MINUTES OF THE LGB
CATMOSE COLLEGE MEETING

Thursday 2 July 2026, 5pm
John Clare

PRESENT

Andrew Cross, Rosemary Dodson, Jane Evans, Emma Gautrey, Thomas Heath, Andrew Holt (chair), Andy Hulme, Gary Marsh, Clive Morton, Peter Onslow, Julie Summers Rola, Stuart Williams (Principal).

IN ATTENDANCE

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

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Andrew Holt welcomed all attendees. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Alex Mould and Briege Slattery. Julie Summers Rola and Andy Hulme were welcomed to their first meeting as parent governors.

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 15 May 2026 along with the minutes from the scrutiny panel on careers held on Thursday 11 June 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 local governing body meeting dates for 2026/27 were shared with governors.

6. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

The Principal reported that the academic year had concluded positively, with students recently attending the Year 11 Prom, which had been a successful event and fitting celebration of their time at the College.

7. ADMISSIONS SCORECARD

Governors received the Admissions Scorecard and noted that student numbers remained stable overall, with continued strong demand for places. A net increase in pupil numbers reflected the College's continuing popularity and strong reputation within the community. The new Year 7 intake will be full, with additional demand remaining on the waiting list.

8. BEHAVIOUR SCORECARD

Governors reviewed the Behaviour Scorecard and CPOMS analysis. The data showed that approximately 80% of students had fewer than five recorded incidents, indicating that the vast majority of students continued to meet behavioural expectations consistently. Governors also reviewed proportionality data, which compared representation within the College population against behaviour incidents and highlighted cohorts requiring closer monitoring.

The Principal explained that students with SEND needs, particularly those experiencing autism, attachment difficulties and ADHD, were represented disproportionately within behaviour records and required significant pastoral support. Generational disadvantage and wider social and emotional challenges also remained contributing factors for some pupils.

Governors noted that Year 9 continued to present the highest proportion of behaviour incidents, accounting for around one-third of recorded CPOMS concerns. The Principal advised that the College was monitoring this cohort carefully. A significant number of Year 9 students were receiving additional pastoral intervention, including support through tutors and graduated pastoral stages. Whilst the majority of students within the year group were not represented within behaviour data, senior leaders recognised a need to understand emerging patterns and intervene earlier where appropriate. A detailed analysis of individual CPOMS incidents was being undertaken and could be shared with governors at a future meeting. The SENCO and students would also be invited to attend a local governing body meeting to discuss inclusion and support provision.

The College continues to face increasing challenges associated with students whose needs are difficult to meet within mainstream provision but who did not qualify for EHCP support. Governors noted that local authority changes had reduced access to some alternative provision pathways and high-needs funding streams, creating additional pressure on schools.

Governors also reviewed the House Points analysis. Whilst rewards remained strong across most year groups, Year 11 students tended to focus increasingly on examination outcomes and consequently participated less frequently in reward systems. Year 9 House Point levels remained broadly in line with expectations.

The Principal highlighted that incidents involving racist language remained one of the most significant concerns, averaging between one and one-and-a-half incidents per week. A number of Prevent referrals had been made during the year. Whilst these incidents represented a very small minority of students, leaders remained concerned about external influences and online content contributing to such behaviours. Governors welcomed the proactive approach being taken to education and intervention. The College had issued 28 suspensions during the year, involving only four repeat offenders, together with three permanent exclusions. Governors noted that whilst permanent exclusions were slightly above national averages, these decisions had only been taken following extensive intervention and where the impact on other students had become unacceptable.

9. ATTENDANCE SCORECARD

Governors reviewed the Attendance Scorecard and noted that overall attendance remained above 95%, which is significantly above national averages. Attendance has remained strong throughout the year which demonstrates the effectiveness of the College's attendance systems and pastoral support structures.

Governors noted that attendance had fallen temporarily to approximately 86% during the recent heatwave, the College had also taken the decision to cancel Sports Day due to extreme temperatures and student welfare considerations.

Year 9 attendance remained lower than other cohorts and mirrored some of the wider challenges highlighted in the behaviour report. Year 10 attendance remained strong, whilst Year 11 attendance had reduced to 89.3%, partly reflecting examination-related patterns and absence among some vulnerable students. Governors were advised that there are no significant concerns regarding attendance trends overall.

Governors were informed that staffing changes within attendance administration represented a potential risk area, although appropriate induction and support arrangements had been put in place to maintain continuity.

10. OUTCOMES AND PROGRESS

Governors reviewed the Year 10 mock examination outcomes and accompanying data. Leaders reported that the overall picture was positive and broadly aligned with expectations for the cohort. The purpose of the mock examinations was to provide realistic indicators of likely GCSE outcomes and identify priorities for intervention in Year 11.

The College would continue targeted intervention in English and mathematics, with particular focus on students who were secure in English but not currently achieving expected outcomes in mathematics. Additional support would be provided for students working at grades 4 and 5 to secure strong passes, whilst higher prior attainers would receive increased challenge and examination preparation.

Governors discussed the mathematics results and challenged whether the grading approach was intentionally ambitious. Leaders explained that mathematics grade boundaries had been set more harshly than national standards to encourage further improvement and that analysis suggested outcomes were approximately one-third of a grade below likely external examination performance. English outcomes were considered highly accurate and closely aligned with final expectations.

11. TEACHING SCORECARD

Governors reviewed the Teaching Scorecard and noted that teaching quality remained strong across the College. Leaders explained that the category of 'Exemplary' represented an exceptionally high standard and was intended to identify practice suitable for sharing across the organisation. The expectation remained that the vast majority of staff would consistently achieve an 'Effective' judgement.

The Principal reported that, where teaching concerns had been identified, robust support and follow-up arrangements were in place.

12. SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Governors received the safeguarding update and noted the sustained and significant demand placed upon safeguarding systems throughout the year. Over 1,000 safeguarding incidents had been recorded, although much of this activity related to a relatively small number of pupils experiencing complex and challenging circumstances.

Leaders reported a continuing increase in mental health concerns, particularly among younger students in Years 7 to 9. Cases involving self-harm, anxiety and suicidal ideation had become increasingly prevalent, reflecting wider national challenges and continued pressure on external health services. Governors noted that schools were increasingly required to manage needs whilst waiting for specialist support.

Peer-on-peer abuse, online risks and inappropriate sexualised behaviours remained key safeguarding themes. Whilst many incidents originated outside school, leaders emphasised the damaging impact these issues could have on students' wellbeing and relationships. Social media continued to amplify concerns and increase safeguarding complexity.

Governors also noted a small number of high-risk incidents involving substance misuse, exploitation concerns and knife-related behaviours. Whilst infrequent, such incidents required significant safeguarding intervention and partnership work with external agencies. Leaders continued to review cases through regular safeguarding meetings and multi-agency working arrangements.

The Principal noted that many of the challenges emerging within Year 9 reflected wider issues around family instability, SEND vulnerability and delayed access to external support services. Governors thanked staff for their work in responding to increasingly complex safeguarding demands.

13. TRANFORMATION PLAN

The meeting also noted progress against the College Transformation Plan, the successful implementation of the Year 7 mobile phone restrictions and plans for installation of a telecommunications mast during the summer break.

14. RESOURCES UPDATE

Governors were informed that the College was forecasting an in-year surplus of approximately £270,000, compared with the original forecast surplus of £2,000. The favourable position had been driven primarily by additional SEN and catering income.

The current surplus has enabled the College to make investment decisions which would improve provision and deliver better long-term value for money, including the purchase of new catering equipment.

Governors questioned whether the current surplus reflected a sustainable position given previous cost pressures. It was explained that several factors contributing to the surplus were either timing-related or non-recurring. Catering income was received largely in advance whilst staffing and operational costs would continue throughout the summer

period. The College has also experienced expenditure pressures, particularly in relation to repairs and maintenance. IT investment has remained an ongoing priority despite efforts to limit spending and governors noted the impact of rising supplier costs, including significant increases in technology pricing.

Governors were advised that the College has benefited from a reduction in Local Government Pension Scheme employer contribution rates for support staff, reducing from 23.1% to 13.6**%**, which had helped alleviate staffing cost pressures. Nevertheless, leaders expected the current surplus position to reduce throughout the remainder of the financial year. The forecast year-end position remained positive, with an expected surplus of approximately £50,000.

Governors noted that, within the context of the Trust's overall annual budget of approximately £13 million, achieving a balanced budget and maintaining a modest surplus represented sound financial management.

15. FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

Governors received an update on forthcoming national changes to Free School Meals eligibility. From September 2026, eligibility would be expanded to all families in receipt of Universal Credit, removing the previous income threshold. However, funding arrangements would differentiate between Targeted FSM pupils and Expanded FSM pupils, who receive meal entitlement but do not generate additional disadvantage funding.

Leaders reported that under the previous arrangements the College had identified approximately 161 FSM students. Under the revised arrangements, this number would significantly reduce. Governors noted the potential implications for both families and the College's future funding position.

The College will contact affected families individually and ensure they understood the implications of the revised arrangements. Governors recognised that these changes could create challenges for families who were financially vulnerable but did not meet the revised criteria for targeted support. Governors considered concerns that may be raised by parents whose entitlement had changed. It was recognised that the College must operate within available resources and apply policies fairly and consistently. Governors agreed that support should continue to be directed towards those pupils most in need, whilst acknowledging the pressures faced by families who were "just managing" financially but remained vulnerable to increasing living costs.

The Principal advised governors that a formal hardship policy would be developed and brought back to a future meeting, ensuring that requests for support could be managed consistently and transparently rather than through ad hoc decisions. Governors supported this approach.

Governors noted that future Ofsted analysis would continue to focus on outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. Leaders highlighted the importance of understanding how changes to FSM categorisation could affect performance and deprivation measures used externally

to evaluate the College. Particular consideration would need to be given to cohorts where SEND, attendance, behaviour and disadvantage factors intersected.

15. POLICY RATIFICATIONS

Governors considered the following policies and updates:

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Careers Education and Guidance Policy
- More Able Policy
- Student Provider Access Policy

Governors were satisfied that the policies reflected current statutory requirements and College practice and approved all four policies.

16. CAREERS SCRUTINY

Governors also received the Careers Intent, Implementation and Impact update, noting the continued strength of the College's careers provision. This item was received for information and did not require approval. Governors noted that the recent careers scrutiny exercise had evidenced very strong performance against the Gatsby Benchmarks, with overall compliance of approximately 97%. The only area identified for further development related to the presentation of information in a wider range of formats.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Principal suggested that a future governor discussion could focus on the implications of Artificial Intelligence for education, careers and the future workplace. It was proposed that governors receive a future update exploring AI developments, the use of AI agents and their potential impact on students and employers.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Local Governing Body will be held on Thursday 8 October 2026 at 4.00 pm.

Key Dates for 2026/27

- Open Evening – 30 September 2026
- Shakespeare Performance – 19 November 2026
- Presentation Evening – 26 November 2026
- Christmas Concert – 16 December 2026
- Dance Show – 10 February 2027
- *Shrek* Production – 17–20 March 2027
- Summer Concert – 24 June 2027
- Year 7 Oliver Production – 7 July 2027

Action

Governance Professional to arrange governor induction meetings for two new parent governors.