

ANSON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Local Governing Committee Summer Term Meeting Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 17:00

Clerk – Mrs Julie Fenton (JF)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Headteacher NJ welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Prayer

The prayer was led by the AB

3. Attendance

Mrs C Gethin, Miss N Jarrett (NJ), Mr A Broome (AB), Mrs E Faragher, (EF), Mrs A Burns (ABu), Ms E Taylor (ET), Mr A Illsley (AI), Mr A Cooper (AC).

4. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr J Davies. The clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

5. Membership

There had been no changes in membership since the previous meeting.

Ms N Jarrett (NJ) **Headteacher Staff Member**

Mr J Davies (JD) **Deputy Headteacher Staff Member Exp 31.08.27**

Mr A Broome (AB) **Foundation Member Exp 31.03.27 Appointed Chair 24.09.25**

Mrs E Faragher (EF) **Anson Parent Member Exp 07.02.27 Appointed Vice-Chair 24.09.25**

Ms E Taylor (ET) **Foundation Member Exp 16.01.28**

Mr A Illsley (AI) **Foundation Member Exp 16.01.28**

Mr A Cooper (AC) **Foundation Member Exp 14.10.28**

Mrs C Gethin (CG) TSSMAT CEO and Mrs A Burns (ABu) TSSMAT Link Director are visitors and also attend the meetings.

There is currently one vacancy to be a member of the Local Governing Committee.

Sub Committee Membership was agreed as follows:

Complaints Committee - A Cooper and A Illsley

Exclusion Committee - A Broome and E Faragher

Disciplinary and Grievance Committee - E Taylor

Appeals Committee - C Gethin, E Faragher and E Taylor.

Link Governor Roles and Responsibilities are confirmed as follows:

Mr A Cooper - RE and English

Mr A Illsley - Finance, Sports Premium, Pupil Premium, SCR, GDPR

Mrs E Faragher -Curriculum, LAC and SEND, Parent Governor.

Ms E Taylor - Safeguarding, Prevent, EYFS, Child Protection, On-line Safety and Attendance.

Mr A Broome - Maths, Health and Safety, Premises and Website.

TBC - Pay and Performance Management.

The current vacancy was discussed and it was agreed that EF speak to a parent who had previously shown interest in becoming a member of the Local Governor Committee. Governors were reminded to abide by the Local Governor Committee Constitution when considering appointments.

6. Confidentiality

All were reminded that discussions that take place during this committee meeting remain confidential, in line with the code of conduct, to this meeting. Governors were reminded that confidential minutes are recorded on coloured paper to enable clear identification.

The board was requested to identify any items on this agenda which it requires to be recorded as confidential matters.

Governors are reminded to review and abide by the new Code of Conduct received.

Item 15 Safeguarding will be recorded as a confidential item.

Item 25e School Item will be recorded as a Confidential Item.

7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Spring Term 29.01.26

Confidential Minutes Spring Term 29.01.26

The committee confirmed that the Minutes of the Autumn Term Meeting held on 29.01.26 were a true and accurate account.

The committee confirmed that the Confidential Minutes of the Spring Term Meeting held on 29.01.26 were a true and accurate account.

8. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting.

Action 1 - EF to contact a parent regarding interest in joining the Local Governor Committee.

EF confirmed that initial discussion had taken place with a parent who had shown interest in joining the committee. Further discussion was planned to offer an oversight into what is required in terms of commitment and expectations.

Action 2 - CG to confirm which LGC members had completed the Skills Audit and if a

confirmation could be sent after completion. - Action Complete.

Action 3 - CG to review Termly Agendas to consider moving Risk Register to earlier item. Also to reorder reports order.

New termly agendas have been produced by Nicola Saint and will be shared with Anson.

Action 4 - JF to contact Arbor again re- Parent Before and After Care Bookings.

Arbor confirmed that advanced bookings may be made.

Action 5 - EF to provide information regarding Public Money Improvement Grants - Solar Panels - Complete.

Action 1 (29.06.26)

CG to share newly agreed Autumn, Spring and Summer LGC Agendas with Anson.

9. Declaration of Interest

Governors were reminded of the requirement for them to update the register / personal interests annually or if there are any changes in circumstances. - There were no declarations made at this meeting.

Action 2

CG to check Pecuniary Interest and Skills Audit records held centrally for Anson Governors

10. Declaration of Interest Business and Pecuniary including related Party Transactions.

None declared.

12. Strong Governance

Governors were reminded to renew and submit the Skills Audit form early in the Summer Term in time for review and analysis to present at the Autumn Term Meeting 2026.

13. Reports

a) Chair and Vice Chair Reports

No actions had been taken by the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors since the last meeting.

b) Nominated Link Governor Reports.

c) CEO Report

Governors had received the report prior to the meeting and were invited by CG to raise questions or share comments in relation to the report.

EF said that the School Readiness Survey published by Kindred Squared in January was of particular interest and asked what impact these findings had at Anson.

CG said that this report included findings across England as below -

Kindred Squared has published (January) the findings of its latest School Readiness Survey, drawing on responses from primary school staff across England. The survey reports that 37% of

children starting Reception are not considered 'school ready', up from 33% in 2024, continuing an upward trend. School readiness is defined broadly, including communication and language, independence, emotional development and the ability to engage with classroom routines. Primary school staff report that growing numbers of children are struggling with life skills such as being toilet trained, emotional regulation, and having basic language skills.

- 26% starting Reception were not toilet trained (up from 24% in 2023 and 2024), even though 86% of parents say toilet training is mainly their responsibility. 22% do not think a child needs to be toilet trained by the time they start Reception.
- 28% were reported by primary school staff to be unable to eat and drink independently (up from 26% last year), and 25% are struggling with basic language skills (up from 23% last year).
- 32% of children are reported to become overly upset when away from parents and 28% of parents say they are not confident supporting the development of this independence.
- 65% of Reception Teachers report boys to be developmentally less ready than girls, particularly in communication and emotional regulation.

Respondents highlighted the impact on classroom practice and staff workload, particularly in the early weeks of Reception. Staff reported spending around 1.4 hours per day on toilet-related support, with overall time diverted from teaching to address readiness and catch-up needs estimated at up to 2.4 hours per day. This has implications for curriculum delivery, early assessment and staff capacity. The survey also identifies a disconnect between parental expectations and school experience. While 88% of parents believe their child is ready for school, teachers report that many pupils arrive without the skills needed to access learning independently. A strong majority of parents (94%) said that clearer national guidance on school readiness would be helpful. Responses indicate variation across regions, with higher proportions of children assessed as not school ready in areas including the North East, North West, West Midlands and London. Kindred Squared links these patterns to wider pressures on early years provision, socioeconomic factors and limited parental awareness of developmental milestones.

NJ confirmed that this was not a significant concern at Anson. Most children joining reception were 'school ready' with a minority requiring additional support due to SEND or medical need. There was little evidence of non-compliance from parents. The school follows the Intimate Care Policy and Sleep Policy and gains insight into particular needs from nursery visits, transition opportunities and conversation opportunities.

EF said that she had found the recent on-line guidance regarding Roblox confusing and felt it inappropriate. NJ confirmed that it was fully appropriate and in line with Educational Safeguarding Advisory Service guidance to support parents and raise awareness of risks.

Staffordshire PCSO have recently visited Y5 to speak with pupils regarding keeping safe on Social Media and TikTok.

CG explained further to governors the potential of EV charging in school. Government funding was available for a limited time and the Trust felt it right to explore this fully. AB asked if the school would have enough power to support this service, CG confirmed that this would be part

of the survey. AC said that he would contact Councillor Brendan McKeown who had experience of this in his work in Hixon.

Action 3

AC to Contact Brendan McKeown regarding EV chargers.

AB asked if school meals should be added to the Risk Register as there was only a 46% take up.

CG said that the new Catering Manager, Mel Atherden, was settling into her new role well and had produced some new menus for Summer 2. There had also been some new cooks appointed across the trust.

CG confirmed that the trust spends approx 40p more per meal than other trusts to ensure standards of produce and encourage healthy eating.

NJ said that a number of lunchboxes that were being brought into school were deeply unhealthy and felt a new parent survey would be beneficial. The school currently shares 'phunky food ideas', NHS Change for Life, Tesco Ideas, BBC Good Food Magazine and Packed Lunch Inspiration on the website.

Action 4

CG to consider the percentage of school meal uptake comparatively with other schools.

Governors thanked the CEO for her report. CG left the meeting at 5.50p.m.

d) Headteacher Report

Governors had received the report prior to the meeting. Questions and responses to the report received prior to this meeting. AI had sent questions directly to the Finance Officer, Shanie Cole. AI had challenged an overspend, SC confirmed that this would reconcile itself throughout the financial year.

AI - Do we anticipate an increase in energy costs due to the geopolitical situation, are we planning for this in our 26/27 forecasting?

SC - We receive guidance from the energy team at Entrust regarding what to budget for energy costs. I'm still waiting for this to be confirmed but they will be factored into the budgeting process.

AI - LA funding is quoted as being behind due to EHCP funding pending, have we had any insight to when this will land as a revenue as it has been a deficit since P4 Dec 25 report.

SC - Unfortunately, it's likely to continue for the foreseeable. The EHCP process is very slow so it can take many months to receive a confirmed EHCP. We included in the budget potential EHCP funding but in some cases the EHCP hasn't been granted yet. The funding will be backdated but it does mean a variance is expected. We're due to the 26/27 SEN statement (the LA's financial runs April to March). This will be checked against the budget to ensure we are receiving the funding we should be.

AI confirmed that as Finance Governor, he was satisfied with the responses received.

EF had sent questions to the Headteacher prior to the meeting -

EF - What are the extra curricular clubs for PP children?

NJ - Choir, netball and boccia was on offer and there will be clubs in summer 2

EF - Has the issues raised by staff in the termly Pulse Survey been addressed.

NJ - The surveys are anonymous so unable to approach specific staff members. Briefing each week highlights the need to ask for help either by other staff members, SLT or through Trust SAS - Schools Advisory Service supporting Physical and Mental Wellbeing. We also have an 'open door' culture in school.

EF - Was there a parent survey and SEN parents survey?

NJ - Yes and there will be another in Summer 2.

EF - Numbers on roll are back down to 98 – are there many on the waitlist to help us get back to our target of 105 students.

NJ - Not at the moment - there are no children on the waiting list. We have 1 child enrolled in summer 1. The number on roll has been 98 for the past 2 years after we lost 3 families with siblings through house moves.

We are fortunate to have enrolled 18 in the Reception Class in 2025 and we expect 15 in September 2026 which bucks the trends nationally and schools within the Trust which unfortunately are below PAN (Pupil Admission Number).

EF - When is our parent consultation on the new RSHE Curriculum?

NJ - All schools will decide on how to consult with families - some through the website and some through workshops offering parents and opportunities for looking at the materials used to support teaching and learning.

A date will be agreed for summer 2. We use Lifewise published resources so we have everything we need to support teachers and parents.

AB asked for feedback in regards to the Director General, Regions Group at the Department of Education, Tim Coulson.

NJ confirmed that Anson had been contacted by Mr Coulson's PA on the 22nd January asking if Mr Coulson could visit the school on the 23rd January following a meeting in Stafford. Mr Coulson had looked at our website prior to choosing a school and felt it was a rural school he would like to see.

Mr Coulson met with NJ, CG and JD and toured the school, speaking to a number of children in each class. Whilst the visit was purely for Mr Coulson to look at how a small school delivered quality education, senior leaders took the opportunity to share the challenges faced due to lack

of funding. Mr Coulson said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his visit and was complimentary about the children.

NJ confirmed that the Class Pages were now password protected. This had been done to further protect children. No issues regarding access had been received from parents.

14. Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains paramount with a number of families being supported. Governors had received a full update prior to the meeting. Confidential discussion will be recorded in Confidential Minutes.

15. Curriculum, Standards and Attendance

Anson follows the 2014 National Curriculum which gives a framework for learning in all areas through a programme of study. We have created a curriculum that is ambitious, designed for all our children, particularly the most disadvantaged, designed to allow them to gain the knowledge and skills they need for future education and later life.

Our ethos is for all our children to be proficient in reading, writing, maths and technology before they leave us.

Our lessons focus on 12 key learning intents that we believe showcase what an exceptional learner looks like.

Our motto 'Believe and Achieve' sits at the heart of our curriculum.

The focus is Handwriting and Maths.

Whole School Attendance at the end of Spring 2 - 95.90%.

16. Admissions and Pupil Overview

There are currently 98 students on roll.

17. Finance

Finance Governor AI had challenged the findings in the management accounts and submitted questions to Finance Officer, Shanie Cole prior to the meeting.

AI had questioned an overspend, SC confirmed that this would reconcile itself throughout the financial year.

AI - Do we anticipate an increase in energy costs due to the geopolitical situation, are we planning for this in our 26/27 forecasting?

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AI confirmed that as Finance Governor, he was satisfied with the responses received.

Currently the before and after school care club is making a loss. AB asked if the school was legally obliged to provide this service. It was confirmed that currently there was no legal obligation but the Dfe strongly encouraged a provision provided by the school or alternative provider.

18. HR and Recruitment

There had been no changes to staffing since the last meeting.

Hannah Walmsley's contract has been made permanent to offer security and stability.

The ECT (Early Career Teacher) has met all standards in Year 2.

It is anticipated that Rebecca Heath will return from maternity leave in September 2026.

Congratulations are recorded to Hannah Forrester who had successfully completed a Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship passing with a distinction.

19. Estates and Health and Safety

There had been no serious health and safety or accident incidents to report since the last meeting.

20. Risk Register

The risk register had been reviewed at the Team Around the School.

It was agreed that :

School meals are added to the risk register.

21. GDPR

GDPR is monitored by the Business Operations Manager for the trust. There were no incidents reportable this term. A review was planned by the Business Operations Manager in February and the report will be shared with governors when received

22. Policy Review

23. Governor Training Needs

No further training was requested at this meeting.

24. Christian Distinctiveness

NJ informed governors that Father Neale is moving to the Rochester parish. He had forged solid links with AAnson in the three years he was here and will be greatly missed. Church Warden, Joe Chambers will be the nominated link for Anson in the interim.

25. School Items

- a) AC informed the committee that the rotary club had some funds available that would be used to purchase books as a gift to each child at Anson.
- b) EF agreed to set up another Amazon wish list to provide resources for pupils and to liaise with teachers as to what was needed.
- c) It was agreed to trial the change of time for Local Governor Committee Meetings from September 2026. Meetings will take place at 9.00a.m to be held in school.
- d) A further school item will be recorded as Confidential Minutes
- e) A resignation had been received from Governor Anton Illsley. Anton now has increased professional commitments. Governors thanked him for his contribution to the committee.

26. Reflection - What We Achieved.

- Good breadth of information received affording a progressive, not reflective meeting covering a number of topics.
- Greater understanding of Safeguarding needs, proactive action taken and support in place.
- Questions received relating to Headteachers report received in time.
- Governors agreed the meeting was well chaired.

27. Information / Questions for Board of Directors

- ABu - Term dates and impact on attendance.

28. Confidentiality (Part 2 of Minutes)

Item 14 - Safeguarding will be recorded as Confidential Minutes.

Items 25e - School Item - will be recorded as Confidential Minutes.

29. Date and Time of Next Meetings

The Local Governor Committee Meeting dates for the academic year 2026/2027 are agreed as detailed below.

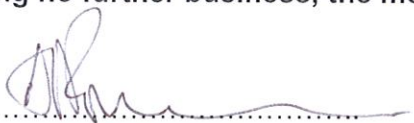
Autumn Term Meeting - Wednesday 7th October 2026 at 9.00 a.m in school.

Spring Term Meeting - Wednesday 3rd February 2027 at 9.00 a.m in school.

Summer Term Meeting - Wednesday 12th May 2027 at 9.00 a.m in school

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.00.

Signed



Chair of Governors

Date ...07.10.26