

Minutes of Arnside National C of E School Governing Board Meeting (GBM)
held Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 5.00pm

Key: highlighted areas in yellow = action point highlighted areas in blue = impact measure highlighted areas in green = question

Present:

Mrs Catherine Firth, Mrs Carla Hartropp, Mrs Janice Lee, Mrs Jane Madeley, Mr Nick Sharp HT,
Mrs Gillian Singleton, Mrs Lynnae Taylor, Mrs Tracey Taylor Chair of Governors, Revd Hannah Wallace.

In attendance:

Mrs Sue Glendinning Governance Professional to the Governing Board

GBM 01 /26 Welcome

Mrs Taylor welcomed governors to the meeting and invited Revd Wallace to open the meeting in prayer.

GBM 02/26 To receive apologies for absence

Reverend Andrew Norman – work commitment in London

Mr Ian Service – prior engagement

The meeting was declared quorate with 9 governors present.

GBM 03/26 Declaration of conflict of interest in agenda items

Mr Sharp, related to staff member.

Nil else declared

GBM 04/26 To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held 25 November 2025

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate and true record of the meeting held on 25 November 2025.
Proposed by Mrs Taylor seconded by Revd Wallace and duly signed by the chair.

GBM 05/26 Action points progress

GBM 59/25 Skills audit completion by all governors: Action COMPLETED

GBM 06/26 Governance

a) To receive committee minutes and note contents

The standards, curriculum, pupil welfare committee minutes were received and circulated to all governors.

The finance committee minutes are yet to be received. They will be disseminated once received.

b) To receive governor monitoring reports

Monitoring reports have been received and circulated for English, maths, science, SEND and safeguarding. Governors were thanked for their time carrying out this essential role.

Mrs Taylor asked if there was a governor willing to undertake monitoring of EYFS, as she needs to take a step back from her monitoring role for personal reasons. Mrs Lynnae Taylor said she would be willing to carry out this role. Mrs Taylor thanked her for her assistance.

Once appointed, our LA governor will be assigned PE as their monitoring responsibility.

Action point:

The terms of reference document will be updated to reflect these changes.

Authorised by Chair: *T. Taylor*

Date: 14 May 2026

c) Governor vacancy update

School are still waiting for LA approval of our nominated governor for the LA vacancy. The foundation governor vacancy is in the hands of Revd Norman.

Action point:

Mrs Glendinning will follow up again the LA vacancy with GST.

d) Governor e-training

Governor training is ongoing.

GBM 07/26 Headteachers report

Attendance is 95.94%, which is above the national 95% criteria.

Mr Sharp went through the recently released SEND White Paper outcomes, highlighting the various areas that may impact upon school and the provision of SEND in the future, should parliament approve the reports outcomes and introduce new legislation.

The recommendations are to bring strategies in house and remove specialist units. Speech and language, education psychology, access to SEND hubs, would be removed. The expectations are that teachers would be upskilled in the role of SEND to manage pupil needs and expectations.

Arnside National School do not have capacity to do this. The stigmatisation that a child would encounter by being taken out of school for specialist treatment, rather than bringing the specialist to the child when required would negate any progress in the child's development.

This matter will be kept under review.

Multi academy trusts remain on the national agenda, with Ofsted using leverage to bring schools into MATs.

Pupil progress reports have been sent to parents and parents' evenings are to be held on 4 & 5 March 2026.

School underwent a SIAMS inspection earlier in the term and the report has been released and sent out to parents. There have been no parental comments returned to school about the reports content.

Mrs Taylor formally thanked Mr Sharp and the team of dedicated staff on the inspection outcome and said that they should be rightly proud of what they and the children have achieved. This grading has been many years in the making and demonstrates how embedded our Christian ethos is in every aspect of school life.

Mr Sharp said that he has attended a training course on computer AI, the result of which certain school policies need to be tightened up. How school use AI, how data is inputted, how parents access AI, has been shared with staff. There is the potential for AI to have a positive impact upon staff workload. Report writing is to be reviewed, so that AI can be implemented in the process to assist reduce staff time completing reports.

Tools to be used in class for pupils for art, music as well as writing tools to be trialled.

A governor commented that they have seen AI in action, when generating a report on their child for a specific purpose, they received an AI generated summary.

Caution was expressed that we need to tread carefully when using AI for pupils, as third party data may be used, which is not guaranteed to be secure.

Q: What message did the course send about using AI?

A: Quality of work produced, which could be beneficial in reducing workload, but at the same time scary to think a machine is doing the thinking for you.

School have reviewed Google, Microsoft, Sonos for music and Co-pilot and all are a minefield.

No child filter has been applied to AI yet, which is a concern. Discussion has taken place at staff meetings, and it was agreed that AI cannot be creative, as it can only cut and paste information, which can lead to plagiarism. AI will be further reviewed at the next curriculum committee meeting.

Authorised by Chair: *T. Taylor*

Date: 14 May 2026



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Mr Sharp thanked Mrs Lynnae Taylor, Chair of FOANS for the tremendous work on fundraising that they carry out on school's behalf. Over the past three years they have raised over £20,000, which is tremendous. Mrs Taylor was asked to pass on congratulations and thanks from both governors and staff for their concerted efforts in helping school.

Mr Sharp informed governor's that the LA are no longer subscribing to the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) for its data, as schools already receive data directly from the DfE and other platforms.

Q: There is an anomaly in pupil data in the report received, why is this?

A: It depends upon when the data was taken, pre or post census day, which can have an affect upon pupil numbers due to pupil motability.

Mr Sharp was thanked for his report.

GBM 08/26 School Development Plan progress

The SDP was reviewed by staff after Christmas. School are on track to meet the targets set within the plan. Following the recent SIAMS inspection, new development targets have been added to the plan. Spirituality targets will be incorporated into the plan so that pupils become used to the language. SIAMS inspection noticed that some staff held humanist beliefs and said that a more defined knowledge base is needed to teach the pupils.

GBM 09/26 Staffing

a) To determine staffing structure for 2026-27

Options are being costed out by the school bursar, with the potential to run with either a 4.5 or 4 class structure. A significant amount of time together is needed by Year 6 pupils, especially in the morning periods. Amalgamation with Year 5 can take place in the afternoons. The final plan will be known by the time of the next finance committee meeting. The options will be ratified at the next board meeting.

GBM 10/26 Finance update

The annual returns have been completed and sent to the DfE and placed on the website. Orian are increasing their costs with school meal prices rising. School will review the potential to move in house for school meal provision. Wraparound care have received additional pupils for breakfast club. There is no longer government funding for school breakfast clubs. The school website provider Schudio have redesigned and refreshed their product, as such, governor pen portraits need to be refreshed for those who have not completed this process yet.

Action point:

New governors to complete their pen portraits and submit to Mrs Glendinning for uploading to the school website

GBM 11/26 Safeguarding matters

The Single Central Record has been updated and reviewed.

GBM 12/26 SEND update

1x EHCP application in the pipeline.
! x EHCP to be added to the system.
Autism is back on the county agenda.

Authorised by Chair: *T. Taylor*

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GBM 13/26 Policy review

- a) Charging and remissions policy
- b) Finance policy
- c) Gifts and hospitality policy
- d) Relationships education and health policy
- e) Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

The policies were approved en bloc, proposed by Mrs Firth seconded by Mrs Hartropp duly signed by the Chair.

GBM 14/26 Chair's report

The chair again thanked Mr Sharp and the staff for their continued diligence and commitment to school, its pupils and the wider community.

GBM 15/26 Items deemed confidential

No agenda items were deemed to be confidential at this meeting.

GBM 16/26 Date of next meeting Thursday 14 May 2026 at 5.00pm

Governors were thanked for their attendance, involvement and continued support of the school and Revd Wallace was invited to close the meeting in prayer at 5.55pm.