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 02/12/25 EXE VALLEY FEDERATION					
Date/Time	02/12/2025		**Location**	18.00 Online	
Attendees	**Initials**		**Attendees**	**Initials**	
J.Enright	JE	LA Governor/ Chair	L Price	LP	Co-opted
C.Gilberthorpe	CG	Staff	J. Jolliffe	JJ	Executive Head
K.Wotton	KW	Parent	E.Loosley-Leeming	ELL	Foundation
L.Parry	LP	Co-opted	K Golby	KG	Co-opted
H.Jones-Mcvey	HM	Parent	Rev Paul Hinkley	PH	Foundation
S.Margesson	SM	Foundation	J.Ruddick	JR	Co-opted
E.Waldram-Mcabe	EWM	Co-opted	O.Burrow	OB	Co-opted
Associate Members	**Initials**			**Initials**	
J.Akhurst	JA	DEHT & HoS Newton St Cyres	L.Penhallurick	LP	Acting EHT Moorsway/HoS The Erme
Sarah Blomley	SB	School Governor			
Clerk	**Initials**				
Heidi Last	HL				
Apologies					
S.Frost	SF				
Absent No Apology					
Quorum	14 governors in attendance at start; meeting is quorate				

MINUTES			
		Action	**Resolution**
1.	**Welcome & introductions** Reflection SM		
2.	**Apologies for Absence –** S.Frost, apology accepted		**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 AGM Minutes 23/09/25 Approval of Minutes 01/07/2025		**All minutes agreed as a true and**

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			accurate account
5.	**Formal decisions and new Governors**		
5.1	*Ratify the appointment of LP as Executive Head of the Moorsway Hub Schools from 1st January 2026* All in agreement		**Ratified LP EHT Moorsway**
5.2	*Ratify New School governor; Adam Kinge-Whiteley CF mentor Hannah MV* Agreed	**Outstanding governors to complete annual declarations on The Hub**	**Agreed new school Governor AK**
5.3	*Confirmation that all governors have agreed Code of Conduct, KCSIE & Conflicts of interest* Outstanding governors to complete this		**KG to share**
5.4	EY's Lead Governor Kat Goldby to join Sarah Butler *Agreed*		**Early Years**
5.5	Andrew Withers TH mentor LP & Abi Leighton-Boyce NSC mentor OB *Agreed*		**LP mentor AW, OB mentor ALB**
5.6	Report written by: Julie Ruddick		**Report written by JR**
6.	**Finance (All questions to FBM 7 days in advance)**		
6.1	**Finance and Risk committee minutes 24/10/25 and supporting paperwork** Circulated prior to the meeting, no further questions.		
6.2	**Budget monitors – questions received in advance** **Q – Where are we with the Moorsway monitor?** *A – HL shared that she is still behind with finance as running two systems. New systems are still causing issues, and everything takes twice as long to do. Will have this produced by the end of term.* We have received most of the money for the Ukraine pupil at BSP. Still chasing the remaining amount. Overall deficit in year has increased. Still facing many in year pressures with long term staff sickness and needs of children at all schools. There has been an increase in SEND funding which has helped fund support already in place.		
6.3	**Feedback from finance support meeting with DCC** JJ, JE and HL were called to County Hall to meet with the School Finance Support Panel. Panel of 12 DCC advisors from different areas. Studied our 3-year budget plan and Moorsway. It was agreed that Moorsway coming into our budget was the best thing for the future of our budgets. Came away with some extra HR support and Finance.		**Agreement for £2,000 to be used from Sports Premium towards new pool cover at Cornwood.**
6.4	**Approval Cornwood Swimming Pool Cover** £6,000 in total. £2,000 to come from Sports premium, remainder will be funded by PTA. All governors in agreement apart from one Governor who abstained.		
6.5	**New Website update to include Whimple** Link to Whimple's website is on the main Federation website same as Moorsway schools. Time to move them fully across has not been there.	**HL to investigate out of date**	

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	Some of their documents are out of date. HL to investigate.	**documents on Wimples' website**	
7. **7.1**	**EP Executive Summary update on Shaugh Prior and Q & A** **Break into three hub groups (Item took place at the end of the meeting after item 15)** Cabinet membership approvement form has been signed, there is now 5 working days for comments to be put forward. Should know next week if it has been approved. Finally moving forward. Next term we will move to formal consultation. At this point governors broke out into two hub groups. Focus on schools that we have concerns for. Discussions around Q&As from EP report. Q&As to be shared with minutes.		
8. **8.1**	**MP with South Hams update** Minutes have been circulated. MP ends 01/04/2026. South Hams next FGB meeting is in January, and governors will feed back to the management partnership committee on the 12/02/26. Feel they need more time to decide on the future of their federation. Already had one failed Federation so are cautious.		
9. **9.1** **9.2**	**Church School update** **Church schools' team** Congratulations to BSP on SIAMs report. A lot of teamwork went into this and congratulate DW and whole school team. Show's what can be done when everyone works together. Foundation Governors go into schools frequently and attend collective worship and celebrations. There is a form completed to evaluate these visits. Folder for this and other relevant documents is on The Hub. LP is using Cornwood as a model for The Erme. Their visions etc are impacting on the children's lives. Preparation for Silverton SIAMs is underway. **Q - Monitoring visits are they on the hub?** *A - No they are typed up by SIT and then shared with Heads. Copies will be added to the Governor Hub in a separate folder.* **Exeter flourishing partnership** This is underway again. CH has attended both days as the lead for all schools . JJ attended second half of a day. Should now be able to build a team for the 4 key areas for this. SIAMs is held high always.		
10. **10.1**	**Governor Updates** **Statutory Lead governors to feedback on key areas from ABSS live documents** **Safeguarding** SM shared that she is finding the process far easier with the new document. All safeguarding is up to date for all Hubs, and training for staff. Safeguarding updates are monthly. Safeguarding leads meet monthly as a clinic to go through specific needs and enquiries. All staff have signed KCSIE. Action plan has been updated and is being followed. Dip testing of Moorsway SCR to be prepared for Ofsted to take place early next term.		

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10.2	**Behaviour** Generally, behaviour across the schools is good. Children showing good learning behaviours. Challenges meeting some needs, especially those joining mid-year, and joining with no support etc. The Erme KS2 class, inconsistent teaching. Number of suspensions across majority of schools has started to come down. Alternative provision secured for some children, has had a positive impact. Low level behaviour at lunchtimes, strategies being put in place to reduce incidents. Resulting in HoS spending more time supervising at lunchtimes. On the whole positive.		
10.3	**Attendance** Still waiting for Brampford figures. Quality of data in general for BSP is clearer since The Hub meeting. Schools are operating at 94% and above. Penalty notices are now being logged and shared. **Q – Are any of the schools experiencing high levels of sickness at the moment? Flu and Sick bugs etc.** *A – Seem to have been quite lucky so far. No large outbreaks of illness*.		
10.4	**SEND** General themes from all reports, number of children with additional needs across the federation. Above National. In all schools this seems to be the case. Brings its own challenges in terms of workload etc for SENDCos and managing this in the school. Insufficient SENDCO time to deal with applications. More children result in more work. 3rd theme number of children and needs impacting on staff's wellbeing. Additional special support has been turned down. Mental health and wellbeing work has not been done as hoped and expected with professionals doing assessments etc. Issues where HoS has SENDCO responsibility too. Dual role, which has created more pressures on the individual and impacted on the children. Positives, rolling out ordinary inclusive provision. Was not without issues as not all parents understood what this meant for their children. SEND reviews days have been very positive. **Q – Any indication of what might come out of the review of SEND launched today? More early intervention? More funding etc? Any indication of more support?** *A – JJ, not had a chance to look at this. Devon has got into a difficult position with funding and high level of EHCPS. Early intervention makes so much difference. If funding across schools was enough to deliver that early intervention that maybe enough to prevent an EHCP. The need for more external services to support as well.*		
11. **11.1**	**H&S/Premises** **Any known school issues/concerns** **Sandford fencing quote** Major safeguarding issue at Sandford with a boundary fence no longer safe or repairable. Fence runs along the perimeter very close to a high		**All in agreement for new fencing at Sandford**

	bank the leads down to the main road. The fence was previously not high enough and is now beyond repair. £2,700 to have this replaced. Can come from Capital. All in agreement		
11.2	**Cheriton Fitzpaine boiler update** Replacement for current boilers is being investigated by DCC and Devon Norse. Still costing a lot in ongoing in repairs and still not fully working		
12. **12.1**	**Thorverton Preschool** **Update on transfer** JJ, since July meeting the process of moving from Committee led a Governor led pre-school has now been granted and Pre-school have had their meeting to agree moving this on. Last thing in their process is the lease which is causing issues. The preschool has instructed a solicitor to work on this and hoping it will be complete by the 01/01/26. Nobody understands why it was set up how it was. Diocese have been quite particular as have had problems with similar arrangements before. TUPE consultation has finished and nothing that we could not work out. One employee who we need to discuss what their role will look like. Meeting tomorrow. Need to agree that the pre-school will close on 31/12/25 as a committee led pre-school and open as a Governor led pre-school 01/01/26. We will have a committee to oversee the pre-school. Consisting of HoS, pre-school manager, Business Manager and Governor. JJ will set it up and then hand over to HoS to run. Without us intervening they would not be continuing. Just need final agreement form Governors. SM, so grateful to JJ and CH for the work they have done. Felt the Diocese and DCC were not as supportive as they could have been. SM happy to support the committee with this. **Q – JR, discussed a while ago if there was indemnity insurance, is there such a thing?** *A -No this is not something that seems to exist. If the pre-school ever got into financial difficulty we would look to move it to a Foundation Unit in the school.* LP and SM happy to support and be on the committee. Vote taken all in agreement to open as a Governor run pre-school on the 01/01/26		**LP and SM to join the committee.** **Vote taken all in agreement to open as a Governor run pre-school on the 01/01/26**
13. **13.1**	**Governor Reports for approval** **Questions received in advance of meeting** **Pupil Premium Reports** On The Hub		**Agreed**
13.2	**Children in Care** Shared on The Hub		**Agreed**

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13.3	**Equality Duty Action Plans** Shared on The Hub		**Agreed**
13.4	**Music Development plans** Shared on the Hub		**Agreed**
13.5	**Appraisal** Shared on the Hub		**Agreed**
13.6	**PE & Sport Premium Reports** Shared on the Hub		**Agreed**
13.7	**Early Years induction survey report** SM, very impressed Moorsway schools had a great response and all very positive. 2 schools did not have any responses. For next year maybe Early Years teachers to encourage parents to complete. All very positive. One theme requesting more information on what they have learnt etc in the first few weeks. But aware that this does take a lot of time. Staff caring and friendly and supported the children.		
13.8	**Year 6 exit interview report** Approved at AGM Qs around how governors do these reports. Early Summer put on the agenda to discuss questions etc with the HoS.	**Early Summer look at Qs and have a discussion with HoS in Hubs.**	
14. **14.1**	**Governance** **NGA Skills Audit Report** Deferred until next meeting. OB apologies for this due to illness. HL to re-send the report.	**Deferred** **HL to re-send the report**	
14.2	**Pay & Performance Committee update** Met 11th November, met with JJ and HL. Went through all recommendations and were quite rigorous in all the requests and decisions.		
14.3	**Governor Training Report update** Going forward all Governors to record this on The Hub under their profile and complete the form and add this to the folder on The Hub. Also need to share training with all so we can all benefit and learn. On the Hub agendas for discussion. Need to make sure when we book training it goes through HL. EWM to put together a training guide and send to HL to circulate.		**EWM to put together a training guide**
14.4	**Lead governor English Report update** Deferred	**Deferred**	
14.5	**Lead governor Maths Report update** Deferred	**Deferred**	
14.6	**Lead governor EY's Report update** Share with Governos on Hub. Sent to HL		**HL to circulate on the Hub**
14.7	**Climate Action Plan** HM – Climate Action Plans are now on The Hub. Worth looking through. Vary in length and ambition. Important next step is		

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	ensuring the schools have the support to make these things happen. Reflecting on them in a years' time to see where schools are at. Opportunity to streamline them in the future. Especially around working in partnership with other schools. Mentioned before, identify a group of parents who will support the schools in building a collective narrative around Federation actions and best practice. And rally the troops when it comes to parent engagement.		
15. **15.2**	**Policies** **Safeguarding**		**Agreed**
13.2	**SEND/SEND Information Report**		**Agreed**
13.3	**Staff Leave and Absence** One change all staff now get 5 days per year paid for emergency time off for children/dependents. This will hit our budget.		**Agreed**
13.4	**Attendance**		**Agreed**
14. **14.1**	**Grievance/resolution**		**Agreed**
14.2	**Educational visits**		**Agreed**