

Sawston Village College
Local Governing Body 5
Minutes



Sawston
Village College

30th June 2026, Carnegie Room
6pm, in person

Present: Priya Schoenfelder (PSC, Chair), Jonathan Russell (JRU, Principal), Polly Stanton (PS), Jerry Reed (JRE), John Godwood (JG), Sam Abbs (SA), Max Kenworthy (MK), Jamie Nightingale (JN), Kay Pearce (KP Governance Professional)

In attendance: Pieter Wallace (PWA, Deputy Principal - Curriculum), Susan Gelder (SGE, Deputy Principal – Personal Development), Clare Greaney (CGR, Assistant Principal - Inclusion), Erika Wagstaff (EWA), Martha Gregg (MGR, Director of Safeguarding, Welfare & Pastoral Support)

Item No.	Paper No.	Item	Action
1		Standing Items	Chair
1.1		<u>Welcome & Apologies</u> PSC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from IT. Governors agreed to this absence.	
1.2		<u>Conflicts of interest</u> None noted.	
1.3	LGB4 1.3	<u>Minutes from the last meeting</u> Minutes from the meeting held on 12 th May 2026 (LGB 4) were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
1.4		<u>Updates on actions</u> All actioned completed except for a policy update, which needs to be confirmed.	JRU
1.5		<u>Matters arising</u> None.	
2		Chair's/Clerk's Business	Chair
2.1		PSC advised that Chris Tooley from Netherall was the winner of 2026 Silver Pearson National Teaching Award. He will now be considered for the Gold Teaching Award. The last AGF of the school year will be held on Thursday 9 th July 2026. JR is retiring at the end of term but wishes to continue in the role of governor. IT will be standing down from the LGB.	
3		Principal's Update including CIP	JRU
3.1		Verbal update	

3.2	LGB5 3.2	JRUI advised that the Year 11 GCSE exams went well, with special considerations (where applicable) submitted. Year 10 work experience has taken place, with many placements, for example Waitrose, reporting about how good the pupils working with them had been. There had been various training days in school since the last meeting along with the Governors' Day on 8th June. Bromcom now have MCAS and homework modules set up, with behaviour, data and assessment becoming available from September 2026. Timetabling has been difficult and has yet to be resolved. Induction day will take place on 1st and 2nd July with 242 Year 6 pupils attending. In addition to Activities Week, various school trips have happened, along with community tasks. Duke Of Edinburgh saw 131 taking their bronze award. Year 11 leaver also had their prom. The heatwave has affected attendance. A balanced budget was submitted to the Trust. <u>Staff leavers/absent data</u> JRUI advised the meeting there had been additional resignations since May 2026. These are from an English Teacher, Year 10 Leader, Exams Officer, EHCP Officer, and the Lettings Officer. RE teacher has returned to school Head of Computer Science back from maternity leave Anna Garner has been appointed as Assistant Principal to lead SEND and Inclusion at SVC. There will be a reduced SLT due to financial pressures. Vicky Linzell has been appointed as Safeguarding Manager covering safeguarding on a day-to-day basis. There are still the following positions open for appointment: English Teachers x 2 Business Studies teacher Exams Officer Year Lead Letting Officer JRUI stressed his concern around staffing for 2026. I-Trent reporting on staff absence is very poor and a Trust wide approach to reporting on I-Trent has been requested. To date there has been 861 days lost to absence. <u>Complaints and Whistleblowing reporting</u> Since December 1st, have been 11 complaints at stage 1. No whistleblowing reports	
3.3	LGB5 3.3	<u>Review CIP 2025/2026</u> JRUI gave a presentation to governors which has been included in the meeting folder. Various items will continue to be worked through in the next school year. EHCP have risen from 43 to 73 for the Autumn Term and are currently in process with the Local Authority.	

		The new Curriculum and Assessment reform comes into effect from 2028 and the plan for this will be worked on during 2027. The CIP is currently in the third year and will remain unchanged, with the 10 priorities remaining the same. <u>CIP Priorities 2026/2027</u> There will be a greater emphasis on inclusive classrooms, Pupil Premium/SEND and Assessment. Inclusive Classrooms will focus on independent practice, checking for understanding and with pupils doing more of the work than teachers. The teaching and learning focus will address Ofsted gaps. Governors were presented with an analysis of where gaps are considered to be Ofsted rated 'need attention' or may not meet 'expected standards'.	
4		Vision, Values and Strategic Objectives	
4.1	LGB5 4.1	<u>ES – Reading</u> <u>Screening and Intervention</u> There have been positive effects targeting pupils coming into school and where they are now. Pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 are retested on their reading and spelling. Sustained data is not yet as standard. <u>Culture/Love of Reading</u> Reading for pleasure is a whole school priority and the quality of school library being very good. There has been a project with pupils and the Cambridge Library Services on why pupils like and enjoy the library. <u>Reading Across the Curriculum</u> This has been a focus within the CIP and is now well established and embedded. The English department have library lessons and other subjects such as science and history will also be doing this. Learning walks will focus on this. <u>Oracy</u> A training day was held with Geoff Barton as speaker. Talk move resources are being developed and will be used as a whole school approach. Governors asked if anything should be said to primary schools to help improve reading. PWA advised that primary schools were very good in their attention to reading. He advised that interventions would cause spikes which then naturally plateau. Resources were adjusted accordingly. Improved reading has an impact across all subjects. Recommended reading lists are given for each subject and linked to the library. The top 20 fiction books for KS3 are also listed and a summer reading project is planned.	
4.2	LGB5 4.2	<u>Annual Safeguarding Monitoring report including My Concern trends)</u> MGR took governors through the report and explained there would be some staff changes from September 2026. It was also noted that one question on the form had been incorrectly completed. However, assurances were given that correct process has been followed and governors were satisfied with the response. Governors had undertaken their safeguarding training, and this was completed on 23rd September 2025.	

4.3	LGB5 4.3	The E-Safety policy is being updated by the Trust this term. MGR advised there had 9 referral this year against 17 during 2024/2025. 6 pupils with a child protection plan. All alternative provision checks have been completed. Bromcom First Alert will be operational from September 2026. JRU acknowledged that MRG had been a great safeguarding lead and both staff and governors thanked her and wished her well for the future. <u>Attendance and Suspension data</u> CGR went through the suspension data first by advising governors there had been a significant reduction from 110 down to 72, down to 46, which involved 32 pupils. Positive progress has been via positive regard. There has been a slight increase in the ratio of girls to boys being suspended. CGR advised there were a range of reasons for suspensions. There have been 8 pupils who have received more than one suspension. Suspension for Pupil Premium students are down by half compared to last year with SEND pupil suspension down by 57%. Governors questioned if suspension were linked to school life, for example at certain times of day? CGR advised this was not the case, with there being quite a mix, with no set patterns. From September 2026 SVC Bromcom will allow analysis of behaviour data. Netherhall currently use this and following staff training, SVC will have comparisons across Trust schools, which will be useful for potential support. There is also new suspension guidance from the Department for Education which comes into effect from 26th July 2026. CGR advised that the new rules mean it is possible to keep a victim and perpetrator apart for safeguarding reasons should it be necessary. This will trigger the Section 19 duty with the LA responsible for providing education during the separation. Off-site direction (previously called managed move) now applies to academies, and this will involve sending letters to parents as well as review meeting being held. Governors were reassured that off rolling is not something that happens at SVC. <u>Attendance</u> As of the May half term attendance at SVC was 92.9%, with SVC sitting second against 20 the schools. This is nationally and comparable against schools similar to Sawston. FSM and SEND figures are 1.1% above median, although slightly down against last year. Attendance Team has been relentless in sending out letters (700+), with 3 fixed penalty notices being applied for, with one of these reaching prosecution.	
4.4	LGB5 4.4	<u>KS4 data</u> EWA gave a summary of the Year 10 data which included internal mock exams held in April. Year 10 exams were positive against the previous year, despite their being a small number of pupils who did not sit them. AP pupils are currently sitting their assessments which will then give teacher and subject leaders a fuller picture.	

		Some areas of the data showing red is expected at this point in the courses as there is still one more fully year to teach. Cohort is currently performing better than previous years. Governors asked why the 7+ gap is smaller than the 4+ gap. EWA advised this was expected and would vary between exams/coursework and subjects. Computer Science has gaps due to teaching absence. <u>Estimated grades report data – Year 10</u> This is positive, despite a slight decrease for most groups against the last report. Pupil Premium and SEND have increased against FFT targets. Previous gaps in English Language and Literature now show being above FFT20 targets, against Spring data. In RS the number of pupils expected to achieve 7+ has seen a significant increase, against the FFT20 target for this cohort. Most subjects remain unchanged in relation to estimated grades. There are however some exceptions: Computer Science has seen a decrease based on exam performance, which was below expectations. There has also been some decrease in History, French, Spanish, DT, PE and Combined Science, although all of these subjects continue to exceed FFT20 targets. Business Studies has decreased below the FFT20 targets. This is due to gaps in staffing, and there are plans in place to support pupils in addressing gaps in their knowledge. Staffing remains the persistent problem with no success in current recruitment. Governors asked if they could know how many pupils moved up, down or stayed the same against the last report. This may allow governors to ask questions about whether interventions make a difference. EWA said she would look at that information for the next meeting. A governor presented a list of other questions to be passed to staff to look at and use to help review.	EWA JG
5		Policies	
5.1	LGB5 5.1	<u>Managing Medical Needs</u> This policy was agreed by governors.	
6		Governance	
6.1	LGB3 6.1	<u>Quality of Teaching link governors report</u> Focus was on Executive Summaries and the process of quality assurance (QA) of teaching.	All governors
6.2	LGB5 6.2	<u>Safeguarding Link governor report</u> QA mechanisms are in place to act, not react. Safeguarding throughout the school is very strong. Compass House is seen as a safe space for pupils.	
6.3	LGB5 6.3	<u>Governor Day 8th June 2026 feedback</u> All feedback from the day needs to go to JRU. Governors felt there was interesting perspectives from both staff and pupils. Building works are progressing well. JRU advised that at Year 8 pupil had undertaken a project on the new build, which he presented to JRU and other staff. That pupil is having a visit around the new building.	

7.		AOB	
		JRU thanked all governors for their support over the last school year.	
8.		Dates for Next LGB Meetings	
		LGB 1 – Tuesday 22 nd September 2026 LGB 2 – Tuesday 24 th November 2026 LGB 3 – Tuesday 26 th January 2027 LGB 4 – Tuesday 16 th March 2027 LGB 5 – Tuesday 4 th May 2027 LGB 6 – Tuesday 29 th June 2027	
		The meeting ended at 8pm.	

Meeting Item	Action	Owner
1.4	Policy updated needs confirming	JRU confirmed this has been updated post-meeting. No further action
4.4	how many pupils moved up, down or stayed the same against the last Data Reports.	EWA
4.4	Chat GP questions to be sent to JRU	JG
6.3	Governor Day feedback to be given to JRU	All Governors