



**Bents Green School LGB
Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 17:30
FOCUS: Teaching and Learning
Bents Green School, Gleadless Site**

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Melanie Bancroft	Co-Opted Governor	MB
Natalie Brownell	Co-Opted Governor/Chair	NB
Emma Allen	Head of School – Gleadless/Enterprise Works/The Hubs	EA
Shannon O'Donnell-Provatas	Parent Governor	SOD-P
Mark Rayner	Co-Opted Governor	MR
Laura Rzepinski	Headteacher	LR
Mark Stanley	Parent Governor	MS
Sacha Schofield	Executive Regional Director	SS
Lauren Scott	Staff Governor	LS
Also Present:		
Rebecca Horne (via Teams)	Governance Clerk	Clerk
Apologies:		
Laura Gillespie	Co-Opted Governor/Chair	LG

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. <u>To receive apologies for absence</u> Apologies were received from LG.	
1.2. <u>To accept apologies for absence</u> Apologies were accepted from LG.	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
2.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered In LG's absence, it was noted that NB would chair the meeting.	

2.2 Confirmation of Resignation – Co-Opted Governor – John Plant Governors accepted JP’s resignation. We would like to wish John Plant, Co-opted Governor, all the very best for the future as he retires from the Bents Green Local Governing Body after 10 years of dedicated service to our school. Throughout his time as a governor, John has made an invaluable contribution to the life and development of the school. His experience and knowledge in strategic planning, risk management and finance have been a great support to both the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team. On behalf of the Governing Board, staff and the wider school community, we extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to John for his outstanding contribution over the past decade. His dedication has made a lasting impact, and we wish him every happiness in his retirement, with plenty of time to enjoy many well earned holidays.	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
3.1 Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda. No new interests were declared.	
4. BENT’S GREEN LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES	
4.1 Approval of the Bent’s Green LGB meeting held on 17 March 2026. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
4.2 Review of Action Tracker The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated. Discussion focused on outstanding governor pen portraits and photographs, which remain ongoing. It was noted that a proforma has been recently sent to Governors and they were reminded to complete and submit their entries. Action: Governors to complete their pen portraits and send to Clerking Services. As LG had sent her apologies for the meeting, she provided an update in advance confirming that she has arranged to meet with Rachel Lawson, Assistant Headteacher, and Andrew Parkes, Teacher and Curriculum & Quality Manager for Futures, on 2 June to explore opportunities for developing an alumnus and student celebration event. Action – LG will provide an update on developing an alumnus and student celebration events at the June meeting.	Action: Governors 23/06/26 Action: LG 23/06/26

LR to include % of total working days lost in future reports and explore a brief monthly morale pulse survey. Action: Clerking Services to add Morale Monitoring Survey to the June agenda.	Action Clerking Services 20/05/26 Completed
4.3 Matters arising from the Minutes None.	
5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
5.1 Headteacher Report LR gave an overview of the Headteacher Report. LR introduced the current report and explained that future reporting will increasingly align with the updated Ofsted toolkit, enabling governors to see both challenge and supporting evidence more clearly. Pupil numbers and place pressures were reviewed. The school continues to operate under significant demand, with a high number of placements and further pressure anticipated from tribunal cases. It was noted that the school is planning for an enlarged Year 7 intake while also managing the likelihood of additional admissions through tribunal. <u>Leadership and Management</u> A substantial discussion took place regarding demand for Bents Green placements, the pressure this creates and the need for a more strategic city wide response. Governors received an update on the former caretaker's house lease, which is progressing through legal documentation and lease agreement arrangements. An update was also provided on Handsworth. Final checks have taken place and building work is expected to commence shortly. While some external planning matters remain, these are not expected to prevent internal works from starting. Gibson House was discussed positively as a developing opportunity. It was reported that the business case is progressing and that the building appears to lend itself reasonably well to school use, subject to refurbishment and adaptation. Governors were also advised that the CEO of Nexus MAT and Rachel Potts, Director & Member and Chair of Trust Board of Directors had visited Bents Green recently. The visit provided an opportunity to see the school in practice and formed part of the wider leadership dialogue about the school's development and current priorities. <u>Curriculum Development</u> EA provided a substantial presentation on curriculum redesign. The school is bringing together previous curriculum approaches into a more coherent whole school model, ensuring greater continuity between pre-national curriculum learning and national	

curriculum pathways. This is intended to remove artificial barriers between sites and to create smoother progression for pupils whose development does not fit neatly into fixed pathways.

The revised model was explained through three linked strands, what pupils learn, how they learn and how impact is assessed.

A Governor asked, where do EHCPs sit within the new curriculum model?

Leaders explained that EHCP outcomes sit across the whole model and are closely linked to the developmental and autism informed frameworks used to understand how pupils learn and what support they require.

A Governor asked, when will this curriculum direction be shared more widely?

Leaders confirmed that communication with staff would begin immediately, with wider communication to parents to follow.

Action: EA to upload presentation slides to Governor Hub.

Action:
EA
23/06/26

Parent Engagement and Communication

Governors discussed parent communication and engagement, including attendance at recent events. It was acknowledged that communication remains a challenge, particularly where family circumstances are complex or where only one parent receives direct messages. Governors reflected on the need for communication and engagement opportunities to feel practical, accessible and supportive for families. **Action: LR to share the date of the upcoming summer show.**

Action:
LR
23/06/26

Pupil engagement in learning

Governors reviewed current Alternative Provision (AP).

A Governor asked why some students attend these instead of school?

LR explained that some students struggle with a full time school environment and so they are given an opportunity to attend an alternative environment that allows them to have a break whilst maintaining some learning opportunities. These are short term APs with the aim to integrate back into full time school. These APs are funded from the school's budget.

Careers and Assessment

Refer to update posted on Governor Hub notice board.

5.1.1 Health and Safety Update

No major health and safety concerns were formally reported. Governors were advised that compliance is improving through the Trust's new tracking arrangements and that required checks and updates continue to progress.

5.1.2 Quality of Education Review

Nothing to discuss. 5.2 Governor Feedback Nothing to discuss. 5.3 Curriculum AH Nothing to discuss. 5.4 QA Reporting LR explained that the reports need to be uploaded onto Governor Hub. Action: LR to upload reports onto Governor Hub.	Action: LR 23/06/26
6. TRUST MATTERS	
6.1 Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues SS provided a Trust update. Nexus continues to expand while also progressing merger activity and supporting schools requiring improvement or structural transition. Governors were assured that, despite the pace of growth, the trust remains financially healthy. A Governor asked, does Nexus specifically seek out special schools to acquire? SS explained that the Trust does not actively pursue schools but responds to interest and opportunity where schools are ready and where strategic fit exists. A Governor asked, is there specialist expertise within the Trust in relation to special education? SS confirmed that the Trust has substantial expertise across special and mainstream education, including senior leaders with specialist inspection, commissioning and school improvement experience.	
7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
7.1 To consider any other urgent business A group photograph of all the Governors will be taken for the newsletter and governance use. Action: SOD-P to take the Governors group photograph.	Action: SOD-P 23/06/26
8. CONFIDENTIALITY	
8.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting None.	

9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	

Tuesday 23 June 2026	17:30 – 19:30	Bents Green – Ringinglow Site
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE