



**FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING  
OF SIMON MARKS JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL  
held on Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 6.00pm  
In school and online**

Howard Pallis (HP) Chair	Local Authority Governor	Present
Gulcan Asdooyuran (GA)	Headteacher	Present
Jonathan Freedland (JF)	Foundation Governor	
Austen Garth (AG)	Foundation Governor	Apologies
Lauren Buck (LB)	Foundation Governor	Present
Zachary Jacobs (ZJ) Vice-Chair	Staff Governor	Present
Matthew Rosenmarsh (MR)	Parent Governor	Present online
Dina Fainberg (DF)	Foundation Governor	Present online
Eve Pearl (EP)	Foundation Governor	Present online
Rael Gamsu (RG)	Foundation Governor	Apologies
Rachel Burns (RB)	Associate Governor	Present online
Robin DasGupta (RDG)	Associate Governor	Present
Mike Blair Clayden (MBC)	Associate Governor	Present online
Simon Bravery	Clerk	Present
Syed Gilani (SG) (in attendance)	Assistant Headteacher	Present

**PART 1: Non-Confidential business**

<p>1.</p>	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present.</p> <p><b>Receive and consider apologies from governors not in attendance</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from RB, RG and AG.</p> <p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b></p> <p>To agree the minutes of the FGB meeting held on 18 June 2024</p> <p>The minutes were agreed. Action Items and Matters outstanding</p> <p>The assembly held at Walford Road Synagogue was greatly enjoyed by both children and parents. There are plans for a trip to another synagogue.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>Full Governing Body Business</b></p> <p>Determination of lengths of terms of office for chair and vice- chair</p> <p>This was postponed to a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>Election of Chair</p> <p>This was postponed to a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>This was postponed to a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>Governors' terms of office</p> <p>The Chair will engage where necessary with the United Synagogue regarding the reappointment of Foundation Governors.</p> <p>Committees and Committee membership</p> <p>The Chair would like to revive the Publicity Committee.</p> <p>Appointment of Link governors</p> <p>Link governors will retain the same responsibilities.</p> <p>Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)</p> <p>The clerk will circulate the document and a summary of changes for governors to read.</p> <p><b>ACTION: CLERK TO CIRCULATE KCSIE AND THE SUMMARY OF CHANGES</b></p> <p>Skills Audit</p> <p>The clerk will discuss this with the Chair.</p>

3	<p><b>Actions and impact against areas of improvement</b></p> <p>This is covered in the Headteacher's report.</p>
4.	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p>The Headteacher's report had been circulated via email before the meeting.</p> <p>There are 120 children in school, 112 in the mainstream school and eight in the ARP (Additional Resource Provision).</p> <p>20 community languages are spoken, in many cases by children from Jewish families. Half of children in the mainstream school are Jewish and a Jewish child is due to start in the ARP on Monday.</p> <p>38% of children have some form of SEND (Special Educational Need or Disability). The commonest need is autism and several children have secondary speech and language needs.</p> <p>15 children have EHCPs (Education and Health Care Plans), eight in the ARP and seven in the mainstream school. Three applications are being made to Haringey and Hackney Councils. There may be appeals if they are not granted.</p> <p>Four pupils are on the child protection register, three in mainstream and one in the APR. There are not currently any looked after children at the school.</p> <p>The staff have been looking at the books which the children read to consider if they are suitable from a safeguarding aspect.</p> <p>The latest fire drill, including the ARP took one minute 54 seconds which is within the target time.</p> <p>SG is looking at greater depth to widen the children's learning as well as teaching in Year 5 and having various other responsibilities.</p> <p>RDG is now leading on attendance and punctuality, which are national priorities in education. The Wonde system allows the DfE to monitor attendance, which is currently at 92%. The borough attendance officer is working with the school.</p> <p>ZJ has responsibility for Jewish Studies in addition to the APR.</p> <p>The school has successfully applied for DfE capital project funding to replace pipes, basins and taps. The work has proceeded on schedule and with little disruption to school life and will be completed by February. Two more capital grant applications will be made for the fire safety lighting and roof tops. A specialist company helps with the applications. Only 85 schools in all received a grant and only two in Hackney.</p> <p><u>Question: What is included in the refurbishment?</u> Answer: Pipes and sinks.</p> <p><u>Question: Parents have commented on the state of the toilets. Will they be included?</u> Answer: The School keeper replaces the toilet seats as needed.</p> <p>The school has a new School Improvement Partner, Damien Parrott.</p> <p>There will be a memorial event on the first anniversary of the October 7 atrocities at 9.10am led by Rabbi Goldmeyer with the opportunity for participants to lay flowers and light candles.</p> <p><u>Question: Are you remembering those who have been killed or the hostages?</u></p>

	<p>Answer: Both.</p> <p>The school was thanked for organising the event. A discussion followed as to whether laying flowers was appropriate as it is not normally part of Jewish acts of remembrance. The Chair said he would consult Rabbi Goldmeyer.</p> <p><b>ACTION; CHAIR TO CONTACT RABBI GOLDMEYER ABOUT LAYING FLOWERS AT COMMEMORATION EVENT ON OCTOBER 7</b></p> <p>RDG and the Headteacher had a meeting with OFSTED. Each area will be graded in the same way as earlier (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate) but without any overall grade.</p> <p>There is a parent governor vacancy and at least one parent is interested.</p> <p>Year 6 achieved 100% in every subject in recent assessments. It is often noted that children from Simon Marks are ahead of their peers at secondary school. The number of children achieving greater depth is higher than Hackney and nationally. The figures for Year 1 Phonics are lower than average, partly owing to three ARP pupils.</p> <p>The whole school is reading James and the Giant Peach and are going to the RIO Cinema to see the film. The School Council will judge the book corners in classrooms on this theme.</p> <p>Democracy Week will be marked by elections for the School Council, embedding the British Value of democracy.</p> <p>ZJ is leading on Rosh Hashana apple dipping. There will be a Friends of Simon Marks event to mark Rosh Hashana. The Friends have given £400 which has been spent on bats and balls.</p> <p>Two local schools are in scope for closure. There may be an opportunity to use one of the buildings for alternative provision. There is also a possibility that some pupils from these schools will transfer to Simon Marks.</p>
5.	<p><b>Finance Committee</b></p> <p>Approval of statutory information , policies and financial procedures</p> <p>MBC's report had been circulated via email before the meeting.</p> <p>Governors agreed:      To accept the Headteacher's recommendations, in relation to governors' responsibilities, for key priority issues for the coming year and any training implications      to consider whether a further audit of governors of training needs is yet needed. The clerk will email governors regarding training needs and availability.</p> <p><b>ACTION: CLERK TO EMAIL GOVERNORS ABOUT TRAINING</b>      to re-endorse the school policies as set out on the school website. These will be subject to regular reviews at governor meetings.      to reapprove the school financial procedures manual, including the scheme of financial delegation and the disaster recovery plan      to approve the list of pecuniary interests of governors and note the responsibility of each governor to declare a pecuniary interest at a meeting if at any time it may be relevant to an item for discussion and to withdraw from the discussion and decision-making on that item.</p> <p>The Chair had an amendment to declare. No other governor had any changes to declare but they are asked to tell the clerk if there are any.</p> <p><b>ACTION: GOVERNORS TO TELL CLERK IF THEY HAVE ANY CHANGES TO THEIR INTERESTS</b></p>

	<p>MBC noted that under current rules a new school cannot be a maintained school (i.e. a local authority school). This limits the scope e.g. to open a new ARP.</p> <p>Also, if the results of ARP pupils are included in the overall school figures this could distort the results. There should be provision to report these separately.</p> <p>MBC will draft a letter for the Chair to send to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education.</p> <p><b>ACTION: MBC TO DRAFT LETTER ABOUT NEW SCHOOLS AND RECORDING OF RESULTS</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Chair of Governors' verbal report</b></p> <p>The Chair encouraged all governors to attend at least one training course this year. They were asked to tell the clerk when they will be available in November and what areas they would like to be trained in.</p> <p>The Headteacher offered to run a session on safeguarding, preferably during the day. It would be good if governors could meet socially as well.</p> <p>The school's defibrillator was recently used by the local mosque.</p>
7.	<p><b>Wellbeing, Mental Health and Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p>MR is looking to raise £2800 to fund the continuing teaching of mindfulness. So far about £800 has been raised.</p>
8.	<p><b>SEND, Inclusion and diversity</b></p> <p>This was covered in the Headteacher's report.</p>
9	<p><b>Staffing and teacher professional development and impact</b></p> <p>All staff have received training in safeguarding.</p>
11	<p><b>ARP update</b></p> <p>There are eight children in the APR with one starting on Monday and the possibility of one or two more joining fairly soon. There have been several requests for placements from within Hackney and outside Hackney. The focus is on Hackney children and places are more likely to be offered to younger children who can integrate more easily and who are on the ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder).</p> <p>Children are making substantial progress in a calm, focussed environment which helps them to thrive. Mainstream pupils interact well with them at break and lunchtime.</p>
12	<p><b>Consideration of key policies</b></p> <p>Pay Policy</p> <p>This policy was agreed.</p> <p>Health &amp; Safety Policy</p>

	<p>This policy was agreed.</p> <p>Charging &amp; Remission Policy</p> <p>There has been an increase in rates.</p> <p>This policy was agreed.</p> <p>Attendance Policy</p> <p>This policy was agreed.</p> <p><u>Question: Does the school have sufficient protection against cyberattack?</u>  <u>Answer: The LGFL London Grid for Learning (LGFL) filters the vast majority of suspect emails.</u></p>
13.	<p><b>Any Other Business for Consideration</b></p> <p><u>Question: How is the collection of parental contributions going?</u>  <u>Answer: Letters have gone out in the first week of term, earlier than in previous years. Direct debits will be collected starting next week. As a result of the letter there has been a donation and an offer of help with IT. Governors are welcome to telephone parents to follow up the letters, but this will need to be done from school for GDPR reasons.</u></p> <p><u>Question: How much is requested?</u>  <u>Answer: £1400 a year. Many other Jewish schools ask for £800 or more per term per child. There is not as strong a tradition of paying at Simon Marks.</u></p> <p><u>Question: How effective are the letters and telephone calls?</u>  <u>Answer: The telephone calls are quite effective.</u></p> <p>The demographic is somewhat different from other schools. Ivrit is taught as a foreign language with two 45 minute lessons a week in accordance with the National Curriculum.</p> <p><u>Question: Could there be more explanation of what the money is spent on?</u>  <u>Answer; The School cannot ask for money directly and so the trust does so. The money is spent on Ivrit and Jewish Studies.</u></p> <p>The chair is happy to discuss the wording of the letter.</p>

The meeting ended at 7.12pm.

#### Actions log

Date/no	Action	By whom	By	status
24.09.24 1	Clerk to circulate KCSIE and the summary of changes	Clerk	11.10.24	open
24.09.24 2	Chair to contact Rabbi Goldmeyer about laying flowers at commemoration event on October 7	Chair	7.10.24	Open

24.09.24 3	Clerk To Email Governors About Training	Clerk	11.10.24	Open
24.09.24 4	Governors to tell clerk if they have any changes to their interests.	Governors	ongoing	ongoing
25.09.25	MBC to draft letter about new schools and recording of results	MBC/Chair	31.10.24	ongoing

#### DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Full Governing Body

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Finance and resources committee- Provisional dates- 07.45am starts

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2024-** mid year finance review/ performance management updates/building works updates

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2025-** ¾ year finance review

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2025-** New budget and planning ahead

Teaching and learning committee- Provisional dates- 8am starts

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2024-** first data outcomes for the year

**27<sup>th</sup> March 2025-** mid year updates

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2025-** End of year updates including SATs

