Exe Valley Federation
CHALLENGE DISCOVER SUCCEED

The Governance duty is, above all to drive relentless ambition for the young people served by our schools system, whatever the circumstances.

FGB Strategic Meeting 01/07/2025 EXE VALLEY FEDERATION					
Date/Time	01/07/2025		**Location**	18.00 Newton St Cyres	
Attendees	**Initials**		**Attendees**	**Initials**	
J.Enright	JE	LA Governor/ Chair	L Price	LP	Co-opted
C.Gilberthorpe	JG	Staff	J. Jolliffe	JJ	Executive Head
K.Wotton	KW	Parent	E.Loosley-Leeming	ELL	Foundation
L.Parry	LP	Co-opted	S.Frost	SF	Co-opted
H.Jones-Mcvey	HM	Parent	Rev Paul Hinkley	PH	Foundation
S.Margesson	SM	Foundation			
E.Waldram-Mcabe	EWM	Co-opted (On line)			
Associate Members	**Initials**			**Initials**	
J.Akhurst	JA	DEHT & HoS Newton St Cyres	L.Penhallurick	LP	Acting EHT Moorsway/HoS The Erme
Clerk	**Initials**				
Heidi Last	HL				
Apologies					
J Ruddick	SM	Foundation	O Burrow	OB	Co-opted
R Haynes	RH	Co-opted			
Absent No Apology					
Quorum	12 governors in attendance at start; meeting is quorate				

MINUTES			
		Action	**Resolution**
1.	**Welcome & introductions**		
2.	**Apologies for Absence –** Apologies received for JR, RH and OB		**Apologies accepted**
3.	**Declaration of Interests invited and declared** No declarations		**No declarations**
4. **4.1**	**Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings** Approval of Minutes 01/04/2025 – Agreed Minutes East/West Hub – Agreed	**HL to check correct dates**	**All minutes agreed as a true and**

Signature ……
Date ……..

	Minutes Moorsway Hub - Agreed	**are on Hub minutes**	**accurate account**
5. **5.1**	**Finance (All questions to FBM 7 days in advance)** **Finance and Risk committee minutes and supporting paperwork** Minutes and paperwork shared with all prior to the meeting. No further questions		
5.2	**Approval of 3 year budget plans** Budget plans for EVF and Moorsway shared prior to meeting. EVF forecasting an in-year deficit in Year one of £106,000, plus deficit form 2024/25 gives total deficit of £367,159. Moorsway are forecasting in year surplus of £23,000 and then going into a small deficit in 2026/27. EVF budget is very challenging. The deficit is increasing year on year. Both plans include pay grants and NI grant. Teachers pay award has been agreed at 4%. Support staffs increase is still with the Unions. The first offer of 2.6% was rejected. Already running with one HoS less than needed. Have cut one class at Sandford and plan includes a class reduction next year. We will need to do some restructuring in the Autumn term There is still some EHCP funding in the system, and they are coming through quicker. **Q – How does Moorsway balance but EVF not?** *A - Comes from needs of children that we have had come through. This was impacting on staff and the support we had been put in.* KPIs – Staffing EVF – 86%. Moorsway – 78% One governor suggested that the issue of school funding in rural primary schools is highlighted with local MPs.		
5.3	**Budget monitors – questions received in advance** HL apologised for there still being no monitors. Communication came out to Business Managers last week that we should now be able to produce these. The new system along with DCC's new system Unit 4 is causing many issues and HL has a back log of work to complete. The LA are aware that many schools are struggling. The high number of issues was not expected and 6 months in the pressure on Business Managers has been enormous.		
5.4	**New Website update** Website is now live. Still work to be done adding Moorsway and Whimple but we are slowly getting there. These schools appear on our homepage and link to their current websites.		
5.5	**NSC H&S audit** 100% no concerns		

6. **6.1**	**EP Executive Report** **EP Executive Summary update and Q & A** JE congratulations to JJ for Silverton's Ofsted. Presentation to be circulated with the minutes. Qs sent to JJ in advance. **Shaugh Prior** - Have not heard anymore from the Regional Director. Looking like we will have around 2/4 children in September. One TA is still in post, everyone else has left or is leaving. We will have a supply teacher and maybe a supply TA and the plan is to use Oak Academy for the curriculum. Senior Leader will be on site each day. LA have been very quiet. They have said we cannot close the school or transport them to another school. It will look worse staying open with one teacher. **Q - Why are the other children not leaving?** *A - One does not want to leave as wanted SP. They are aware of the numbers in September. and one really wants to go to Cornwood but has no transport. Dad is looking to find a new job so he can drive her. The rest are looking but cannot find the right place, especially if they have an EHCP.*		
6.2	**BSP update** HoS is still absent and cleaner has a broken arm. We have been able to cover the cleaning. D.Woolacott is leading the school. Flex-schooling needs tackling as impacting on all children. Evolved into something that is no longer manageable. JJ will be writing to all flexi school parents with the options for September. Brampford will be moving to the West Hub, as HF, CT and JA are there to support this. Thorverton Pre-School, DCC are holding this up at the moment. Issues around the age range. Waiting for a meeting with the Early Years lead.		
6.3	**SP update** Discussed 6.1		
7. **7.1**	**MP with South Hams** **Agreement to extend MP with SH until April 2026** Minutes from last meeting are on The Hub in the folder. All in agreement to extend the MP to April 2026.	**Agreed**	**.**
8. **8.1**	**Church School update** **Church schools' team** Church school team met recently. Gave all the opportunity to think more around where we are to get ready for SIAMs. 3 of our 4 schools are to be inspected in quick succession. Thorverton are in a very good place. Silverton will be ok. BSP needs some work. Time to be given on training days in the Autumn term to give info to staff on what is needed.		

8.2	**Exeter flourishing partnership** **Church Schools Conference** Next Thursday 10th.		
8.3	**Church Schools Conference**		
9. **9.1**	**Governor Updates** **Safeguarding** SM thanked JJ for the Action plan and HJM and SF for reports shared on the hub. Thanks to all who read the updates from JJ. And thank you for supporting HoS with the Hubs. CPOMs reporting, tried to standardise this more so all HoS reports give the same information. Made it difficult to compare. JJ attended annual conference. Hard day but valuable. **Q - KCSIE update in September?** *A - Perception is there maybe a big update next year and only some small changes this year. But nothing is out yet.*		
9.2	**Behaviour** Vast majority of behaviour across schools has been good. Low level trends, interventions that have been put in are working. Suspensions at Cornwood and SP, one child persistently leaving SP site. Raised expectations at SP has raised the suspensions. Suspensions have remained low compared to previous school years. Permanently exclusion of one child at Silverton has had a positive impact. This was upheld by the Ofsted inspector.		
9.3	**Attendance** OB and JJ met on the 25th June. Picture is generally positive. Some key areas to work on. Highlighted in JJs report. Absence for holidays and anxiety has risen by 22% this year. We have submitted 25 fines, Discussed BSP flexi schoolers. Discussed how can support parents to get children into school. JJ and OB also discussed how the Federation might be able to support parents/carers who can sometimes struggle to get their children into school in the morning. They discussed the possibility of running a session (led by an expert) focused on supporting parents/carers to have more effective conversations with their child. John had some ideas of potential experts to lead this session, which we hope to take forward next academic year. Most schools overall attendance is running at around 94%		
9.4	**SEND** JR has spoken to SENCOs. Moving forward to standardise systems across the federation around how a child is assed and added to the register. Need to be clearer as to why they are being added to the register and their needs. Concern around SEND capacity at Moorsway and doubling up on staffing. Lot more SEMH coming through. EBSA is also a big challenge in some schools. Standardising paperwork across both federations.		

	ELL will join the SENDCOs meeting. **Q – Is SEMH encompassed within the SEND provision?** *A - It is a need within the SEND Code of Practice. What concerned about is LA trying to not acknowledge SEMH as a SEND need and we have to fund it.* JJ, can be massively time consuming. Is there any support? SEMH team within Devon. But as they are going through a re-structure and changing roles and teams unsure what this will look like going forward.		
9.5	**Venues for future federation board meetings** Some progress has been made. Booked Chudleigh Knighton, and Broxcks farm, just off the A38. LP, University room? ELL may be able to do this. Room at St Lukes, 30th June. To be confirmed. Dates for which governors are doing next years reports have been added to the Hub.		
10. **10.1**	**H&S/Premises** **Any known school issues/concerns** Cornwood flood due to heavy rain and blocked drain on a farmer's field. Have got a spare classroom to use in the short term. Corridor was flooded. Plan in place to repair majority over the Summer. Teaching kitchen will get a refit. Parents have been very helpful and helped with the clean-up.		
10.2	**H&S Audit Report combined Hub reports** Silverton has now been added.		
11. **11.1**	**Thorverton Preschool** **Outcome of consultation meeting** This has been delayed by the LA and wanting to discuss changing the age range. Meeting to take place in September and update will follow.		
12. **12.1**	**Governor Reports** **Pupil Premium Reports** They are in progress and almost complete.		**Deferred**
12.2	**PE and Sports Premium Reports** Change to this process this year. Online 31st July 5pm deadline.		
12.3	**Children in Care** September		**Deferred**
12.4	**SEND reports from SENDCOs** September		**Deferred**
12.5	**Summary report on Parent/staff Questionnaire** Parent summary from OB has been circulated to all. Staff one will follow in September.	**Staff questionnaire to follow in September**	
12.6	**Governor Review Combined report** If this has not yet been returned to JE please can you get this back before 16/07.	**Reports to be sent to JE by 16/07**	
13. **13.1**	**Governance** **Term dates** Circulated and agreed		**Agreed**
13.2	**Governor meeting dates 25-26** Circulated and agreed		**Agreed**

13.3	**Y6 Pupil Exit meetings dates to be agreed with HoS. Hub governors to write combined report** To be done in Hubs. One governor per Hub. SM to do East, LP to do West. Qs have been shared in advance.		
13.4	**Chair of MW Hub – Ronnie leaving** Thank you to RH for making the transition to EVF and Moorsway Federation very smooth. RH has put together an advert for new governors which will be added to newsletters.		
14. **14.1**	**Policies** **Parent communication** Reference added for parents who have separated and information not reaching both parents.		**Agreed**
14.2	**Children with Medical Conditions** Not many changes just a few additions reference to DFE guidance.		**Agreed**
14.3	**Home Visits Policy** Not all schools do home visits for reception children, so a policy was needed for those who do. And to also give reassurance for visits as per our first day calling. HJM is doing the report for parents.		**Agreed**