THE EDGE SCHOOLS' FEDERATION

GOVERNORS' MEETING ON

ON 15TH JUNE 2023 AT 6.30PM

LOCATION: WISTANSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

TYPE OF MEETING	FULL GOVERNORS MEETING	FACE TO FACE	
PRESENT	Mr S James (Chair) (SJ) Mr S Hall (Vice Chair) (SH) Mrs C Fenton (CF) Mr T Davies (TD) Mrs K R Stone (KS)	Mrs M Hunt (Headteacher) (MH) Mrs S Phillips (SP) Mrs C Egleton (CE) Ms L Furniss (LF) Mrs C Bedford (CB)	
GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONAL	Mrs V Deakin		
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs L Foster (L Foster)		
QUORUM	Number: 7	QUORATE: YES	

1. APOLOGIES

Received from Reason Consent Yes / No

Ms E Evans (EE) A prior engagement Yes
Mr R Rhodes (RR A prior engagement Yes
Mrs D Crowe (DC) Work commitments Yes

2. DECLARATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no declarations of any urgent business.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest made.

3.2 TERMLY REVIEW OF GOVERNOR AND HEADTEACHER BUSINESS INTERESTS

Business Interests Register

The business interests register must be reviewed annually but is tabled termly to enable new governors to be included and existing governors to update their entry. **The register must be published on the website.**

Governors agreed that there were no changes necessary.

4. GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Governing Body Vacancies

Arrangements will be made in the Spring Term to recruit 2 Parent Governors.

4.2 Code of Conduct

The Governing Body agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct and were reminded of the importance of confidentiality. The Chair of Governors signed the Code of Conduct on behalf of the Governing Body.

5. TO REPORT ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR OR VICE-CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BODY IN CASES OF URGENCY

There was no action taken on the grounds of urgency.

6. MINUTES

6.1 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2023 were approved and signed, subject to the following corrections being made:

Change "When Ofsted changed the maths curriculum that directly worked against the wellbeing of teachers." to "Changes in the maths Curriculum directly worked against the wellbeing of teachers." on page 5.

A copy has been placed in the minute book.

6.2 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

ACTION SHEET				
ITEM NO	ACTION	TO BE COMPLETED BY	UPDATE	
3.2	Business interest forms to be completed and returned to LF	LF	Discharged	
3.2	Business interests and attendance to be published on the website	LF	Ongoing	
4.2	All governors hand signed copy of Code of Conduct to LF by 15th June.	All	To be completed in September 2023.	
13	Safeguarding and all other compulsory training to be completed and certificates sent to LF	All	Ongoing, 3 more Governors are to complete the training.	
13	LF to feedback to NGA on the Online Safety training.	LF	Discharged	
17	New website to be moved forward and quotes obtained	SJ/LF	Discharged	

7. TO RECEIVE REPORTS/MINUTES

7.1 Business Management Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 2nd May were received and considered. A copy has been placed in the minute book.

Particular points discussed were:

- Brockton: Surplus of £4980. Extended School Deficit of £6820
- Church Preen: Surplus of £1435. PE Surplus of £13473. Extended School Deficit of £3250
- Wistanstow: Surplus of £29360. PE Surplus of £27739

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 30th March were received and considered. A copy has been placed in the minute book.

Particular points discussed were:

- Pupils requiring additional support have been identified and 1:1 targeted support is now in place
- Spelling Shed used for spelling in KS2 across the federation
- Phonics Play at Brockton and Church Preen, Bug Club at Wistanstow
- Maths TT Rockstars subscription to be purchased for use across the federation

7.2 Reports from Governors

Summary of a meeting held on 19th April were received and considered. A copy has been placed in the minute book.

CB SEND

CB met with Catherine Cowper the SENCo to review and discuss progress since the last meeting, current practice and next steps.

 CC has made significant improvements in the identification of students with SEND and the range and quality of interventions in place. CC could talk with precision about the needs of the students, trends across the Federation and CPD needs of the staff. This is credit to CC's work since taking up the role of SENCo.

Summary of a meeting held on 26th May were received and considered. A copy has been placed in the minute book.

CF Safeguarding review at Wistanstow

Safeguarding is a strength at Wistanstow CE Primary School. Staff use CPOMS
effectively in a non-judgemental way to track concerns. Families are happy to come
to school and speak to staff. Children are happy to speak to staff and staff is quick
to pick up concerns. Children feel safe. Children will readily seek out an adult and
speak to them if they have concerns. The children have a voice and feel listened to.

CE Foundation Governor - visits took place 24th March, 30th March and 3rd May.

- CE visited 2 assemblies and 2 RE lessons at Brockton and Wistanstow.
- The children readily talked about being in a church school and enjoyed their lessons.
- The RE provision is excellent and the curriculum is enhanced by the resources received from the Diocese.
- The next step is to develop strategies of how the school encompasses everyone that commit to Christian values in the 2 Church schools. That would involve governors, staff and children.

LF PP visit 17th March

- LF met with MH at Brockton
- LF spoke to 2 pupils, 1 from Reception and 1 Year 5. They both spoke positively about school life, teachers and other pupils. They don't feel different and feel completely included. They talked about how much they enjoyed learning.
- The Year 5 pupil would like to go to after school football, she cannot now, but it's not a matter of accessibility; she cannot be picked up later from school.
- MH presented PP performance figures.
- Next step; to go to Wistanstow and Church Preen. Go back to Brockton and talk to teachers to see if they can identify PP pupils.

7.3 <u>To agree dates for each committee/governing body to review their terms of</u> Reference

Governors agreed that there were no changes necessary.

8. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

The headteacher's report was received and considered. Particular points discussed were:

A copy of the report has been placed in the minute book.

MH shared the Executive Headteacher Report Summer Term 2023 with Governors.

MH advised the Governors that the number of pupils on roll is decreasing.

SJ: What are the Reception numbers for September?

MH shared the numbers with Governors.

Brockton: 8 Wistanstow 3 Church Preen 5

KS: Is it due to private schools?

MH: Possibly in part, yes.

LF: Have we done a questionnaire where children go if they leave school?

MH: No. This will be arranged for leavers from this point on. CF: A reason is recorded as part of the school move process.

MH shared that things were fluid especially at Brockton. Children who have left are mainly due to changes in their personal circumstances.

Safeguarding

CPOMS continues to be used effectively to record and monitor safeguarding matters.

KS: There are quite a few incidents for 1 child; does that child have specific needs?

MH: The number of incidents decreased due to 2 pupils leaving. Things are settled at Brockton.

CF: There is 1 pupil with a larger number of incidents that has an EHCP, the child has speech and language needs.

LF: Have you considered Talk Boost?

MH: Yes, that is in place and being used but is not appropriate for that pupil.

SJ: Is there feedback from the parents for that pupil?

MH: Yes, it is positive. The speech and language therapy are received well.

SJ: Is it recorded on CPOMS?

MH: Yes. all there.

MH talked about Safeguarding at Wistanstow; it has a higher number of incidents but all low-level concerns nothing that requires the involvement of an external agency.

SJ: Is this a reflection of using CPOMS effectively?

MH: There is a single incident recorded with several pupils involved.

Standards of teaching and learning

There is 1 member of staff making improvements. More formal processes have been initiated with another teacher.

SJ: The Governors will support you (MH) if you need to make tough decisions.

MH: Yes, but we also want to give people the opportunities to improve and respond to training.

SJ: This has been going on some time.

CB: You (MH) could be setting a tight timeframe for staff to complete actions.

LF: We need to think about the children as well.

Leadership and management

Shropshire Audit have returned to Brockton 12th-14th June to undertake a full financial audit.

MH said thank you to LFoster for her support and hard work.

Communication with parents / carers

Newsletters continue to go out from each school fortnightly. Noticed that there are a number of messages on Parentmail which have not been read by parents.

CB: Have you considered Instagram? You can stop comments.

MH: There are Facebook and Twitter accounts. We have investigated messaging via WhatsApp. There seems to be limited engagement from some parents with Parentmail messages.

SJ: We will be engaging with the website developer and messaging parents can be built it into the website.

Breakfast and After School Clubs (Brockton and Church Preen)

Members of the teaching staff / SLT continue to be on a rota to be a second adult on-site, though a newly appointed TA has taken on the second role at After School Club on a Monday and Tuesday at Church Preen. At Church Preen, attendance at Breakfast and After School Clubs has been steady. There has been an increase in attendance at Breakfast Club at Brockton

KS: This is really worrying. Is staff absence fuelled by tiredness?

MH: Everyone is on a very tight schedule with the minimum of breaks each day.

KS: It is worrying but I don't know what the answer is.

Staffing

A TA at Wistanstow who had been on a long-term sickness absence has now successfully returned. The two HLTAs with ELSA specialisms are leading a "wellbeing day" for pupils from all 3 schools. A new post of an MFL specialist teacher working across all three schools on one day each week has been successfully recruited for internally.

Wellbeina

There have been no applicants for the lunchtime supervisor posts at Church Preen and Brockton. Teaching staff (and SLT) continue to provide cover for lunchtimes and Breakfast and After School clubs which is outside of the scope of the STPCD and is on a goodwill basis only.

Brockton

MH informed governors that the school experienced a higher level of pupil mobility this term, mainly down to individual family circumstances. There are no changes in current staffing. One safeguarding concern (outside of school) has been recorded since the last meeting; this was passed on to an external agency. A safeguarding practice audit (per Shropshire requirements) has been completed for one pupil.

The school continues to petition Shropshire Council to assist with the refurbishment of the boys' toilets but is having no success yet.

The play equipment in the playground has now been taken out of use due to the deteriorating condition of its wooden construction. There are several providers are currently providing quotes for replacement.

Security of the perimeter of the school site remains a concern. It appears that some residents are walking their dogs on the school site and young people are accessing the site.

SJ: Do you have the new playground markings for Wistanstow and Church Preen? MH: The markings were done with the Sports funding. Brockton does not have sufficient sports funding surplus. Playground markings will be looked at as part of the play equipment refurbishment project.

Attendance

Attendance has decreased due to a sickness and diarrhoea bug and Chicken Pox.

Staff CPD

 Year Group Moderation has taken place both across the federation and within the School Development Group. A recent local authority moderation praised this effective moderation system across the federation.

SP shared Church Preen Primary School's Headteacher Summer 2023 Report with Governors. Numbers on Roll: 42.

Staffing remained the same.

Safeguarding

CPOMS new member of staff completed training. HA, has read KCSIE 2022 Part 1 and has familiarised herself with our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

In a recent Pupil Voice carried out by the EHT, some children voiced concern around one child who was making threats on the playground.

Additionally, some Y6 spoke about a WhatsApp group that they did not like. Additional PSHE lessons around keeping safe online have been planned and delivered.

Health and safety

Fire alarm points around the school are being checked.

Curriculum and extra-curricular activities

- After School Clubs
- Educational Visits

Attendance

Attendance to date has improved during the year.

Staff CPD

- White Rose
- EYFS SDG Moderation Meeting 24.5.23

Cross-federation links and impact on the school

- CC, SENCo, has been visiting regularly to support staff
- RW has instigated a science subject leader group within the Federation and has led the first meeting.

Current strengths

- Experienced teaching and support staff across the school
- Good behaviour with established rules and high expectations

SP shared Wistanstow CE School's Summer 2023 Headteacher Report with the Governors. Numbers on Roll: 70.

Two children (twins) left at the end of the Spring term to move to a school closer to parents' workplaces.

Staffing remained the same.

Safeguarding

There was one report of possible racism in May, but after investigation, there was insufficient evidence to conclude that this was the case.

Health and safety

Fire alarm tests have continued. The fire drill for the Spring term will take place on Thursday 8th June.

Curriculum and extra-curricular activities

Goblin Car Challenge

Attendance

Attendance to date has improved since last year although is down on Autumn/Spring attendance. One child has had an attendance concern letter from the EWO. Another, with low attendance is seeking flexi-schooling using Wistanstow as the base school. Staff CPD

KS1 Moderation Meeting

Cross-federation links and impact on the school

TG, science subject leader, has met with science leads across the Federation to consider schemes of work and recording of work in books.

Current strengths

• Experienced staff – both teachers and support staff

KS: There are lots of positive extra curricula activities and sporting opportunities happening around the 3 schools. Thank you for organising all these activities for the children. SJ: We have been in touch with Shropshire Council; they inspected the toilets and agreed they needed work, but the severity did not warrant immediate attention. It will be reviewed in September. I asked if they could visit all schools as they all have security issues.

ACTION:

Design questionnaires to parents to explore reasons for leaving.

MH to share conclusions with governors because children are moving schools.

CB to explore Safeguarding training opportunities provided by Severndale.

MH consider the playground markings at Brockton.

MH to meet with Shropshire Council regarding the toilet refurbishment.

9. FLEXI-SCHOOLING REVIEW

MH informed the Governors that a parent at Wistanstow school requested Flexi schooling for their child. Flexi schooling means that pupils take school part-time, and they are home schooled for the rest of the week.

Initially, Flexi schooling started as a response to Safeguarding concerns. If the school withdraw the Flexi schooling option, these children disappear from the schools' horizon. The Flexi schooling option would suit children that are suffering from anxiety and are struggling to get to school.

Pupils on Flexi schooling get the funding and they became important in the school community. There are staff concerns; what happens to children when they are not in school, and parents are home schooling.

Other concerns are whether the school would have to do catch up if the child is behind. If the child has SEND needs, the school would have to engage with external experts. CE and CF met with the parent.

CE explained that her initial reaction was negative as children should be at school. However, the parent is serious in her attention in homeschooling. There are lots of home-schooling networks that parents can join. The parent eloquently argued why home schooling was good for the child.

MH talked about transition so children on Flexi schooling would be at school at all times in Year 6. The parent is committed to home schooling and trained in Forrest School. If the request is refused, the child will be taken out of school. Additional concerns are the impact on parents and other children.

MH explained that the core days were Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and there was no flexibility on that. Thursday and Friday are the flexi school days.

The Flexi schooling agreement can be withdrawn any time and all applications are considered on the individual bases by MH and SP.

SH: Does the school take responsibility for results?

MH: Yes, there are two sets of data. One set is for Flexi schooling and another set for full-time pupils.

CF: Talked about using school assessments in regular intervals and if the child drops off, the offer could be withdrawn.

KS: Does that have an impact on the teachers?

MH: The teacher would continue as normal.

S: Is there an option to do online delivery?

MH: They do their own style of teaching, and this would be a big step for teaching staff.

CE: The child found school noisy and wanted more space.

CB: Are there any SEN needs? Have they tried ear defenders?

CF: This request is more about the outdoors and learning outdoors.

LF: There is a very effective mum, and this may be the perfect model for this 1 child.

MH: All requests are judged on the individual basis, but we don't have to offer a place.

LF: Is the team of teachers strong enough to manage these children? If it is rolled out.

MH: It's not something that we would roll out. It is a difficult decision. We had enquiries at Church Preen for 4 children.

CF: Many children have been taken out of school since Covid. The parent's choice would be homeschooling or Flexi schooling. If the parent removes the child from school, we will have a greater number of children of which we have no sight.

SJ: What do you need from the Governors?

MH: We need to decide this term.

SJ: We will establish a working sub-group around this, chaired by CE, and bring the recommendations forward. It's important to accept or deny the application. We'll schedule an extraordinary meeting to discuss the decision.

MH expressed that she would be happy to involve Westcliffe Federation, where flexi-schooling has been established for some years.

ACTION:

CE, CB, CF and LF to establish a working group to explore Flexi schooling and make recommendations to the Board.

10. THE GOVERNING BODY'S ROLE IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Governors are invited to record in the minutes how they have fulfilled their responsibilities and contributed to maintaining and improving the quality of teaching and learning, behaviour and safety and achievement for pupils in the school since the last meeting.

Governors' Core Function	Impact of governor involvement – What improvements have been secured to pupil outcomes, behaviour and safety, leadership and management?
Setting the vision and	Development of the new school website
strategic direction of school	Academisation
Holding the head teacher to account for the school's educational performance	Headteacher's Report
Ensuring financial resources	Business Management Committee
are well spent	Publishing annual reports
Safeguarding	Child on child incidents Safeguarding/Health & Safety standing item on the FGB's agenda

11. FINANCIAL / AUDIT MATTERS

11.1 Schools' Delegated Budgets (if applicable)

The governing body noted the school budget timetable for 2022/23 and also the requirement to submit an approved annual budget plan to the LA by June **2023**.

12. PUBLISHING ANNUAL REPORTS (Paper C)

12.1 Annual Statement

12.2 Pupil Premium

PP reports have been completed and published for all 3 schools.

12.3 Recovery Premium Funding

The governing body agreed; see PP under Item 12.2. The PP strategy includes the Recovery premium Funding.

12.4 PE & Sports Premium

- Brockton CE Primary School's PE Strategy has been completed and published.
- Church Preen Primary School's PE Strategy has been completed.
- Wistanstow CE School's PE Strategy is pending due to waiting on data.

The governing body agreed that CF will be appointed as PE link Governor.

13. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF THE HEADTEACHER 2023

13.1 Appointment of Governor Appraisers'

It was agreed the following governors be appointed governor reviewers for the 2023 headteacher performance management review:

- SJ
- CE
- KS

13.2 Appointment of External Adviser

The governing body agreed to appoint John Rowe from Shropshire Council as an external adviser to carry out the performance management review of the Headteacher.

ACTION:

Confirm date of Headteacher's performance management review.

14. DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

14.1 Feedback and record impact of governor training

SJ completed Safer Recruitment training

KS completed Safer Recruitment training

CE completed "Being a Governor in a Church School" training

CE is to complete SIAMS training on 3rd July 2023

TD is to complete New Governor's training in July 2023.

LF is to complete Safeguarding training.

14.2 Review and identify any training needs of the governing body

ACTION:

Governors to complete pen portraits ready for the website launched in the Autumn Term.

15. CHILD ON CHILD INCIDENTS

The governing body received information on the following: (bullying, racism, sexual harassment/sexual violence)

Covered in the HT's Report under Item 8.

16. SAFEGUARDING / HEALTH & SAFETY

The Governing Body agreed the following:

• It was agreed that all members of the Governing Body have read the following documents:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 Changes are released in August ready for September PD Day
- Part two: Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021
- Managing Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and colleges, and relevant parts of Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Outcome of S175/157 Audit: Section 11 Audit shared with LFoster, MH to email it to CF
- Review Safeguarding arrangements for rending school premises/facilities *Transfer of controls*. There has been a historical agreement regarding the separate demountable classroom; there is no access to the main school.
- Monitoring of Wellbeing and Welfare of Pupils, Staff and Stakeholders
- Child sex exploitation DSL separate training concerns raise on CPOMs

ACTION:

LFoster to locate the document that specifies the renting arrangement.

17. VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE

SJ advised the Governors that parents from Church Preen that are online education providers volunteered to help the school with the development of the new website. They completed work behind the scenes that included a survey with parents and teachers. 39 responses were received. The design will be based on these recommendations and give the school its identify.

MH informed the Governors what things to consider in joining a MAT.

- It is becoming increasingly difficult to access support from Shropshire Council
- The Federation is not a very attractive prospect to large MATs apart from the Diocese
- Expanding the federation could be an option.

SJ: We could possibly circulate a letter providing an idea about our intentions.

18. GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

Governors are reminded of the legal requirement to publish and update

- Review policies MH and LFoster to complete
- Update GIAS Updated
- Update the School/Academy Website It will be completed in line with the development of the new school website
- Agree or amend the information they publish on each member of the governing body on the website each year All Governors agreed to publish Business Interest Registers and Attendance
- GDPR Officer to complete

ACTION:

MH and LFoster to review policies.

19. DATES AND TIMES OF GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS FOR 2023

The governing body agreed the following meeting dates:

12th October 2023 at Church Preen

7th March 2024 at Brockton

13th June 2024 at Wistanstow

20.	ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS		
	There were no items of any other urgent business to be considered.		
Signe	Signed: Chair of Governors Date:		
Meeti	ng Ended: 9.30PM		

ACTION SHEET				
ITEM NO	ACTION	TO BE COMPLETED BY		
8	Design questionnaires to parents to explore reasons for leaving.	LFoster		
8	MH to share conclusions with governors why children are moving schools.	MH		
8	CB to explore Safeguarding training opportunities provided by Severndale.	СВ		
8	MH consider the playground markings at Brockton.	MH		
8	MH to meet with Shropshire Council regarding the toilet refurbishment.	MH		
9	CE, CB, CF and LF to establish a working group to explore Flexi schooling and make recommendations to the Board.	CE CB CF LF		
12	Confirm date of Headteacher's performance management review.	MH SJ		
14	Governors to complete pen portraits ready for the website launched in the Autumn Term.	All		
16	LFoster to locate the document that specifies the renting arrangement.	LFoster		
18	MH and LFoster to review policies.	MH LFoster		