



HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNNINGDALE

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes from meeting held on 7th May 2026 at 9:30 am via TEAMS

Present: Mr B Aherne (Chair), Mrs C Barnes, Mrs J Griffith, Revd J Hutchinson, Mr J Sharland, Mrs J Steel.

Not Present: Mr N Holt, Mrs A Williamson

In Attendance: Mrs W Poulter (Bursar), Mrs C Elsasser (Clerk)

Key	
	Support
	To support decisions and enquiries, staff welfare, sharing and clarification of key information, training
	Operational
	Action towards improvement, impact and success, monitoring
	Strategic
	Long and short term school development, staff welfare, improving pupil outcomes and welfare requirements,
	Challenge
	To hold the Head to account for SDP progress, financial decisions, learning and teaching, pupil outcomes

	1057/26f Welcome Mr Aherne welcomed Governors to the meeting.
	1058/26f Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Mr Holt and Mrs Williamson.
	1059/26f Declaration of Business Interests None declared.
	1060/25f Minutes of the Meeting The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 March 2026 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and would be signed.
	1061/26f Matters Arising A table listing the action points from the last meeting had been distributed with the agenda – this would be updated and reviewed for the next meeting on 7 July. Action: Carry forward and review all action points from 12 March meeting at 7 July meeting
	1062/26f Draft budget 2026/27 and 3 year budget projection 4 papers had been distributed prior to the meeting: 2026-27 budget comparison and 2026-27 budget assumption, 2026-27 budget plan and 3 year deficit recovery plan 2026-2029.
	Mr Aherne reported that he had met with the Head, the Bursar and the Chair of Governors on Tuesday to discuss in detail the budget deficit document which the Borough required.

	It was noted that the Borough did not want to be presented with a deficit in excess of 3 years.
	However, the only way that school would be able to present a surplus figure in year 3 would be to restructure the Leadership Team and for the Headteacher to take redundancy/resign. Mr Aherne and Mrs Steel were not prepared to accept this proposal on behalf of the Governing Board and would be prepared to defend this decision to the Borough if required and take responsibility for presenting a deficit in year 3.
	It was noted that much could change over the course of three years especially in light of the changing education environment - teaching staff members could decide to move on or leave the profession and would then be able to be replaced by teachers on a lower pay scale, school could be required to take more pupils on roll, etc.
	Governors asked what would happen if a deficit was submitted in year 3. Mrs Griffith responded that DfE HR advisors would likely want to visit the school to discuss options, which might include redundancies, and the Bursar would be required to attend Borough-led courses for schools in deficit budget.
	It was noted that the difficult budget situation was a Borough-wide issue, and not just at Holy Trinity.
	It was also noted that school had received congratulatory letters on their Ofsted inspection, their SIAMS inspection and SATS results from the Borough recently.
	All Governors were in favour of presenting the figures as they stood with a deficit in year 3. Should DfE or the Borough wish to have a conversation then Mr Aherne and Mrs Steel would join with Mrs Griffith and Mrs Poulter for these.
	It was agreed that these papers be shared with the full Board for their budget meeting on 19 May.
	Mrs Steel thanked Mrs Poulter for all the work she had done and was doing on the budgets.
	1063/26f Any Other Business a) Renewal of website options Mrs Griffith reported that the current website providers would cease next year and options had been presented to migrate to a new platform at £1k or £699 one off costs. The company had also offered a reduction in the annual fee from around £900 to £699 for the next 3 years.
	Discussion took place and it was agreed that it was preferable to migrate sooner rather than later and to select the higher option.
	Mr Sharland offered to examine details of what the two options entailed.
	1064/25f Date of Next Meeting 9.30 am Thursday 7 July via Teams.
	Mr Aherne thanked Governors for their time.
	Meeting concluded 10.07