



Governing Body of Stormont House School

Minutes of the meeting held at the school
on Monday 2 March 2026 at 5.00pm

Membership:

Name	Governor Type	Term of Office	Present
Beatrice Andrews (Chair)	Co-opted Governor	09/07/2027	Present
Dot Hodgson (DC) (Vice-chair)	Co-opted Governor	30/07/2026	Present
Emilio Bielsa (EB)	Co-opted Governor	23/11/2029	Present
Mariana Cruz (MC)	Co-opted Governor	02/03/2029	Present
Andre Deen-Swaray (ADS)	Local Authority Governor	04/08/2029	Present - online
Rhiannon Eglin (RE)	Co-opted Governor	04/10/2028	Present
Benazir Guha (BG)	Co-opted Governor	23/11/2029	Present
Judit Kimpian (JK)	Parent Governor	06/01/2029	Present
Kevin McDonnell (KM)	Headteacher	-	Present
Mark Mouna	Co-opted Governor	06/07/2025	Present [Items 2-14 only]
Gary Pleasants (GP)	Parent Governor	06/01/2029	Present
Justyna Sagan (JS)	Staff Governor	25/11/2028	Present
<i>Also invited</i>			
Ophelia Carter (OC)	Associate Member	23/11/2029	Absent
Colin Gall (CG)	Associate Member	23/11/2029	Absent

Also Present:

Sandra Collier (SC) - Deputy Headteacher
Missy Brissett (MB) - Interim School Business Manager (online)
Donna Knight-Olds (DK) - Clerk to the Governing Board

1. Attendance - Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Everyone introduced themselves. Apologies for lateness were accepted from Mark Mouna.

2. Governing Body Organisation

2a) Declarations of Interest

None.

2b) Register of Pecuniary Interests

New Governors were thanked for completing their register of interests.

2c) Link Governor Updates

The following updates were given by individuals in relation to their Link Governor roles:

- **Rhiannon Eglin as Link Governor for SEND (Teaching and Learning and Inclusion)** - had, together with Colin Gall, conducted a Learning Walk focusing on the use of Solo Taxonomy success criteria and how these were communicated with students
- **Beatrice Andrews as Link Governor for Safeguarding** - would be visiting later in the week to look at the Single Central Record (SCR)
- **Gary Pleasants as Link Governor for Careers** - would be contacting Fiona Crossland to arrange a visit and was particularly interested in tracking alumni
- **Dot Hodgson as Link Governor for Governor Training and Development** - took the opportunity to remind newer Governors of the need to complete Safeguarding training and everyone to look at the range of training options available. The Clerk spoke about Induction training from LB Hackney being delivered the following week and demonstrated how to book. Governors were also advised to seek out webinars on The Key related to their Link Governor responsibilities.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report of the visit on 16 January 2026 by Rhiannon Eglin and Colin Gall as Link Governors for SEND (Teaching and Learning and Inclusion) be received;
- (ii) that reminders be sent to all Governors about available training, including the requirement for PREVENT training.

Governor Ideas from Strategy Day

DH reminded everyone about the ideas that had emerged from the Strategy Day held on 9 October 2025 and the following updates were shared:

- ADS had been liaising with Fiona Crossland about links with his architectural firm
- MM described a positive experience interviewing five Year 10 students
- JK shared that Laburnum Boat Club were offering places at their after school and activities and were willing to collect pupils from the school
- SC described the Winter Disco having gone well with good attendance. She mentioned the Friends organising a Family Dinner on 15 May 2026 for parents and carers to experience the school meals. There would also be a Summer Fair with an Art Exhibition

Mark Mouna arrived near to the end of Item 2

3a. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Taken

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November 2025 be APPROVED as an accurate record.

4. **Headteacher's Report**

KM introduced his report and spoke about a visit from the LB Hackney School Estates Team with an architect and confirmed that additional sites for expansion were still being considered. The potential impact of the recently published Schools White Paper on SEND provision and the LB Hackney review of the funding of special schools were mentioned and the necessary investment recognised. Governors were reminded that non-SEND elements of the Schools White Paper were also significant such as the move to all schools benign in a multi-academy trust.

All were encouraged to look at the open consultations related to the Schools White Paper and consider responding as individuals. .

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Headteacher's Report be noted;

(ii) that briefings be shared on the implications of the Schools White Paper; **[ACTION: KM]**

(iii) that the Schools White Paper be earmarked for discussion at the next Governor Strategy Day; **[ACTION: DH]**

(iv) that implications of the Schools White Paper be a standing item on FGB agendas. **[ACTION: Chair and DK]**

5. **Safeguarding**

No concerns were raised.

It was positively noted that all Governors had confirmed on Governor Hub that they had read KCSIE. SC gave a brief update on safeguarding matters including:

- ensuring that all staff and students felt secure in school
- recent staff training having included a focus on restorative work in relation to behaviour
- training would take place the following week about gangs

There was some discussion of the recent TikTok trend 'School Wars', which had begun in Hackney but was now in many areas of the country. Governors were assured that the school had been kept informed by police but KM expressed concern that this was "person dependent rather than system dependent". It was described that some students had experienced some heightened anxiety in response to it but most had understood that it was fake. Some of the students were recognised as being at risk. It was emphasised that the school could only protect children whilst they were in school but the school's practice of storing smartphones in a secure box as part of the morning routine was seen as positive.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the updates from the DSL be noted;

(ii) that it be recognised that it was important to read and consider the Independent Safeguarding Practice Review into Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy but that the specific mainstream academy had a very different culture to that at Stormont House;

(iii) that detail be brought to the next meeting in respect of how the school was implementing the new guidance on the use of restrictive interventions.

6. School Improvement Partner (SIP) Visit Report

Governors received the report from the SIP visit on 11 December 2026, which had been discussed by both the Resources Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee.

7. School Development Plan

Item not taken.

8. GDPR

Governors were reminded of their responsibility to monitor the school's compliance with GDPR requirements and control of cyber security risks. Suggestions were invited as to the best way to do this. It was noted that Judicium were contracted as the school's Data Protection Officer with Jack Maguire (Lead Practitioner) taking a lead role within the school.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that GDPR henceforth be a standing item;
- (ii) that EB, as Link Governor for Data and Digital Systems, look at the school's strengths and vulnerabilities in respect of GDPR and security of data.

9. Reports from Committees and Working Parties

The Chair described discussions at the most recent meeting of the **Resources Committee** with the highlight being that, due to receipt of an additional grant, an in-year surplus was now predicted. MB spoke about her discussions with LB Hackney following up queries about the voluntary fund. She confirmed that if funds were raised for one specific purpose these could go in and out of the main account but that it was important to be transparent.

Governors also had before them the Schools Financial Values Statement (SFVS) and were reminded of the annual requirement to submit it to LB Hackney. KM highlighted the one question that had been answered as 'in part', which was because the disaster recovery plan needed to be updated and there was a workplan for this to be completed by the end of the Summer term.

RE, as chair of the **Teaching and Learning Committee**, spoke about the most recent meeting. It was confirmed that a letter had gone to parents setting out how the school would be addressing the new requirements of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance and that the revised policy would be presented to the next committee meeting. KM stated that good progress was being made in working through what was needed for implementation in September 2026. He described parents generally understanding the necessity for RSHE but sometimes being concerned about how it was delivered so requesting materials. Information sessions would be offered to parents.

RESOLVED:

that the Schools Financial Values Statement (SFVS) be AGREED for submission to LB Hackney.

10. Policies for Review and Approval

Governors had before them four policies all based on models from LB Hackney.

- Capability Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Public Sector Equalities Duty and Equalities Objectives
- Whistleblowing Policy

It was recognised that an AI Policy was needed although KM confirmed that guidance had already been issued to staff; including never to input anyone's personal information.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the **Capability Policy** be AGREED;
- (ii) that the **Charging and Remissions Policy** be AGREED;
- (iii) that the **Public Sector Equalities Duty and Equalities Objectives Policy** be AGREED;
- (iv) that the **Whistleblowing Policy** be AGREED;
- (v) that a model AI Policy be identified and presented to the Resources Committee at their next meeting for consideration in relation to what was suitable for the school.

11. External Matters

Item not taken.

12. Proposed Meeting Dates 2025-26

It was noted that the FGB would meet on the following dates at 5.00pm:

- Monday, 18 May 2026 (online, budget)
- Monday, 29 June 2026

13. Any Other Urgent Business (notified in advance)

UCL's Centre for Research in Autism and Education

Jk spoke about a research project called SUPER that was exploring the potential harnessing of increased perceptual capacity in autistic people in the classroom. She had shared the details on Governor Hub earlier in the day.

14. Confidential Matters

None.

Meeting Close: 6.35pm

Beatrice Andrews
Chair