

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Motto
To know. To love. To serve.



St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School Governing Body

FGB Committee Meeting

Wednesday 30th April 2025 - 6.00pm

DRAFT MINUTES

ITEM	ITEM DETAILS
	Governors Present Pauline Broadway (Foundation Governor / Chair) Eileen Quigley (LA Governor) Karen Black (Acting Headteacher) Anna Wilmore (Foundation Governor) Sophie Kempton (Staff Governor) arrived 6.07pm Maureen Thompson (Co-opted Governor) James McCullagh (Parent Governor) Niamh Power (Parent Governor) Hannah Tebb (Headteacher - Maternity Leave) In Attendance Jo Clarke (Clerk to the Governors)
1.	Welcome and Opening Prayers The meeting started at 6.00pm. The meeting was held via TEAMS. Chair welcomed everyone. The meeting was quorate. The meeting was opened with a prayer.
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies received and accepted - Pauline Bringham-Brookes (Foundation Governor), Fr. Nicholas Edmonds Smith (Foundation Governor), Fr. Benedict Manning (Foundation Governor) Absent without Apologies Clare Thomas (Foundation Governor) and Ashley Robson (Foundation Governor)
3.	Notice of any other urgent business for Item 14 None.
4.	Budget. JM opened the discussion around scrutinization of the budget including benchmarking. Finance Sub Committee met at the beginning of April to look at the budget for the new financial year and set out the principles of what should drive the budget and how we can make it work for the school in terms of developing the strategic priorities. FGB objective of this meeting is to approve the budget for submission to Oxfordshire County Council. For some years the budget has been underspent. Last financial year the carry forward was approximately £15k in surplus (for various reasons, the smallest amount we have had for some time). Surplus is low and it has been agreed to build the carry forward in future years.

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The finance committee met initially to set out the strategic priorities for the 2025/26 budget. The main objective was to make sure that this budget enables the development of the curriculum, and the teaching of that curriculum and the learning outcomes.

There has been a drop off in pupil numbers across the country as well as our school which is particularly difficult as the budget is based on pupil numbers.

The finance committee then met again 26th April where no further changes were asked to be made. As a sub-committee we are satisfied with the budget and would recommend it to the FGB.

PB added that the process has been very robust and the budget had received a lot of scrutiny.

JM thanked the school staff involved and PB asked HT to summarise the key points;

HT - schools up and down the country are struggling to submit balanced budgets this year. Initially, we were in the same position and had to focus on priorities around curriculum and ensuring we have adequate staffing and support. We also prioritised leadership time being mindful that we are likely to be heading into an Ofsted year.

School improvement from SLT discussion and visitors to the schools and also considering that we will be heading into an Ofsted year.

Where we have reviewed spending is around modernisation of premises (last few years there has been a large spend on premises including toilets, entrance hall, etc.). The school looks welcoming, professional and clean. Additional money was allocated for 2025/26 but has now been removed as it was spent in 2024/25.

MT commented that a lot of detail has been added to the budget and that there is not a lot of wiggle room once the staffing costs have been removed.

NP Q two things she would expect to see are IT and staff training. HT confirmed that these were two things were discussed in detail at the finance meetings and were included in the budget. IT development will be spent from the School Building Fund.

PB asked the FGB if there were any further questions.

JM said how do we raise the numbers of pupils at school. Outward facing view of parents. Money in budget for new website.

EQ added about pupil numbers developing wraparound care.

HT said that work has already started and a parent survey has been sent this week.

PB recommended that we approve the budget as presented.

Governors agreed to approve the budget.

PB thanked everyone who has been involved in the process.

MT sent apologies for next FGB.

Finally, as this is the last FGB KB will attend as Headteacher, PB wanted to offer sincere gratitude for her leadership, engagement, willingness to develop, energy, enthusiasm and passion. She went on to say that Governors, parents and staff have all commented positively about Karen.

Thanks were also given to SK and AMR for stepping up to deputy roles.

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5.	Item of business for next FGB MT sends apologies for 16 th July.
6.	Dates of future meetings 2024/25 FGB (all meetings are F2F in The Courtyard) Wednesday 16 th July 2025 (post SATS results) E&S (Education & Standards Sub Committee) 6.00pm - Wednesday 18 th June - TEAMS FP&R (Finance, Premises and Resources Sub Committee) 7.15pm - Wednesday 18 th June - TEAMS
	Chair thanked everyone for attending and a closing prayer was said. Meeting ended at 6.40pm.

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