



**MINUTES OF FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING
OF SIMON MARKS JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL
held on Tuesday 17th of June 2025 at 6:00 PM
In school and online**

Governors	Category	Expiry of current appointment/ reappointment	Attendance
Howard Pallis (HP) – Chair	Local Authority Governor	30/11/28	Present
Lauren Buck (LB) - Vice-Chair	Foundation Governor	31/12/28	Present
Gulcan Asdoyuran (GA)	Headteacher	Ex officio	Present
Dina Fainberg (DF)	Foundation Governor	31/10/25	Apologies accepted
Jonathan Freedland (JF)	Foundation Governor	31/10/27	Apologies accepted
Rael Gamsu (RG)	Foundation Governor	31/10/29	Present
Austen Garth (AG)	Foundation Governor	16/10/27	Present
Eve Pearl (EP)	Foundation Governor	31/10/29	Apologies accepted
Duval Middleton (DM)	Parent Governor	04/11/28	Present
Matthew Rosenmarsh (MR)	Parent Governor	Resigned 31/08/25	Apologies accepted
Zachary Jacobs (ZJ)	Staff Governor	01/04/29	Present
Rachel Burns (RB)	Associate Governor	01/11/28	Present
Robin DasGupta (RDG)	Associate Governor	01/04/29	Present
Syed Gilani (SG)	Associate Governor	16/06/29	Present
Also Present:			
Michael Clayden (MC)	Consultant		Present
Clerk:			
Simon Bravery (SB)	Clerk to Governors		Present

Action Log

Date/item no	Action	Responsible	By	Status
17.06.25 3	Clerk to send reminders of training and meetings two weeks in advance	Clerk	Ongoing	Open



PART 1: Non-Confidential business

No.	Item / suggested questions
1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present and it was noted that Syed Gilani is to be an associate governor.</p>
2	<p>Receive and consider apologies from governors not in attendance</p> <p>Apologies were received from Jonathan Freedland, Matthew Rosenmarsh , Dina Fainberg and Eve Pearl.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>To agree the minutes of the FGB meeting held on 11 February 2025</p> <p>The minutes were approved subject to the correction of the spelling of Mr Gilani's name.</p> <p>Action Items Matters outstanding</p> <p>There will be safeguarding training on 1 September at 9:00 AM lasting no more than 90 minutes.</p> <p>The clerk will send a reminder for this and the regular meetings about a fortnight in advance.</p> <p>ACTION: CLERK TO SEND REMINDERS A FORTNIGHT IN ADVANCE FOR TRAINING AND FGB MEETINGS</p>
4	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p>The report had been circulated in advance.</p> <p>There are currently 118 pupils in the mainstream school.</p> <p>There are 11 pupils in the ARP (Additional Resource Provision). One more will start in September. Any additional pupils at the ARP will incur fees of £28,000. There are four staff in the unit at present and this can be increased to six if need be.</p> <p>There are 20 community languages spoken by pupils at the school.</p> <p>There are now 11 pupils with EHCPs (Education, Health & Care Plans) in the ARP and 10 in the mainstream school. One more is being applied for.</p> <p>The primary need is autism, with significant numbers of students having speech and language needs. Overall, 39% of all pupils have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).</p>



	<p>From November to April the speech and language therapist (SALT) was on maternity leave and there was no replacement. Now a new SALT is in place.</p> <p>There is a great deal of demand for places in the ARP. One child with complex needs who does not have an EHCP will be starting at the school in September.</p> <p>Some nearby schools are due to close at the end of the school year. Mr DasGupta is giving tours to prospective parents of children at the schools which are closing. The Headteacher considers each application from children with additional needs very carefully to ensure that they are right for the school and that they can be accommodated without adverse effect on the education of other pupils.</p> <p>There are currently four children under Child Protection, three in the mainstream school and one in the APR.</p> <p>There are now four Children in Need.</p> <p>There are no homeless children.</p> <p>There is one child in care.</p> <p>The fire drill took one minute and fifty eight seconds.</p> <p>Two Ivrit teachers are leaving.</p> <p>Rabbi Goldmeyer is planning to move to Israel but will still be available via Zoom and telephone for two hours a week as a consultant.</p> <p>His place as Jewish Studies lead will be taken by Miss Daines who teaches in several synagogues.</p> <p>There were no applications for the Jewish Studies post. A drama teacher with experience of teaching at secondary level has been recruited to teach Ivrit.</p> <p>Six student teachers at Middlesex University have been undertaking part of their training at the school and more will do so next year. Staff benefit from contact with them as they are familiar with recent developments in education theory and practice.</p> <p>The SATS paper placed more emphasis than previous papers on implied and inferred meaning, which is consistent with the teaching approach of metacognition taken by the school.</p> <p>25% of the questions on the Maths paper were about fractions. Times tables also featured prominently. There will be more focus on teaching these next year. There will be a times tables week this year.</p> <p>The whole school, including the ARP, will visit the Splashpad at Clissold Park. Parents are encouraged to come.</p> <p>The school is transferring to the Cloud. It is updating its IT equipment with 30 new iPads and 30 new laptops, plus charging docks and trollies.</p> <p>Data</p> <p>The assessments took place at the end of March and the beginning of April. Results were included in the Headteacher's report. The proportion achieving greater depth has not been recorded for years one and two. Results are generally strong.</p>
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	<p>Ofsted</p> <p>The Headteacher met Sir Michael Oliver, Head of OFSTED, at a Pajes meeting last Wednesday.</p> <p>OFSTED inspections are changing to cover 10 areas rather than four, with six grades. More detail is awaited. The school is unlikely to be inspected in the next school year, and governors will be updated about the changes towards the end of next year when more information will be available.</p> <p>The CIF bids for funding were not successful. The organisation the school is working with has advised that those assessing the applications did not seem fully to understand them and therefore the school is appealing.</p> <p><u>Question: How is teaching affected by pupils with EHCPs in the class?</u> Answer: In Year 5, there are 25 children of whom two have EHCPs and there is one application pending. In Year 4 there are 17 in the class, three of whom have EHCPs and so the proportion is much higher. Children with EHCPs receive support in small groups.</p> <p><u>Question: Are the stronger pupils being supported?</u> Answer: Subject leads structure the learning to ensure that there is always more challenging work available for pupils working at greater depth. The school is rigorous in ensuring that all children are assessed according to a consistent standard. Teachers have been trained to ask questions that challenge pupils and stretch them.</p> <p><u>Question: Are the computers funded by the school or will there be a grant from the local authority?</u> Answer: The school will fund this through careful management of the budget.</p> <p><u>Question: What is planned to say goodbye to Rabbi Goldmeyer and the staff who are leaving?</u> Answer: There will be a farewell on Tuesday 24 July as the staff work on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The staff will receive a plaque, flowers and cards from the children.</p> <p><u>Question: Are you planning to recruit a Jewish Studies teacher?</u> Answer: An internal appointment to cover 10 hours a week has been made. This will provide the teacher with an opportunity to develop her skills. United Synagogue will be told.</p> <p><u>Question: What experience does the new Ivrit teacher have?</u> Answer: He has been in the UK for six months and has taught drama to secondary school children in Israel. Both Ivrit teachers who are retiring want to stay in touch and may be able to answer any questions he has.</p>
6	<p>Governor Business</p> <p>Governors were encouraged to undertake relevant training.</p>
7	<p>Actions and impact against areas of improvement/school development plan</p> <p>This had been covered in the Headteacher's report.</p>
8	<p>Budget</p> <p>Papers had been circulated by email before the meeting.</p> <p>The accounts show balances of £50,000 on the revenue account and £155,000 on the capital account.</p>



	<p>Charges for catering have increased.</p> <p>Question: Have pay increases been factored into the budget?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, for both teachers and support staff. There is a grant, but it does not cover the full costs.</p> <p>The full board voted unanimously to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The charging schedule, which increases booster sessions from £2.50 to £4.00 and keeps all other costs at the previous levels 2. The draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 4 June 2025 3. The closure of accounts and control assurance statement for the financial year 2024-2025. 4. The budget and budget strategy for the financial year 2025-2026 as set out in the report submitted to the meeting with the revisions recommended by the Finance Committee. 5. The capital spending and capital grant bidding set out in the budget report and minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of 4 June 2025. 6. The School Financial Value Statement (SFVS).
9	<p>Chair of Governors' verbal report</p> <p>The play equipment for infants needs repair and replacement. A parent is raising money for this.</p> <p>The Chair and Headteacher attended a meeting about security. There is a raised level of alert. Most measures recommended are already in place at the school. Children going outside the school on trips do not wear distinctive Jewish clothing. CST (Community Safety Trust) is taking increased precautions for the ETGAR event at Wembley with all the nearby stations having an enhanced security presence.</p>
10	<p>Committee feedback</p> <p>The School Improvement Partner has submitted a report and the Teaching & Learning Committee will consider this.</p> <p>ARP- Eve Pearl has shared her report of her visit.</p>
11	<p>Feedback from link governors</p> <p>Eve Peal's ARC report and Duval Middleton's report on art, design and technology had been circulated. They were thanked for their reports.</p> <p>Link governors are asked to share their reports with the Headteacher before circulating them more widely.</p>
12	<p>SEND, Inclusion and diversity and ARP update</p> <p>With the advice of specialist teachers the curriculum is being developed to ensure that it can be used for all students.</p> <p>There will be no Educational Psychologist visits for a while to allow the backlog of 70 EHCP applications to be cleared. Many EHCPs are less detailed than they used to be.</p> <p>There is a new Head of SEN in Hackney and two experienced staff members have returned to strengthen the team supporting schools.</p>



14	Wellbeing, mental health and stakeholder engagement Counselling is available but needs to be paid for.
15	Staffing and teacher professional development and impact This had been covered in the Headteacher's report.
16	Marketing and Publicity update The advertising on buses has proved highly successful. Parents have made enquiries saying in one case that they did not realise that the school took non- Jewish children. One extra child would cover the costs.
17	Any Other Business for Consideration There was no other business.

PART 2: Confidential business (if any)

See separate minutes

The meeting ended at 6.55 PM.

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

5.6.12.25