

Standards and Curriculum Committee
Meeting minutes
9th December 2025
5pm
Held online on TEAMS

Attended: Christine Cottle (Chair)
Rachael Sharpe (CEO)
Cheryl Mathieson (CM)

Joanna Hooper (JH) – Mid Devon LB Representative
Oliver Heathman (OH) - Moorland Hub LB Representative
Charlotte Roe (Governance Professional)

Lizzie Lethbridge (LL) – DoE - **For items 9 & 10- Personal development/wellbeing of pupils and TEF overview.**
Sharon Lord (SL)- **For item 8- Christian Distinctiveness.**
Andy Keay (DoSI)- **For item 6.2- Data report.**

Minutes: Clerk to the Trust- Nicol Bush

No	Item	ACTION
1.	Welcome and apologies The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome to Trustees/Directors. Apologies were received and accepted from Corinna Tigg, Max Thomas and Kate Evans.	
2.	Declarations of interest There were no new Declarations of interest brought to the meeting.	
3.	Reflection – Vision and Values <i>“Flourishing schools for all at the heart of our communities”</i> <i>The CEO reminded the meeting of the Vision and Values</i>	
4.	Any other business There was no other business brought to the meeting	
5.	Approval of last meeting minutes For approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Part I minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2025 were approved by the Trustees as a true record and were signed accordingly. The Part II minutes were circulated to those that attended the meeting and were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly. <p>The Trustees engaged in a robust discussion regarding the level of detail contained within the S&C minutes. It was agreed that the Governance Professional would liaise with the Clerk to reduce the length of the minutes and provide a more condensed version for future meetings.</p> <p>ACTION- GP to liaise with the Clerk, to condense future meeting minutes.</p>	GP/CLERK
6.	Matters arising from minutes of 14th October 2025 (not on the agenda)	

	<p>6.1 Committee to revisit the Trust targets and actions. (Circulated to Trustees before the meeting) The Trustees approved the Trust targets and actions.</p> <p>6.2 Data report for S and C Dec 9th, 2025 (Circulated via email to Trustees before the meeting) The Chair confirmed that Trustees had reviewed the proposed targets for the year across all key stages. AK outlined the specific targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS: 76% • Year 1 Phonics: 83% • Year 2 Phonics: 70% • Key Stage 1: Reading 75%, Writing 66%, Maths 72% • Multiplication Check: Target set at 20 • Key Stage 2: Reading 80%, Writing 70%, Maths 74%, Combined Reading/Writing/Maths 69% <p>AK highlighted ongoing challenges with extracting SEND and PP data from SIMS, noting that external support had also struggled with this task. Improvements were expected if the SIMS package changed, which would make reporting easier.</p> <p>The Chair thanked AK for presenting his report and attendance at the meeting.</p>	
7.	<p>Trust Risk Register</p> <p>The Trustees reviewed the risk register, focusing on risks related to school improvement and quality of education. The DoE explained that these risks were closely linked to the ASIP and TEF processes, creating stronger triangulation and a more robust system overall.</p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND, Pupil Premium (PP), Early Years (EYFS) and educational standards remained amber risks • The DoE highlighted that writing continued to be the main area of concern, as reflected in data outcomes, while maths and other foundational elements were performing better. She explained that some schools might fall into advisory categories under the new framework, requiring attention to curriculum, teaching, and achievement areas. • The DoE also confirmed that Pupil Premium performance remained below national averages and behind non-PP pupils, making this a priority area for improvement. Early Years outcomes were similarly flagged as requiring attention. <p>The GP asked the DoE if she had a list of schools due for an Ofsted inspection- The DoE confirmed that immediate school inspections were imminent. A call had been received this week regarding Cheriton Bishop, but the inspection was deferred as the whole school was attending a pantomime. Wolborough was also identified as imminent, and from January onwards, the cycle of inspections for the East schools would begin. The DoE advised that the Academy dashboard provided the most accurate information and confirmed that the link could be found in the system-led improvement section of the TEF.</p>	
8.	<p>Focus: Vision and values with a LEARNING WALK to evidence that the vision and values and (for CofE schools) Christian distinctiveness are present.</p> <p>SL presented the autumn term report (Circulated to the Trustees before the meeting) and gave a brief overview. She explained that it was a working document with RAG ratings for schools against six IQ areas. SL invited the committee to ask questions, and the following were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How quickly can schools move between RAG ratings?</i> • <i>What support is in place for schools with multiple amber/red ratings?</i> <p>SL responded that she felt positive and the focus was on supporting the schools identified as Reds. It was noted that regular contact had been maintained to assist schools and to support the ethos groups.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The GP asked SL if there was sufficient information from LAC minutes and from ethos committees in preparation for SIAMS inspections?</i> <p>SL said that communication remained an area requiring improvement, despite gradual progress over the past couple of years, she suggested bringing foundation governors together to share good practice. SL noted the importance of celebrating examples where communication was working well, such as schools confidently feeding minutes and foundation governors actively contributing. In cases where schools lacked a foundation governor, individuals were commended for confidently representing their schools.</p> <p>Focus: Vision and Values – to obtain a view at LAC level</p> <p>Overall evaluation how the schools reflect the vision and values of the Trust</p> <p>The meeting discussed the importance of training for foundation governors to ensure clarity around their roles and responsibilities. SL highlighted that this issue had been raised in previous meetings, noting that some governors, had expressed uncertainty despite prior governance experience. SL confirmed she had been pressing the diocese for support and training and suggested organising a session where foundation governors could come together to share good practice, particularly as new and less experienced governors were joining.</p>	
9.	<p>Focus: Personal Development/Wellbeing of pupils (Report circulated via email to Trustees for review before the meeting)</p> <p>The DoE gave an overview of the report and invited the meeting to ask any questions.</p> <p>A question was raised around the RSHE policy, confirmed that the RSHE policy presented at the meeting was an interim policy, as the full Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and PSHE policy was under review. She explained that the interim policy ensured compliance with current guidance. The new guidance stated that schools should not specifically teach gender identity but should teach about different types of families in an age-appropriate way, often through books, stories, assemblies, and the PSHE curriculum.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the DoE for her presentation of the report and attendance at the meeting.</p>	
10	<p>Focus: TEF Overview (Trust Evaluation Form) and ATSIP (Circulated to Trustees via email, for review before the meeting)</p> <p>The DoE gave an overview of the report and invited the meeting to ask any questions.</p> <p><i>The GP asked the DoE if the ATSIP was to be presented to the Full Board for approval?</i></p> <p>The CEO confirmed that the TEF and the subsequent action plans had been uploaded to the Board of Trustees, as referenced in one of the agenda items.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the DoE for her presentation of the report and attendance at the meeting.</p>	
11	<p>Local Advisory Committees (See appendix 1 for LAC questions)</p> <p>It was confirmed that the request for a new server at Morchard Bishop would be addressed at board level, with the DCEO expected to provide further clarification.</p> <p>The Moorland LAC Chair raised additional concerns from the hub meeting regarding site management tasks, including academy heads undertaking maintenance duties such as fixing dishwashers and cleaning toilets. It was agreed that these issues should also be escalated to the Board as operational matters.</p> <p>The Moorland LAC Chair shared positive feedback from a Governor regarding the work of the Executive Academy Head's, efforts at Hennock,</p>	CLERK

	which had resulted in significant improvements and a more settled school environment.	
12	Action Plans PART II was taken	
13	Safeguarding The CEO reported that there was no significant safeguarding concern to raise at this meeting. She confirmed that a full safeguarding report would be presented at the next meeting, providing an overview of the autumn term, including data, strengths, trends, and resulting actions. The CEO said following the previous meeting, she had met with the Director of Safeguarding, to review the structure of future reports. She confirmed that work had been undertaken with CPOMS to improve strategic-level safeguarding reporting. Additionally, the Trust was exploring the use of CPOMS StaffSafe, a system for logging low-level concerns about staff, ensuring appropriate monitoring without creating a perception of excessive scrutiny.	
14	Policies 14.1 Pupil Premium Policy 2025- The Trustees approved this policy following some minor wording amendments. 14.2 Relationships Education policy 2025- This policy would be updated in 2026 to reflect changes in the Ofsted framework. 14.3 Teaching and Learning policy 2025- The Trustees approved this policy. 14.4 Safe Collection of Children Policy 2026- The Trustees approved this policy.	
15	RAG Review of risk register The committee discussed the review of the Risk Register at length and agreed that the Risk Register would stay as it was, with no movement to Green or Red.	
16	Evaluation of governance impact The meeting agreed that good decisions had been made which aligned with the trust's vision and values. The GP noted that the discussion around Christian distinctiveness had reinforced the trust's values and highlighted the need for continued focus in this area. The Chair shared that the TEF, ASIP, and associated targets and actions had improved significantly, appearing more coordinated and structured than in previous meetings. A LAC Chair commented that questions raised at hub meetings had been valuable and were being escalated appropriately to the Board and then communicated back down, ensuring a clear governance flow.	

The meeting ended at 6.30pm

Signed by the Chair of the Committee.....on 3rd February 2025.