

MINUTES OF MEETING

School: Ravenshead C of E Voluntary Controlled
Meeting title: Strategic Development Committee Meeting
Date and time: Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 6:00pm
Location: Virtual meeting

Membership

'A' denotes absence

Mrs S Cope
Mrs N Thomas
Mrs S Henson
Mrs S Page
A Rev K Byrom
Mrs E Johnson
Mr N Brown
Mrs J Castle
Mrs S Keightley
Miss A Sutcliffe

In attendance Mr D Silcock (clerk)

SDC/12/25	Apologies for absence	Action
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There were no absences.

SDC/13/25	Declaration of interest
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There were no declarations for items on the agenda.

SDC/14/25	Minutes of the last meeting
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The minutes of the SDC meeting held on 4 March 2025 having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by Mrs. Henson.

Matters arising

Governors have attempted to recruit a Foundation governor. The situation will be reviewed.

SDC/15/25	Opal
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Mrs Keightley reported. The project has seen an intensive year of development with Y6 pupils helping with end of term installations. Everything about OPAL is good, children enjoy their activities and feed back requirements. September will see the sandpit installed and some more equipment purchased.
The gold award is a certainty, and we may receive platinum which would be lovely achievement in only 18 months. After School Club are now being trained. Parent Play days and other activities are planned for next year.
Comment: Governors thanked Mrs Keightley for her dedication and enthusiasm in driving OPAL forwards.

SDC/16/25	School Improvement Plan update
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Mrs Johnson shared the SIP document.
P1: Times tables, staff training, and curriculum. Mr Walls leads on times tables. We have a long term plan from September. Last year we had 18% on full marks and this year 49% which is well above national
P2: Distinctive Christian Ethos. A lot of work has gone into ethos, spirituality, and Worship in the Woods. The February SIAMS inspection was positive and reflected

work in school.

We are preparing for the new RE curriculum, to be introduced in 2026 with actions to make the curriculum reflect diversity in school.

P3: Behaviour. Restorative justice is now established, and behaviour actions can be relaxed.

Challenge: There has been an increase in suspensions. These are cohort driven, the individuals concerned acting outside the parameters of usual misbehaviours. School and pupil relationships are strong despite the actions of a few children.

Challenge: Will Behaviour remain in the SIP? No, but we will continue to focus on behaviour and relationships.

SDC/17/25 Data Outcomes

KS2: We finished just below national despite SEND of 35%, a lot of whom joined later in school, and at low levels of attainment. Data includes 1 child who was disapplied, and another who missed the tests due to anxiety causing us to just miss national equivalence.

Challenge: Y5 have a similar profile. What actions will be applied? Y5 have high levels of SEND, a lot of new pupils, and poor behaviour. We have made small adjustments to staff and will use Mrs Argent to support teaching & learning across both classes. Maternity cover appointee Mrs Baker will provide an extra 2 days of support across Y6.

Challenge: Is this budgeted? We really need this support to focus on Y6 data for next year. The Finance Working Group will discuss in detail.

Comment: Governors support the need to provide a framework for Y6 to succeed.

Comment: There is some good data. The Y4 times tables results were excellent. Phonics: Just below national due to problems with split classes. The split will be applied differently next year.

Y2: Reading, writing and maths were all above national.

EYFS: A good set of results with GLD above national. Credit to Mrs Sutcliffe for applying provision in response to data.

Comment: there is a lot to celebrate in the results. Providing extra Y6 resource for next year is good management as the current Y5 have a lot of needs.

SDC/18/25 Flourishing Futures Plan

All C of E schools received this SIAMS related document that asks, "Who are we and why are we here?"

Falling birthrates will continue to affect budgets. Meetings will have to consider expanding mixed year group classes. We have strength in staff and a stable team, including 2 SENCO's and will develop relationships with other schools.

The LA Place Planning team visit next week but our biggest issue of receiving high numbers of SEND pupils, often from outside catchment is likely to continue.

We will continue to fight for increased SEND funding from the LA, our recent permanent exclusion would have been avoidable with extra funds.

Mrs Sutcliffe and Mrs Soley will sit on the LA Placement Panel.

Question: Was the visit by Mr P Higgins useful? We assumed the visit was to discuss outcomes from our meeting with the LA around lack of SEND funding. The meeting looked at QA and included a walk on teaching and learning. We know where we are on teaching and learning. All rather frustrating.

Comment: All involved with school recognise our position, and example of good practice. The LA have nothing to offer other than increased financial support.

Comment: Can governors offer support? Only to be aware of our situation and understand why data is sometimes variable.

Comment: The school team have supported teaching & learning, including work on OPAL and behaviour to set up school for next year. Well done. Staff feel well supported by governors.

Challenge: Any other initiatives? Cancellation of Academy conversion was disappointing. We will develop the relationship with All Hallows.

Comment: Our local councillor is willing to visit. A previous councillor was very supportive, but a visit would not lead to action.

SDC/19/25 Leadership Structure

See confidential items.

SDC/20/25 Governor Filter Checks

Mrs Thomas completed a safeguarding check. There were no problems.

SDC/21/25 Governance link visits

Reports are filed on Ghub and discussed in committee.

Challenge: Do all children attend Collective Worship or are some absent for interventions? Some will miss out due to anxiety by being in a large group. FS children have their own sessions.

SDC/22/25 Governor Training

Governors are requested to complete their Effectiveness profile on Ghub.

GB

SDC/23/25 Governor Action Plan

Mrs Henson evaluates and updates the plan.

Some targets have been achieved; We will continue with staff Wellbeing.

Challenge: Will the Finance Working Group continue? Yes, and we need new members now Mrs Scrivener has resigned. Members will be Mrs Henson, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Sutcliffe, Mrs Page and Mr Brown.

The remit is to discuss spending, not to unpick the budget.

SDC/24/25 Date of 2025-26 meetings

MC Autumn term - Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 6:00pm

GB autumn term – Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 6:00pm

SDC Autumn term - Tuesday 9 December 2025 at 6:00pm

MC Spring term – Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 6:00pm

SDC Spring term – Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 6:00pm

GB Spring term – Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 6:00pm

MC Summer term – Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 6:00pm

GB Summer term – Tuesday 2 June 2026 at 6:00pm

SDC Summer term – Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 6:00pm

SDC/25/25 Determination of confidentiality of business

It was

Resolved

Membership lists and HT reports and items where noted are confidential.

The meeting closed at 7:15pm.

Signed(chair) Date