



MINUTES OF THE LGB CATMOSE COLLEGE MEETING

Thursday 14 May 2026, 4pm
John Clare

PRESENT

Rosemary Dodson, Jane Evans, Thomas Heath, Gary Marsh, Clive Morton, Alex Mould, Peter Onslow, Briege Slattery, Stuart Williams (Principal).

IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Wilson (Chief Finance Officer), Sheryl Wilson (Governance Professional).

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Thomas Heath welcomed all attendees. Apologies were received and accepted from Andrew Holt, Andrew Cross and Emma Gautrey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PECUNIARY INTEREST

No personal or pecuniary interests were declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 March 2026 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

5. GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONAL

The onboarding process of new parent governors Andrew Hulme and Julie Summers Rola has commenced.

Gary Marsh's term of office is due to end. Governors unanimously agreed for Gary to serve another 4-year term.

The Trust has reviewed and updated the role descriptions for Members, Trustees and Governors. These have been aligned with the Scheme of Delegation and approved at Trust level. Governors were asked to review the documentation and provide any feedback. Governors commented that the Role Description of a Governor was a useful and helpful document.

6. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

The Spring Concert was highlighted as a significant success, showcasing strong participation across music and drama. Governors praised the balance of performances and inclusion of LAMDA students. Continued strength of the College's music provision was noted, including progression into post-16.

Head Student Process

A revised and rigorous selection process had taken place for new head students for the next academic year. Students were invited to attend an assembly, submit a video application and attend a formal interview with the Principal, which included unseen questions and preparation tasks. Use of performance data (attendance, behaviour, academic reports) and staff references were also included as part of the process. Governors noted the high calibre and diversity of candidates, with a strong emphasis on leadership as service and contribution. There were a high number of applications and each student was given positive feedback. Further work will be undertaken next year to encourage wider participation from boys.

7. ADMISSIONS SCORECARD

The College remains close to capacity across year groups and waiting lists are currently strong, particularly in Year 9.

Governors noted a regional decline in pupil numbers affecting other schools; however, Catmose remains in a strong position.

8. BEHAVIOUR SCORECARD

Behaviour trends remain stable. A targeted focus on Year 9 behaviour has been introduced, including immediate sanctions to improve standards. SEN-related behaviour trends continue to reflect increased social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Governors discussed:

- Incidents of racial abuse (approx. 44 recorded):
- Incidents remain low proportionally but are increasing gradually.
- The majority relate to peer interactions, often online.
- The College responds through education, restorative work, and escalation where required.
- The importance of monitoring repeat offenders (which remain very low).

9. ATTENDANCE SCORECARD

Overall attendance remains strong (approx. 95%). The trends reflect national patterns, with a slight decline across the year. Targeted interventions are in place, including counselling support, which have demonstrated positive impact.

Governors noted:

- The effectiveness of the pastoral and attendance teams.
- Planned restructuring due to staff changes, including retirement.

10. OUTCOMES AND PROGRESS

- Assessment data indicates an average grade around 5–6, in line with expectations.
- Variations across subjects (e.g. Computer Science and PE) were explained due to assessment methods.
- Data accuracy is considered strong and consistent across cohorts.

Governors discussed:

- Importance of accurate assessment to inform GCSE option choices.
- Robust systems for reviewing and approving student subject selections.

The IDSR had been shared with governors which included last year's results and was very positive.

11. TEACHING SCORECARD

- Teaching quality remains strong with minimal staff turnover.
- The College is fully staffed with only one external appointment required.
- No areas of concern were identified.

12. SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Safeguarding data had been analysed using AI to identify trends:

- Primary concerns: mental health, peer-on-peer issues, online risks, and family contexts.
- 282 safeguarding incidents recorded (February - May).

Key strengths identified:

- Prompt response and intervention.
- Strong pastoral support systems.
- Effective escalation to external agencies where required.

Governors noted safeguarding is:

- Proactive
- Well embedded
- Child-centred

13. TRANSFORMATION PLAN UPDATE

The live Transformation Plan continues to track key priorities.

Current focus includes:

- Student participation (including disadvantaged groups)
- Tutorial programme quality
- Personal development and wellbeing

14. RESOURCES UPDATE

The College is currently forecasting a broadly balanced financial position and expenditure includes significant investment in maintenance and infrastructure.

15. MOBILE PHONES POLICY

The Principal presented research linking smartphone use to increased anxiety, reduced social interaction, and wider safeguarding concerns.

Current position:

Daytime smartphone use effectively banned.

Immediate confiscation policy in place, requiring parental collection.

Proposal:

- Gradual move to a smartphone-free school:
- Year 7 limited to basic (non-internet enabled) phones from September.
- Phased roll-out across subsequent year groups.

Governors discussed:

- Practical implementation and clarity of communication to parents.
- Strong parental support for stricter policies.
- Enforcement challenges acknowledged but considered manageable.
- The proposal was approved.

16. POLICY RATIFICATIONS

The following policies were approved:

- Behaviour Management Policy (updated)
- Searching Students and Confiscation Policy (updated)
- Mobile Phone Policy

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

LGB Scrutiny Panel – Thursday 11 June 2026, 10.30am, topic – careers

LGB CC - Thursday 2 July 2026, 5pm followed by a buffet