

BEECROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 3.00pm**

PRESENT	Pat Gradys (Chair)	June Turner (Headteacher)
	Natasha Clough	Farah Hussain
	John Liversedge	Sarah Lord
	Nicola Mitchell	Qari Qasim
	Sue Rushton	

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Harrison (Clerk – Governor Support Service)
Nicola Brown (Deputy Headteacher)
Stephanie Carter (Key Stage 1 Leader)
Emma Stuart (Foundation Stage Leader)

		ACTION
1.00	PUPIL VOICE	
1.01	There had been an opportunity for governors to hear from pupils prior to the meeting, including pupils sharing displays of their artworks.	
1.02	Governors commented that children had spoken very eloquently about their work.	
1.03	The Head shared a letter which had been received which related to an assembly that had taken place earlier in the day. The letter praised the school for their inclusivity.	
2.00	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Steven Campbell and Joanne Hazelgrave.	
3.00	MEMBERSHIP MATTERS	
3.01	The Chair welcomed new parent governor, Natasha Clough to the board. Natasha had been appointed on 1 January 2026 for a four year term of office.	
3.02	It was confirmed that a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check had been carried out and that Natasha had completed all training required, including governor induction training.	
3.03	There were no vacancies on the board and no terms of office were due to end in the next six months.	
4.00	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
	There were no declarations of interest relating to the agenda.	
5.00	QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEADTEACHER'S REPORT	
	The Headteacher's report had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting.	

Numbers on roll

- 5.01 The Head reported that school was full, however the Nursery had 18 places of the 52 vacant and the ten that had joined most recently were short term due to parents with short-stay visas.
- 5.02 There had been 62 first choice applications for Reception and so the 45 places were likely to be filled, however this had not been confirmed.

Staffing

- 5.03 School staffing for the coming year had been confirmed, with no staff leaving, however some staff would be going on maternity leave and others would be returning. The Head noted that the flexible working policy was causing some challenges.
- 5.04 One member of staff had left at Christmas to move into Higher Education, she had been replaced by a temporary member of staff who would leave at the end of Summer term. An advertisement had been placed for a specialist Art teacher for two days per week. The school were looking for a secondary-trained Art teacher with an Art degree.

Inspection Data Summary Report

- 5.05 The Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting and the Head noted that the school was working well above national in all areas. She outlined that there was nothing of note in terms of staff turnover or sickness absence within the report.
- 5.06 Attendance was highlighted as been significantly above average, with persistent absence below average. There had been no exclusions, either fixed term or permanent and hadn't been for the last 31 years that the Head had been at the school.

Personal Development and Wellbeing

- 5.07 The Head outlined that following discussion at the Resources committee, governors had agreed to continue to fund both Place2Be and Play Therapy.
- 5.08 The Deputy Head (DH) had circulated a report on the work of the Place2Be in advance of the meeting as part of the Headteacher's report. It was noted that children in Years 2 and 3 were most likely to access the service, with children in Years 4, 5 and 6 more likely to use the worry box. The work with Place2Be was confidential as long as no safeguarding concerns were raised.
- 5.09 The support had been well received by parents as external support such as CAHMS was difficult to access.

- 5.10 It was noted that there had been fewer children from Muslim backgrounds accessing the service and Place2Be had been challenged on this. Numbers had increased but the DH noted that many chose to speak to internal staff about any concerns they had.
- 5.11 The cost of Place2Be was £23,000 per year, and Play Therapy was £10,000. It was noted that the Play Therapy had been very intensive work with five children and their parents and that staff had been supported to work with these children. The Chair commented on the value that children get from both services and felt that they were worth the cost.
- 5.12 **Q Has there been any feedback from parents?**
A In relation to Play Therapy, yes there had been feedback from parents. In relation to the drop-ins provided by Place2Be, there wasn't as much, although staff did speak to parents if required and it had been agreed by the child.
- 5.13 A parent governor noted that her daughter had been to Place2Be and appreciated the support provided.
- School Calendar**
- 5.14 The school calendar for 2026/27 had been shared with parents and it was noted that training days had been agreed to take place on 1-4 September 2026, in order to undertake induction for new staff and carry out all start of year training, etc. Parents had been positive about this as it would allow them to take a holiday at a reduced cost to during the school holidays.
- 6.00 GOVERNOR MONITORING OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES**
- 6.01 The Head outlined that there was no School Improvement Advisor allocated to the school and so there had been no Notices of Visit and Contact (NOVACs) since the last Ofsted inspection.
- 6.02 An updated Quality of Education report had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting – this detailed all Teaching and Learning and was to ensure research-based approaches to the curriculum were embedded.
- 6.03 The school had applied for an Education Endowment Fund (EEF) reading programme targeted at Year 5 for the following year as the current Year 4 were tricky. The school want children to develop their speaking and understanding and the Head noted that all children benefit from strong speaking and listening skills and this runs throughout the curriculum. The report outlined everything that underpinned the curriculum.
- 6.04 **Q What do you mean in the report by parents who don't think learning should be hard/that children should be pushed?**

A School has positive high expectations and we want the curriculum to be aspirational and children to achieve. We ask children to think and do work at home and Year 6 have responded well to this challenge.

- 6.05 A staff member noted that the school want children to be resilient and keep going to achieve a positive outcome. Learning shouldn't be easy and the positivity from school gave children self-belief. High schools have noted that children from Beecroft were well prepared for secondary.
- 6.06 It was highlighted that Year 6 had taken all of this on board and were doing the homework and reading expected of them. The breadth of backgrounds at the school was noted and that staff worked hard for all of them.
- Early Years Foundation Stage**
- 6.07 Emma Stuart, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Lead had shared a report on the EYFS with governors prior to the meeting.
- 6.08 It was highlighted that despite children entering the school with low starting points, school has high expectations right from when they come in, rules are taught, for example, that they have to sit still, walk across the classroom rather than running. The school works with parents to set boundaries, etc.
- 6.09 In 2025, the school had achieved 78.7% Good Level of Development (GLD). The predictions for that cohort based on the school context was 70%, despite a three year average of 66%.
- 6.10 The teaching of language had impact for all children at all levels. The school delivers a Nuffield Early Language intervention, recognised by the EEF, which had a big impact. It was reported that children were screened on entry and allocated to the intervention as required.
- 6.11 The school follows the Essential Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme and 100% of children pass the Phonics Screening Check by the end of Year 1. Phonics teaching starts on day three of children starting in Reception and school work with parents to ensure support at home.
- 6.12 Writing was highlighted as being very strong – the school don't follow a handwriting scheme, but work on this with children right from the beginning. The school was already working at the level of the new writing framework and so was ahead of the game.
- 6.13 The school benefits from stable staffing and quality of leadership throughout the school.
- 6.14 The Chair commented positively on the high expectations of the school and thanked the EYFS Lead for her report.

7.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

- That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 November were agreed as a correct record and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

8.00 MATTERS ARISING

8.01 (minute 17.03 12/11/25) Governor Monitoring Visits Sarah Lord had undertaken a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) visit and the Chair had undertaken a Safeguarding visit. Sue Rushton was booked to undertake a PE monitoring visit next half term. John Liversedge would undertake a visit with School Council and Joanne Hazlegrave to EYFS before the next meeting of the full governing board. Action ongoing

S Rushton,
J
Liversedge,
J
Hazlegrave

9.00 COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.01

Resources committee statutory requirements	Yes/No
Schools financial value standard has been approved and submitted	Yes
Report from annual inspection of premises has been received	Arranged
Data protection policy has been approved	Yes
Freedom of information policy has been approved	Yes
Whistleblowing policy has been approved (not statutory)	Yes

9.02

It was noted that the school was in a strong position in terms of the budget. The budget setting meeting would take place on 12 May 2026.

9.03

It was reported that John Liversedge regularly undertakes health and safety walks but that an external audit was also scheduled to take place.

9.04

Pupil support committee statutory requirements	Yes/No
SEND provision meets requirements and the SENCo is qualified	Yes
School food and milk provided meets national standards	Yes
Stakeholder feedback has been considered	Arranged

9.05

Teaching and learning committee statutory requirements	Yes/No
Early years provision meets statutory requirements	Yes

10.00 SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION

10.01 The safeguarding report had been circulated in advance of the meeting by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Nicola Brown, DH.

10.02 The following points were noted:

- Safeguarding is discussed at staff meetings weekly
- NSPCC assemblies had taken place and information had been shared with parents.
- The Beecroft Online Safety Warriors were highlighted.
- The Head speaks to the School Council weekly
- All statutory training was up-to-date and Children Looked After (CLA) training had taken place since the last meeting.

10.03 The DH added that there was an ongoing dialogue between staff and herself around causes for concern. She also noted that she worked with DSLs in schools where there are siblings to ensure joined up work for families. She provided some success stories of safeguarding messages being shared by children.

10.04 It was noted that termly meetings take place between the Chair (Safeguarding governor) and the DH.

11.00 POLICY APPROVAL

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy and the SEND information report

Resolved:

- That the SEND policy and SEND information report be approved.

12.00 REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

It was reported that Steven Campbell regularly checked the website and it was confirmed that all statutory requirements were met.

13.00 ATTENDANCE REPORT

An attendance report had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting.

13.01 Persistent Absence (PA) meetings with all families where attendance was below 90% had been held in the previous week. It was noted that PA for the previous year had been 2.9% with national PA at 18%. PA currently stood at 4% but this would reduce by the end of the year.

13.02 It was noted that there had been a chickenpox outbreak which had caused the current increase in PA and that the least absence was in Year 6.

13.03 Eid would usually cause a reduction in attendance of 0.6%, however, because part of the holiday had taken place on a weekend, attendance had only reduced by 0.3%.

- 13.04 It was reported that attendance was checked every day and a summary of what has made children fall into the PA category was shared – this was often due to children visiting family abroad.
- 13.05 Attendance currently stood at 97.5% and was likely to be above 97% at the end of the year, which was well above the national average of 93.4%.
- 14.00 SCHOOL FOOD AND MILK**
A report had been circulated to governors in advance of the meeting.
- 14.01 It was noted that the catering provider was externally bought in and they achieved very high standards. A three-week rolling menu was in place which also catered for all dietary requirements and allergies.
- 14.02 Catering staff aspire for children to be excited by meals, and have themed meals on special days, for example bonfire night.
- 14.03 It was confirmed that nutritional standards were met along with food being sustainable, locally sourced, made on site and as healthy as possible.
- 14.04 Pupil feedback on school meals is sought regularly and this was shared with governors – children really appreciate that there are options for them to choose from.
- 14.05 The Head highlighted the family lunch which took place twice per year. This had a huge take up and wasn't charged for (donations were requested), but was not reflective of the usual school lunch offering – it was meant as an informal time for parents to be in school.
- 14.06 School meets termly with Catering Leeds and have recently ensured that the salad bar will return next term.
- 14.07 It was noted that in an ideal world, school would like to provide meals in house, but there weren't enough staff to be able to cover this – the school already runs an in-house after school club, and in-house cleaners.
- 14.08 Packed lunches were discussed, noting that despite the healthy lunchbox policy, children were not always provided with appropriate healthy food and the school lunch did provide this, particularly as for some children, this would be their only main meal of the day.
- 14.09 **Q What percentage of children have school meals?**
A Not as many as we would like – Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) mean that more children in KS1 have school meals. Overall the take-up drops off in the Summer as children can eat packed lunches outside.

- 14.10 **Q Could the take up be increased by having family meals with the usual lunch offering?**
A Yes, this would need to be done one year group at a time and would need to be charged for.
- 14.11 **Q Could children access school meals for part of the week and packed lunches for part?**
A No, as the caterers need to be able to order in advance for the number of children.
- 14.12 The Head noted that the cost of the meal was £2.80 per day which she felt was reasonable, however a parent governor noted that this could be quite an expense for parents, particularly for families with more than one child and asked if a profit was made. The Head responded that it wasn't and noted that in addition to the cost of the food the catering service has an annual fee which needs to be paid.
- 14.13 **Q When do children choose their meal?**
A They choose each morning and have a photo of what each meal looks like so they can easily recognise and choose.
- 14.14 The Chair suggested sharing some of the report provided to governors on the school website to publicise the school meals and Stephanie Carter agreed to do this.
- 14.15 In relation to school milk it was noted that this was free for all children up to the age of five and was provided for all children eligible for free school meals (FSM) free of charge. For other children the cost was subsidised and parents could opt in.
- 15.00 EARLY CAREER TEACHERS**
- 15.01 An update on Early Career Teachers (ECTs) in school was provided – one was moving into the second year, one would be fully qualified and one was moving to London. Another ECT had done an accelerated second year as she was going on maternity leave.
- 15.02 **Q Do you pay Gorse SCITT?**
A Yes, we have to have a Department for Education (DfE) recognised provider. Gorse have supported us in getting the teacher going on maternity leave through an accelerated second ECT year. However, generally, school do most of the support of ECTs and there is also a lot of training to do for both the ECTs and their mentors through Gorse.
- 15.03 It was noted the training provided through Gorse was often aimed at secondary teachers and not always tailored to meet the needs of Primary ECTs.
- 15.04 It was noted that the reports provided from the ECTs themselves were very positive.

16.00 GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT

The new parent governor had attended Induction training and would also access GovernorHub resources.

17.00 FORWARD PLANNING FOR OVERSIGHT OF SATS PROCESS

17.01 It was agreed that the following governors would monitor the SATs process:

17.02 Monday – Sarah Lord/Natasha Clough
Tuesday – Pat Gradys
Wednesday – Nicola Mitchell
Thursday – Joanne Hazlegrave

18.00 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

There was no Chair's Business to report.

19.00 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

It was reported that the DH would be having some time off due to a planned operation. Emma Stuart would be moving from Reception to Year 6 to cover in the short term with support from the Head and Steven Campbell.

20.00 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the full governing board would be held at school on Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 3.00pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4.45pm.

P. M. Gradys 15.7.26
