MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY OF SELSDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH JULY 2026 AT 6.15PM IN PERSON AT SELSDON

	PRESENT: **Graham Cluer** — **Co-opted Governor** **Tanya Dennis** — **Co-opted Governor** **Hugo Feitor** — **Headteacher** **Rhodri Flower** — **Parent Governor** **Ayesha Marrett** — **Co-opted Governor** **Kwabena Mensa** — **Parent Governor** **Shanoor Suhan** — **Associate Member** **Mike Swadling** — **Partnership Governor, Chair of Governing Body** **Katie Walton** — **Partnership Governor** **Jess White** — **Staff Governor** **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** **Liz Parry** — **Clerk to Governors** **ABSENT:** **Alan Tigg** — **Co-opted Governor**
1.	**Welcome and Apologies for Absence** The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There were no apologies for absence.
2.	**Declaration of Pecuniary Interests in the Current agenda** None declared.
3.	**Quorum** It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate
4.	**Governing Body Membership:** ➢ **Update on efforts to recruit to the LA Appointed Governor vacancy** The Clerk reported that she had contacted the LA again after the last meeting to enquire about progress on finding suitable candidates, but to date there had been no further update. ➢ **Position of Alan Tigg** The Chair had written to Alan after the last meeting to enquire if he still had an interest in governorship but had to date not received a response.

5.	**Minutes of the previous Meetings held on** **1) 18th May 2026** **2) 30th June 2026** ***Checking of accuracy and signing by the Chair*** The minutes of both the previous meetings were agreed as true and accurate accounts and were duly signed and dated by the chair and passed to the Headteacher to be held on file in school.
6.	**Matters Arising from the previous meetings not covered on the agenda** There were no matters arising not already included on the current agenda.
7.	**Finance Matters:** **1. Budget review /Q1** Governors were in receipt of Q1 which showed that the school was currently staying within budget with no over expenditure, and was showing a predicted in year surplus of £7,142. The Headteacher reported that the school was anticipating two maternity leaves in September going into the next financial year, and this had already been factored in the current budget. The Chair suggested that when setting the budget each year it would be advisable to assume maternity cover for 1 – 2 staff will be required. This was agreed. The Headteacher said that to date cover was being arranged within the current staffing complement. A governor commented that it was very encouraging to see an in -year surplus and good budget management. **2. To review any virements** None reported at the current time **3. Income Generation:** • **Lettings**: The Headteacher reported that efforts to maximise lettings were on-going and a new arrangement with a tutoring company was being negotiated whereby they will rent the Nursery block on weekday evenings from 5pm. Further details to follow. • **Confirmation of arrangements for lease agreement between Selsdon Primary and Nursery School and BrightFutures4All**. Governors had all received the draft lease agreement and the Headteacher thanked governors for their feedback especially Rhodri who had made some suggestions This is not a typical commercial lease, where the tenant assumes responsibility for all associated costs. Under the school's lettings policy, the school remains responsible for many areas but nevertheless some adjustments had been

	made. The Headteacher reported that Bright Futures 4 All are investing in the space, and will be doing improvement works over the summer including replacing toilets. The space has already been sectioned off, and there will be new intercoms and signage installed. Governors were reminded that the organization provides home schooling for children who are not currently in education, and the children are mostly secondary school age. Full safeguarding assessments have been undertaken and the children and adults associated with the provision will enter by a different entrance and will not have any interaction with Selsdon primary pupils. **The Governing Body formally approved the lease arrangement pending any final tweaks to the lease agreement wording.** • **Update on any further negotiations and possible timescale for sale of land.** The Headteacher reported that the school's solicitors had secured an agreement from the developers interested in the land that they were amenable to paying part of the school's costs for legal fees. The next stage is to instruct the solicitors to look at an agreement in principle and then bring the proposal back to governors and subsequently the local authority to seek planning permission. **ACTION: Updates to be brought to the Governing body at subsequent meetings in 2026 - 2027**
8.	**Safeguarding update** **8.1: Report on this term's SCR check** A formal governor check has not been carried out this term but one will follow in the autumn term. The Headteacher noted that the school was confident the SCR was in good order **8.2: To note the recent publication of updated KCSIE Guidance and implications for training in September.** It was noted that the new updated guidance includes a lot of changes, and the headteacher had posted a document detailing these changes on Governor Hub. Next term's training will include a full overview of all changes and updates and it was agreed that the first meeting of the autumn term (7th September) will include a session on Safeguarding training for governors. **ACTION: Agenda for 7th September to include a 40 minute training session Safeguarding to be led by Hugo.** **8.3: To note any Safeguarding matters/concerns** There were no new updates/concerns at the current meeting.
9.	**Summer Term progress and achievement data, to include:** • **EYFS** The data for this cohort was good taking into account that the cohort includes a high

percentage of children with SEND and or EAL. The school was pleased that children had made a lot of progress, and in some areas were just below national expectations. Jess highlighted that with the large number of Early Learning Goals some children did not have the levels of experience or maturity to reach national expectations, eg within the category Understanding the World. During discussion the Headteacher said that the school was planning an event for next year which will see the school set up as an air port with lots of different destinations, to give children the opportunity to imagine the experience of being in different countries with different cultures.

- **Phonics screener results, Year 1 and retakes Yr2**
  The phonics results had improved considerably on last year with 76.5% passing the phonics screener (compared to 60% last year). This improvement reflects the work in progress with the Little Wandle programme, and the greater consistency of practice and teaching. This figure is in line with the national average but below the Croydon average (81%)
  Year 2 retakes are above the national average.

- **Year 4 Multiplication test**
  The average score was 21, in line with the national average, with 44% achieving a score of 25+

- **KS2 Sats Results** (publication delayed until 16.07.26) The school had received the raw data today. There had not yet been an opportunity to go through the papers and establish whether or not there was a case for some papers to be re-marked, noting that there were a number of children (5 in Reading and 4 in Maths) just on the cusp of passing.
  However, at this stage the results were in line with last year's scores in Reading and GPS but in Maths there had been significant improvement. The Writing results were lower which had brought the combined figure down.

  Q: How confident are we that the Writing results are accurate, noting that they are teacher assessed?
  A: We are confident that the results are accurate according to the criteria, as Alex is a moderator and there has been a lot of work undertaken to ensure that the assessment criteria are fully understood and applied appropriately. Selsdon was not externally moderated this year.
  During discussion it was agreed that it would be helpful for governors to have a focus on Writing at a future meeting, and to look at some samples of books. Governors recognised that the expectations for Writing at the end of KS2 are very high. The Headteacher also confirmed that Writing will be a key area of focus in next year's School Development Plan.

  The Headteacher also asked governors to note that there were some significant success stories within the Year 6 cohort where children who have had disruption and barriers to learning have gone on to achieve very well and passed the SATs.

	Governors extended their congratulations and thanks to the children and staff noting in particular the good progress in Maths where the school was now on par with national expectations. **ACTION: Headteacher to provide an update on finalised verified SATs data in the autumn term.**
10.	**Headteacher's Report:** **Questions and comments arising.** Governors noted the extensive comments regarding PP children and provision put in place. Governors recognized that the level of SEND need within the school had risen significantly (20% of the school population) with 11 children currently with EHCPs. It was also recognized that 41% of SEND children were achieving in line with national expectations. Attendance is almost in line with national averages although Persistent Absence has been higher The Headteacher explained that the PA figures are likely to reduce in the autumn term as two children have now been off rolled due to moving out of the area. **Q:** Do we offer incentives for attendance? **A**: Yes, we have a weekly celebration of the class (es) with best attendance, and the reward of extra playtime, together with end of term prizes for children who have had attendance of 98%+ We also find that supporting some families with free breakfast provision makes a difference in attendance. **Q:** Is the school ready to roll out an offer of free breakfast provision for all children, in line with DfE requirements, from September? **A**: We are in the process of trying to work out logistics and planning. The biggest issue is that funding is insufficient to meet costs of staffing and food provision. Many schools are therefore struggling with implementation. We are looking at ways we could gradually roll out free provision, but it will take planning and trial and error. **Q**: Staffing for next year: Is there an additional teacher because of maternity leave cover? **A:** Yes, we have retained an extra teacher for cover purposes in the knowledge we will have maternity leaves. **Q:** Will there only be one Reception class? **A**: At the moment, based on expected numbers, we are only planning for one class, but this could change if numbers are higher than currently anticipated.
11.	**Discussion and Decision on whether or not to progress any further with proposal from the Collegiate Trust**: ***To hear feedback following visits to Quest Academy and Courtwood Primary on 8th July and a***

review of Governors' thoughts.

The Chair said that that he, Graham, Katie , Jess , Hugo and Rhodri had visited Quest Academy and Courtwood Primary on 8th July and had a physical tour, met with staff, and talked to the CEO and the Chair of the Collegiate Trust, and a member of the Finance team, a member of the Education Team and both headteachers. This had enabled governors to gain a view of the schools and to have a useful discussion. Following the visit Mike had produced a SWOT analysis of pros and cons of joining the Collegiate Trust and merging with Quest Academy.

During discussion about the visits and thoughts about the proposals other governors made the following observations:

There were lots of aspects of the schools which were impressive/had good ideas.
It had been interesting to hear about the structures in place and how these support the schools.
Some governors did not have the overriding sense that the schools shared the same ethos/understanding as Selsdon, particularly in relation to SEND/inclusion. Both schools had a different flavour to Selsdon.
Some expressed the view that even if academization/joining a Trust is to become a reality for Selsdon to consider, the Collegiate Trust is not the right fit for Selsdon.
Other governors voiced the view that consideration of other options would be important and that this was a decision which could not be rushed.
Another view expressed was that this was not the right time to be pursuing a major change to the school's status.
There was a lack of clarity about The Collegiate Trust's understanding of Selsdon's current financial position and what would happen about the deficit. The Chair said that he was clear that at the point of joining a Trust the school would begin with a zero budget but the Collegiate Trust were not themselves clear.
There was a recognition that having a central team as provided by a Trust, would enable the Headteacher to focus much less time on finance and business matters, and much more on delivery of teaching and learning.
The point was made that this may be a one-time only opportunity.
Some governors voiced the view that the Governing Body needs more time to see how the school fares over the next year or two, and if the land sale goes forward how significant income from this could be invested for the benefit of the school.

Decision/vote
Following extensive discussion, it was clear that there was a majority view that joining the Collegiate Trust was not the right option for Selsdon.
There was a view that it maybe important to consider options for joining or forming a Trust, sooner rather than later, particularly bearing in mind the direction of travel set out in the recent White Paper. Nevertheless, within this the DfE was clear that it wants schools to make the right decision for their school and not be hurried into a decision.

It was agreed that the Chair will write to the CEO of Collegiate Trust to thank him for the

	offer but to express the decision that the Selsdon will not be looking to proceed with joining the Collegiate Trust and merging with Quest academy at the current time. **ACTION: Chair to write to the CEO of the Collegiate Trust as soon as possible**.
12.	**Arrangements for Election of chair and vice Chair from September 2026** Governors were reminded that nominations for the position of Chair should be submitted to the Clerk over the summer holiday, no later than 28th August. Mike said that he would encourage anyone who was interested to put themselves forward. Whilst not wanting to step back from governorship, Mike said that he was finding being Chair at two schools (Heavers Farm and Selsdon) was too time demanding and therefore ideally he would like to step back from being Chair. **ACTION: Governors to forward nominations for Chair as soon as possible and no later than 28th August**.
13.	**Chair's Items** The Chair noted that there had been a noise complaint from a local resident about the Church who have a let during some weekday evenings and at weekends. The Headteacher said this was being investigated and the school would respond to the complainant appropriately.
14.	**Any Other Urgent Items** 14.1 Governors were in receipt of two updated policies: The Disciplinary Policy The Restraining Policy Both were **formally approved** with thanks for the updates. 14.2 It was noted that currently two governor panels will be required in the autumn term for two staffing matters. The Clerk will be in touch with governors when HR availability is known. 14.3 The Headteacher asked governors to note that the local MP Natasha Irons will be visiting the school in September and governors will be welcome to attend if available. **ACTION: Headteacher to circulate the date of MP visit when known**.
15.	**Confidential Items** None
16.	**Dates of Next meetings:** Governors approved the proposed schedule of dates for 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026	
Monday 7th September 6.15pm (Resources focus),	

Safeguarding training	
Monday 16th November 6.15pm (Achievement focus)	Full GB in person
Spring Term 2027	
Monday 1st February 6.15pm (Resources Focus)	Full GB in person
Monday 22nd March 6.15pm (Achievement Focus)	Full GB in person
Summer Term 2027	
Monday 17th May 6.15pm (Resources Focus)	Full GB in person
Monday 12th July 6.15pm (Achievement Focus)	Full GB in person

Signed……Chair of Governors

Date……