list - actioned</p>
5	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p>FA – any questions/comments about the SONAP? Gov – It would be useful to have a list of the acronyms, can that be sent out with the SONAP?</p> <p>SEND - Meeting with families, lots of referrals with speech and language. Each referral takes about 90 minutes to fill in and upload documents. SEND support plans updated. Teachers meeting with families before half term.</p> <p>Noticeable rise in safeguarding cases. DC now a DSL Safeguarding meeting last Monday to go through case by case, useful to have designated time.</p> <p>SLT – monitoring. Learning observations/learning walks. Focus on morning lessons but could happen anytime. JG and RL carried out learning walk yesterday afternoon</p> <p>Spark ED JE – Focus on assessment - what works and what doesn't work. Effective so far. Have an action</p>

	<p>plan with targets and can see what has been done</p> <p>OFSTED readiness – Constantly preparing and as ready as can be. Lots of discussions happening. Everyone seems clear about what we are doing and why.</p> <p>Met with MH recently and re-wrote Pupil Premium. Another meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Gov – do you still need to pull out children who are eligible for funding? FA – OFSTED will do case sampling. 6 different children in KS1. Can say no (if child would struggle to chat with stranger)</p> <p>Could do case sampling on Deep Dive Day</p>
6	<p>Head teacher appraisal</p> <p>Carried out.</p>
7	<p>LGB Governance Items:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Governor Vacancies ii. Governor Meeting day iii. Governor Visits <p>JB been to visit LW, MH to see FA, RB to tigers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Governor Training <p>JB did exclusion training.</p>
8	Safeguarding
9	<p>Deep Dive Day</p> <p>DDD will be on safer internet day.</p> <p>Request for time with individual classes, look at questions governors could ask and for time as subject leader.</p> <p>Overview of JG ideas – introduction to the day ahead, OFSTED tool refresh, case sampling, attendance discussion (HP and CL). After lunch – debrief of morning, governors in classes, book browse, gather pupil perception. Finish with debrief of day.</p> <p>Gov - Not sure if talking to staff has as much value. FA – useful to hear what they say and well-being etc. Gov – help them feel valued.</p>
10	<p>Governor involvement – OFSTED</p> <p>Will be asking governors to come in. so will circulate email to ask governors to be here for a meeting. The SONAP has everything that we need to know.</p>
11	Well-being
12	<p>Policies to be adopted:-</p> <p>Appraisal and Capability 2023 *</p> <p>Synergy MAT Pay Policy V5 6.11.23 *</p> <p>Online Safety Policy *</p> <p>Admission Round Co-ordination Scheme 204-25 and appendices *</p> <p>Synergy Complaints Procedure 2023 *</p> <p>Synergy Gender Pay Gap Report 2023 *</p> <p>Synergy Probation Procedure *</p> <p>Synergy Reserves Pooling Policy October 2023 *</p> <p>Synergy Disciplinary Procedure November 2023 *</p> <p>Synergy Grievance Policy Procedure 2022 onwards *</p> <p>Synergy Online Safety Policy September 2023 *</p> <p>Life Skills Policy *</p> <p>Drugs Education Policy *</p> <p>Anti-bullying Policy *</p> <p>Noted</p>

13	<p>Trust Health and Safety policy School Health and Safety policy</p> <p>Have access to these.</p> <p>JB left 18.05</p>
14	Governor Reporting
15	Scheme of delegation
	Up to date
16	<p>i. Items to be disseminated to the trust</p> <p>none</p> <p>ii. Items disseminated from the Trust</p> <p>none</p>
17	Chairs Business/correspondence
	none
18	Any other business
	<p>Need to talk about what we want from subject leaders - perhaps on DDD?</p> <p>Gov – Can we make subjects more challenging? For example, English, it is possible to take an image of a letter and use technology to check how well it has been formed. – can be done but needs skills to do this.</p> <p>GP – other school governors are not as involved as we are.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting:- Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 16:30 (on school premises)</p> <p>Finished at 18.13</p>
	* Documents on GovernorHub

Summary of Agreed Actions

Agenda item no.	Agenda Action	Action owner	Target date