

East Devon Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

Minutes: 10th March 2026 @ 16.00



Please note: This meeting will be held in person at Drakes School
with the option of online participation via Microsoft 'Teams'

Present: Anne Pelosi, Peter Halford, Rev'd Martin Jacques, Louise Jacques, Sam Briant-Evans, Jack Corsellus, Rob Pickering,
Fran Mills (Clerk) Charlotte Roe (Governance professional)

Minutes: Attached

In attendance: Martin & Louise Jacques,

No	Item	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies: Grace Chamberlain, Rob Pickering,	
2.	Declarations of interest. None. Robert Pickering re collective worship	
3.	Approval of meeting minutes from 19th January 2026: The minutes were approved.	
4.	Matters arising from LAC Meeting Spring 1 (not on the agenda)	
5.	<p>Clerk Update (NTR: Nothing to report)</p> <p>5.1 Appointments/nominations: NTR</p> <p>5.2 Training - Update on training: Clerk to send DAG list of training for Governors also the slides from the training recently provided by Rachael Sharpe which was positively reported on by Jack Corsellus)</p> <p>5.3 Clerk to Local Board Committee to update the governors on any local or national issues: NTR</p> <p>5.4 Significant changes within the Trust including key personnel Rachael Sharpe reported that restructure & business plan review will be completed on 19th March with the main aim to reduce central recharge thus providing increased funds for teaching and schools. Less expenditure is planned to bring academy in line with National Data. The current projected loss will be lessened by reductions on the central team with funds for schools remaining unchanged.</p> <p>How will structure look moving forward? A different model which has been shared with HT which has caused some unrest. Induction planned for teachers next term. School numbers to be predicted (key numbers) in line with changes.</p> <p>New framework for OFSTED inspections has now been experienced with a positive outcome. Review of digital income ongoing. All HT will have new tech and a new digital strategy is being worked on. Laptops for children to come.</p> <p>5.5 Support for SATS – are there any governors available to support school with SATs invigilation? All Governors present together with clerk available to support schools. AP to draw up schedule of cover for Drakes & Otterton. Other governors to speak to local HT to offer support if practical.</p>	
6.	<p>Focus: Provision and impact for SEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends over time show prime needs with some pupils moving on and off SEND registers, meeting progress targets and EHCP objectives <p>New: Send framework will be used with 3 monitoring standards Strong, expected, needs attention & urgent improvement necessary.</p> <p>30% in Otterton good progress noted in annual review.</p> <p>Time for review built into teachers time.</p> <p>Send surgeries, Parent voice to be picked up with next visit.</p> <p>Review to identify children remaining on the list. Quality first teaching, facilities for each child. Teaching to interact with children and to include in main body of the class evident in both Otterton & Drakes schools.</p>	

	<p>Impact for LAC: None currently in either school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil and parent voice • Sharing of school practices for our SEND children under the new OfSTED framework • Discussions re opportunities for engagement for send children taking place. 	
7.	Focus: Provision for PPC & LAC and the impact. See agenda item 6	
8.	<p>Focus: Safeguarding Trust wide Audit to be reported to Board of Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of completion of S175 across all schools. All done. • Any trends and developments along with actions. <p>Vulnerable children list at Otterton. Niggles in C Poms are being flagged up AI & on- line gaming seen as a challenge.</p> <p>JC: Questioned how some of the games which are not useful for children can be communicated to parents may who not know anything about them.</p> <p>Action plan for parent communication to educate children. Updated RHCE policy on website. Safeguarding lead. Action plan being reviewed.</p>	
9.	<p>Feedback from Ethos Committees and Community Groups Questions for Governors to ask Foundation Governor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways is the worshipful life of the school inclusive and invitational? Church led sessions allow all children to participate. Collective worship has become part of children’s DNA and enables interest ongoing. Buddies allow younger children support to interact with the session. • Has the monitoring and evaluation of CW been useful to the school - will it help to bring improvement? Development of spaces through the application for funding allows dedicated spaces to be formed for quiet times & individual worship. Constant evaluation & discussion taking place at Ethos Groups and in class rooms. • What do we know about or have learned about spiritual flourishing and what it might look like - how are our schools supporting this through CW? • Due to the absence of.Vicar no visits have taken place in Otterton or Drakes Woodbury Salterton: Collective worship integral to offer. GP working closely with Sharon Lords. Spiritual Garden under development. Weekly worship session in church. Fully reflective space being planned for collective worship when not in church. 	Chair
10.	<p>Staff Update Update from the LAC staff governor on the staff wellbeing and workload and successes. Otterton - Pending maternity leave cover needed. A plan is in place to cover if recruitment is unsuccessful. Risk Assessment to cover maternity leave. Staff happy, bulletin from Sue Howard shared.</p>	
11.	<p>School Updates Governors to consider and discuss feedback on any issues/successes from their school visits or visit notes completed by AH. See individual visit sheets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAN (to include pupils joined/left). No change. • Pupil wellbeing: Pupils are good, joy is in abundance. • Attendance: Otterton: 94.2 with 1 new starter / Drakes 95.85 with 2 new starters Tours taking place for new children. Excellent feedback from parents in Otterton following query from new residents. • Suspensions and permanent exclusions. None • Feedback on any parent forum meetings/parents’ evenings/PTFA 	Governors/ Academy Head

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otterton school PTFA: disco/craft date. Otterton & Drakes: Years 5&6 Pixie's Holt residential & London visit to houses of parliament/London eye. Some anxiety from parents which has now been overcome. 28 to attend. • ASIP update. On track • Sustainability Strategy: On the website • Pre-school update: Drakes 5 children. Otterton 2 currently. 	
12.	Standards and Curriculum Trustees Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to draft minutes (please be aware the minutes are draft and remain confidential until approved). To come. • Feedback on any issues raised from local board Chairs in S&C Meeting 	Chair/ Governance Professional
13.	Next S&C Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Evaluation of Pupil Outcomes and targets for the year • Curriculum Subject: EYFS (trust wide focus) • Attendance Overview 	Chair
14.	Evaluation of governance impact Review performance and value of the meeting - to summarise the effectiveness of the meeting and how this will positively impact on our pupils, staff and Trust. Governors to consider during the meeting where their understanding/decisions have had an impact and share a sentence. <i>Good to hear what is going on in other school.</i> <i>Migration of children from pre-school to main school ongoing.</i> <i>Phonic screening at all levels supports plans to be made to enable success at year 6 level.</i> <i>Communication with parents regarding screening & testing to enable children to meet development goals is seen as helpful. Data enables the schools to monitor development goals. Rachel Sharpe explained that for Phonics 70% at year 6 reach development goals where as only 50% at year 2. This shows where action needs to be taken. It was accepted that in village schools data is disfigured by small numbers in school but with numbers at Trust level more useful.</i> <i>Correlation between early goals & slipping from development goals.</i> <i>RS offered that practice useful & communication with parents vital to ensure ongoing results.</i> <i>JC suggested that good practice is communicated to parents. Parent sessions fitted in when possible.</i> <i>Children exposure to words of vital importance to ongoing communication & literacy development. Books being read/word exposure necessary to development.</i> <i>JC queried if multiple languages have an impact on oracy development.: Results not known but to be researched. It was noted that EAL children often do well.</i> <i>4 EAL children in Otterton – children pick up language very quickly – engagement with parents help children to develop second language.</i>	Chair
15.	Questions to be dealt with at LAC level (Governance Professional)	
16.	Questions to be escalated to S&C for Trustee consideration (Clerk)	

The meeting finished 17.06.