

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FOREST ALLIANCE OF NURSERY SCHOOLS  
(FANS) HELD ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6.30 P.M. VIRTUALLY**

Present: Abrar Malik (Chair)-Co-opted Governor

**Co-opted Governors:**

Mark Brown

Sally Davey

**Head Teacher:**

Helen Currie

**Local Authority Governor:**

Pauline France

**Parent Governors:**

Austin Ventour

Katie Stone

**Staff Governor:**

Lindsay Read

Also in Attendance: Hasina Rashid, School Business Manager

Clerk to the Committee: Caroline Russell

**Summary of agreements and actions:**

<b>Minute reference</b>	<b>Formal agreements and/or actions identified</b>	<b>Named person(s) for action(s) identified</b>	<b>Completion date</b>
4.1.	Membership: HT to consider re cooption, Governor Services to amend records re resigned/end of term governors and re-cooption.	HT/Governor Services	Ongoing
5.3	Draft 2025/6 Budget Funding: Working party to discuss 13/05/2025-6pm=Venue to be confirmed.	HT/HR/ Governors	13/05/2025
7.4	Committee Structure: HT/SBM to discuss for restructure with effect from 01/09/2025.	HT/SBM	Ongoing
8	Policies: <b>AGREED</b> per minute	All.	Ongoing
10.	Schools' Financial Value Standard Return: PF/HR to liaise for completion and submission by 31/03/2025	PF/SBM	31/03/2025
12	Date and Time of Next Meeting: 22 May 2025-6pm-Virtual.	All/School/ Governor Services	22/05/2025

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** All were welcomed to the meeting and newly elected parent governors introduced themselves. The meeting was quorate with 8 governors present.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest in any of the following agenda items. Governors were reminded to review and update their interests on GovernorHub.
3. **NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM:**
  - Personnel item.
4. **GOVERNING BODY:**
  - 4.1. Membership: The resignation of Paula Vaz Cudna was noted, creating a vacancy for a co-opted governor. Abrar Malik and Mark Brown's terms of office will end in May 2025. Abrar agreed cooption for a further term of office, Mark will consider his circumstances.  
**ACTION:** HT to consider re co-opted governor vacancy, Governor Services to amend records, MB to consider.
  - 4.2. Disqualification due to Non-Attendance: This was noted without action.
  - 4.3. Disclosure and Barring Service Checks: Checks have been completed for all currently serving Governors (details held by the School).
  - 4.4. Evaluation of Governing Body Diversity: The Governing Body is considered to be diverse and reflective of the School community in relation to gender and cultural heritage.
  - 4.5. Election of Chair of Finance, Pay and Personnel Committee: It was **AGREED** that Pauline France and Jana Mills be chair and vice chair respectively.
5. **FINANCE REPORTS-HR PRESENTED-SCREENSHARED:**
  - 5.1. Church Hill Nursery School: A year end projected outturn was noted of £148,000 reserves (day care income) but a £206,000 accumulated deficit. Income received has included LBWF supplementary funding, Centre of Excellence funding, Special Educational Needs and Disability funding and SEN interim funding, Early Years Pupil Premium funding, Stronger Practice hub funding and recharges. HR recommended that fees be increased noting the significant impact of pay increases on school budgets including NJC(support staff) pay, teachers pay and increased employers' National Insurance contributions. There has been a significant unfunded element and Term Time Only compensation payments are being made. A year end revenue carry forward of £156,241 is predicted. There has been capital expenditure on smart screens and i pads for use with parents. The Nursery has been reconfigure to include sleep space for 2 year olds.  
**Q.** Why has the day care surplus increased? **A.** Increased take up of holiday play Scheme, extended services (breakfast and after school club) and day care for hours purchased by parents in excess of the 15 and 30 hours Free Early Entitlement funding.
  - 5.2. Low Hall Nursery School: This is a School Facing Financial Challenge. There has been a deficit for the last 3 years and staffing restructure supported by increased maintained Nursery school supplementary funding and hourly rate, Centre of Excellence Funding, special needs and early years pupil premium funding. The intake of 3 and 4 year olds has reduced with increased numbers of 2 year olds with hours adjusted to parental preferences where possible.

**Q.** How much is day care? **A.** £9 per hour for 3 and 4 years over the 15 and 30 hours Universal Early Educational Entitlement funding.

There has been capital expenditure for purchase of laptops and an operating lease for a new photocopier. There has been a change of payroll provider at both schools with some increase in costs. There is an in year surplus for LHNS with a rising number of 2 year olds admitted but reduced resources. Thanks were recorded to staff for the work involved in settling younger children and a significant number with special needs. Officers in SFFC commended the achievements of FANS financially and educationally.

There has been an Royal Horticultural Society grant for outdoor space development and a successful match funding bid for safety surfacing.

5.3. Draft 2025/6 Budget Funding: This has just been released by LBWF.

HR will devise a budget based on estimated actual full time equivalents in liaison with LBWF. A predicted future deficit reflects reduced pupil numbers and increased staffing costs with a School over ratio on support staff numbers.

At LHNS it is hoped to increase day care income for extended services and flexible Hours. Discussion followed regarding the demography of waiting lists with advice given to parents and spaces reserved for low income families am and pm. Will try to be fair re the admissions process.

Financial highlights were noted including increased LBWF hourly funding, outturn based on predictions from last years' numbers, 2-5% pay increase assumed, predicted inflation and cost increases. Concern was expressed re proposals for audit schedule.

**Q.** What was the other income? **A.** Rate rebate.

**ACTION:** Governor working party to consider on 13/05 6pm (venue to be confirmed).

**HR was thanked re work for 2 schools.**

**6. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT-PRIOR E-CIRCULATED:**

6.1. The School has a 5 year School Development Plan based on OFSTED requirements which will be adapted as the OFSTED framework changes. Proposals relating to quality of education, finance, special educational needs and future School place needs were noted.

6.2. Staff training has included re SEND (autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), use of symbols to build sentences, Ordinarily Available Provision and gold mark quality accreditation.

6.3. Personal Development/Creativity/Arts Education: This has included use of the work of female sculptors. There has been some income from training e.g. Tales Toolkit, development of communication with 2 year olds and a partnership with the William Morris Gallery.

6.4. Smartlog is used to report injuries and health and safety issues.

6.5. Re development of outdoor spaces LBWF will be asked for use of ½ of the Ferguson Centre car park to be assigned to the School (site likely to be sold) for use for outdoor space and emergency vehicle/delivery access).

6.6. Breakfast Club funding for LHNS has been agreed to July 2025 and an application made for provision of sleep space for 2 year olds.

**7. LINK GOVERNORS/SCHOOL VISITS:**

7.1. Safeguarding: MB reported regarding a visit in December to LHNS. A wall is now to be repaired/removed and the Ferguson Centre site is under review.

- 7.2. Special Educational Needs: SD is to visit LHNS on 06/03/2025 to review use of resources.
- 7.3. FANS Participation in Haringey Education Partnership: This was noted as funded to July 2025 by LBWF and may be extended. Governors were invited to join a learning walk with the School Improvement Partner who is working to develop the maintained Nursery schools' group.
- 7.4. Committee Structure: This may be revised to support quoracy e.g. resources/business committee and a children's learning and development committee with effect from September 2025.  
**ACTION**: HT/SBM to discuss.
8. **POLICIES**: These were **AGREED** as follows:  
-Admissions and transitions.  
-Complaints policy and procedure.  
-LBWF safeguarding policy and procedure.  
-Virtual meetings.
9. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 07/11/2024**: These will be circulated to HT/COG and MB for approval/amend for ratification by the next FGB meeting.
10. **SCHOOLS' FINANCIAL VALUE STANDARD RETURN**:  
**ACTION**: PF/HR to liaise and complete for submission by the due date.
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**: Personnel items minuted as confidential under separate cover.
12. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**: Thursday 22 May 2025-6pm-Virtual (Budget Ratification).

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30 P.M.**