

The Governance duty is, above all to drive relentless ambition for the young people served by our schools system, whatever the circumstances.

FGB Strategic Meeting 28/04/26 EXE VALLEY FEDERATION					
Date/Time	28/04/26		Location	18.00 Chudleigh Knighton	
Attendees	Initials		Attendees	Initials	
J.Enright	JE	LA Governor/ Chair	L Price	LP	Co-opted
C.Gilberthorpe	CG	Staff	J. Jolliffe	JJ	Executive Principal
K.Wotton	KW	Parent	E.Loosley-Leeming	ELL	Foundation
O.Burrow	OB	Co-opted	K Golby	KG	Co-opted
H.Jones-Mcvey	HM	Parent	E.Waldram-Mcabe (Online)	EWM	Co-opted
S.Margesson	SM	Foundation	J.Ruddick	JR	Co-opted
S. Frost	SF	Co-opted			
Associate Members	Initials			Initials	
J.Akhurst	JA	EHT for West Hub & HoS Newton St Cyres	L.Penhallurick	LP	EHT Moorsway/HoS The Erme
A.Withers	SB	School Governor	P.Hinkley	PH	School Governor
Clerk	Initials				
Heidi Last	HL				
Apologies					
L.Parry	LP	Co-opted			
Absent No Apology					
Quorum	13 governors in attendance at start; meeting is quorate				

MINUTES			
		Action	Resolution
1.	Welcome & introductions Reflection ELL		
2.	Apologies for Absence – LP, apology accepted		Apology accepted
3.	Declaration of Interests invited and declared No declarations		No declarations
4. 4.1	Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings Approval of Minutes 02/12/25		All minutes agreed as a true and

			accurate account
5.	Formal decisions		
5.1	Ratify ToR Thorverton Preschool Outstanding, to be agreed at the next meeting	To be agreed at the next meeting	
5.2	Discipline Committee Membership SM, HM, KG	Agreed	
5.3	HoS Appointments L.Nichols Brampford Speke and M.Brown Silverton. Both starting September 2026	HoS appointments formally ratified	
5.4	T of R to include Associate Governors on Panel committees ToR circulated prior to the meeting. All in agreement	ToR agreed	
6.	Finance (All questions to FBM 7 days in advance)		
6.1	Finance and Risk committee minutes 16/3/2026 and supporting paperwork Minutes and supporting paperwork shared prior to the meeting, along with Qs and As. No further questions		
6.2	Budget monitors – questions received in advance The deficit position has increased from the original budget forecast. We finished the financial year with a total deficit of £461,000 across the federation, which equates to approximately £65,000 per school, and Moorsway Primary School ended the year with a small surplus of £13,600. At the time of setting the 2025/26 budget, we had forecast a lower deficit of £336,000, reducing to £256,000 in 2026/27. The increase we are now seeing reflects the ongoing financial pressures we are experiencing. We are finding it increasingly challenging to balance the budget. This is largely due to a combination of factors, including rising staffing requirements and costs, limited increases in funding, and wider inflationary pressures. As with all schools, staffing remains our most significant area of expenditure. The 2026/27 budget is currently being developed. Funding increases remain modest, and previous grants have now been incorporated into the main budget share, which reduces flexibility. The budget approval deadline has also been extended to 30th June this year due to ongoing issues with the new finance system. Going forward we are actively reviewing staffing structures. Several temporary and fixed-term contracts are being considered as part of this process. We are also expecting some savings through a planned class reduction at Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School and through the		

	replacement of some roles at lower pay scales where appropriate. It is also important to note that pay awards are still to be confirmed. Even small variances from what has been assumed in the budget can have a significant impact on the overall financial position. This is a challenging but not unusual position in the current climate, and our focus is on ensuring we manage this carefully and plan a sustainable way forward. Going forward – - Finalise the 2026/27 budget in line with updated funding and cost assumptions ahead of the 30th June deadline - Continue detailed review of staffing structures, including fixed-term and temporary contracts – Summer term - Identify and implement further cost efficiencies where appropriate across the federation – Summer term - Model a range of realistic scenarios to reduce the deficit over a 2–3 year period Summer term - Bring back a clear deficit recovery plan for governor review and approval – Summer/Autumn - Maintain regular budget monitoring and update governors on progress – Half termly		
6.3	School meal increase Moorsway Proposal to increase meals to £2.65. Very low charge at Moorsway of £2.53. Making a loss on meals, we currently charge £2.80 and still struggle to balance. With food prices rising again this will only get harder to balance. Increase from 01/06/26. All in agreement All families on Universal credit will be entitled to FSM in September. There is no extra funding for this.	All in agreement to increase school meal charge to £2.65 at Moorsway from 01/06/26	
6.4	SFVS This has already been submitted due to the deadline with the DFE. Late coming to governors due to Ofsted at The Erme. This has been available to Governors since the end of March No questions and agreed	SVFS agreed	
6.5	Annual Services 2026/27 Detailed breakdown of all services sent in advance. These are our core services that we receive from the LA. There are no savings to be made by looking elsewhere for these services. They are essential to our schools.	Service 26/27 agreed	
7. 7.1	MP with South Hams update This has now formally finished. SLT at South Hams and the Chair are still keen to work with us. Still bring a lot of skills to us. Especially for Moorsway. SENDCO support has been invaluable. Need to think about how we support teachers in a coaching capacity. Unsure what the future looks like. They are a small federation and do not want to commit to anything now.		All agreed to continue with an informal partnership

	Meeting planned for Chairs and Heads. Nothing to suggest they want to look elsewhere. Continue to work together and benefit from each other. Vote taken all happy to continue from 01/04/26 – 31/05/27. This is not a formal management partnership.		
8. 8.1 8.2	Church School update Church schools' team Meeting held last Wednesday came away feeling really reassured. Framework for flourishing trials, regular meetings are taking place. Good framework in place that keeps us moving forward. Expecting SIAMs this term at Silverton. Exeter flourishing partnership C.Holding is taking on more responsibility and ensuring that church schools continue to flourish.		
9. 9.1	Governor Updates Statutory Lead governors to feedback on key areas from ABSS live documents Safeguarding Training is all up to date and kept fresh. Leads are constantly feeding back to staff. Never forget Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. There has been a reduction in MASH referrals. Challenge remains with school in supporting children where there is a lack of outside support/early help. How are we supporting these children and ensure they come to school and flourish? Ensuring children feel safe and belong. CPOMs consistent reporting. Some schools look like there is more. Questions to ask your HoS around this.		
9.2	Behaviour JE shared report due to LP not being present. Behaviour across the majority of federation schools is good and the vast majority of pupils behave well in all the schools and low-level incidents are managed well to ensure that they do not escalate any further. Relational practice is well-embedded in most schools, and this has a positive impact on the behaviour of pupils. Behaviour at The Erme, particularly in lower KS2 has been a particular challenge, a small group of pupils have been moved into a nurture group and this has had a positive impact on the rest of the class. A new class teacher started in the spring term, which has brought some stability to this class. Suspensions at Chertion and Cornwood . The number of exclusions has dropped from 17 pupil days in the autumn term to 6.5 days in the spring term to date, which is an improvement, but this is due in part to pupils either leaving school to be educated at home or not attending due to EBSA.		

	In November 22 members of staff across the federation schools attended PIP's Physical restraint training.		
9.3	Attendance This is looking good for all schools. Still the issue of term time holidays. Fines do not seem to be an issue for families. Silverton has dipped; one child is causing this. CT added previous attendance to her report which was useful for a quick reference.		
9.4	SEND Attended SENDCO team day 11 th March. Really positive meeting, all enthusiastic about how things are progressing. SENDCO South Hams had a lot of great ideas etc. Use of AI to save time is working well. Co-Pilot. Apprentice TA is working well and looking at more assistant SENDCOs. Carried out an audit of all schools and what provisions and interventions were being used. Very useful for all. All very positive. Pupil progress meetings using the cover sheet to cross reference with inclusion register. Working with TAs and class teacher. Involving the TAs is very useful. Working towards using the same paperwork across EVF and for Moorsway to follow in the future. All positive about working as a team and sharing information. Positive feel about it. Challenges, SDD to ensure everyone knows what interventions are being used. Balanced S&L system as there are long waiting lists for therapists. Linked therapist for the schools. It will involve schools leading those early interventions. Parenting and home issues and the struggle of where to refer parents to. Changes for September, looking at increasing some time for SENDCOs. Assistant SENDCO roles are evolving. Possibly assistant SENDCO and S&L therapist. Train support staff in schools and liaising with parents. Inclusion leads new name for SENDCOs. Ordinary inclusive provision, ensuring this is known across the staff and it is visible, can governors see this? Q – AI to help with support plans, great to help with capacity. General Data Protection etc and the use of AI and entering personal data. Something to be mindful of.		
10.10.1	H&S/Premises Any known school issues/concerns New boilers at CFP Major building works at The Erme over the summer Roof issues Thorverton, waiting for quotes. Silverton is having lots done for free by a parent. This has made a massive difference.		

10.2	H&S Audits at CW, TE and Whimble All 100% Thorverton's is taking place tomorrow (29/04/26)		
10.3	Governor H&S visits to their hub schools SB has visited Whimble. If all governors contact HoS to arrange their visit. If we can aim get this completed for the next meeting. EV reports to AKW & MW to KW, final reports to next FGB meeting	Governors for outstanding H&S visits to contact HoS and aim to get this completed this term	
11. 11.1	Thorverton Preschool Update on transfer Last piece of work was to resolve the lease that was set up many years ago. Deed of Surrender has been drawn up by a solicitor. Former Chair has contracted all lease holders and they have agreed to sign this when it comes through. Currently sat waiting with the Diocese. The lease has no impact on the day to day running of the pre-school.		
12. 12.1	Governor Reports for approval Questions received in advance of meeting Maths Link Governor report – NW Nick completed this, thank you.		Agreed
12.2	Parent Survey update LP to complete this. JJ would like to share it with HoS once LP has gone through this.	JJ to share with HoS before final report comes to governors	
13. 13.1	Governance PH has now moved into School governor role. NGA Skills Audit Report – brief update by OB Governor Thank you OB for the report. Training priorities, Neuro Diversity Skills development, support for Ofsted preparation SEND, funding and Budgets and climate action plans all came up as areas for development. Skills of current governors to be shared with all governors as there are a lot of skills that each governor has.		
13.2	Lanyards for new governors X 2 missing, Kat and Kate	HL to speak to Marie to get lanyards made	
14. 14.1	Policies E-Safety Online safety, use of E-Safety rather than online safety. If something is identified who to go to? SWGFL etc?		Deferred

	Job roles and what governors are looking at? E-Safety officer? Who is this? Appendix, flow chart, no mention of child sexual abuse content reported to internet watch foundation? JJ to look at this with KG for next meeting.		
14.2	Data Protection		Agreed
14.3	Sex and Relationships Suggested reading same sex relationships, recommended reading list is outdated. There are some amazing ones, will share a list HJM		Agreed
14.4	Positive Handling		Agreed
14.5	Security Incident		Agreed
14.6	Data Security		Agreed
14.7	Redundancy.		Agreed
14.8	Pay Policy		Agreed
14.8	Ratify Admission Policies		Agreed
14.10	Disciplinary Policy		Agreed
14.11	Acceptable Behaviour Policy.		Agreed
14.12	Behaviour Policy		Agreed
14.13	Governor Visit Protocol To be agreed at the next meeting		Deferred
14.14	Safe Inside Protocol		Agreed
15.	EP Report EP Executive Summary update on Shaugh Prior and Q & A Presentation to be shared with minutes. Break into three hub groups		