

MINUTES OF THE ST JOHN'S SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024

Attendees	
Mr R Cowin (RC)	Vice Chair
Mr C Guyton (CG)	Headteacher
Mrs P Demetriou (PJD)	Secretary to SGC
Ms N Robertshaw (NR)	Teaching Staff Rep
Mrs E Ballard (EB)	Sub Committee 2 Link
Mr D Taylor (DT)	Sub Committee 3 Link
Mr S Rai (SR)	UWO 1PWRR
Mr J Crowther (JC)	SGC Observer
Guests	
Mrs K Parkinson (KP)	Pastoral Manager, SJS
Apologies	
Lt Col P Francis (PF)	Chair
Mr D Donaldson (DD)	School Improvement Advisor, DCS
Mr S Atkin (SA)	Sub Committee 1 Link
Mr P Dakin (PD)	Parent Rep Episkopi
Mr A Richards (AR)	Independent Rep Akrotiri
Mrs C Turner (CT)	Parent Rep Akrotiri
Mr R Roberts (RR)	Support Staff Rep

Ser	Agenda Point	Comments	Actions
1	Welcome and opening remarks by Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC opened the meeting at 1000 hrs and welcomed everyone present. RC announced the resignation of AR and said that we need a recruitment drive for new governors, particularly from Akrotiri. Please inform PF of any potential new governors. 	All
2	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Ser 3 Headteacher Report Summary - Educational Offer</u> EB said that the wording "overall the teaching is currently at the lower end of 'consistently good'" was not very positive. EB added that CG had also published information regarding this on Facebook, resulting in a not very good representation of the teachers or SJS in the BFC community. <u>Ser 3 Headteacher Report Summary - Student Mobility</u> EB noted that DCS are aware that SJS is failing our Sixth Form students, but questioned why the school is also seen to be failing students in Y10 and Y11. CG acknowledged the challenges faced by the Sixth Form. CG confirmed that these comments are all correct as SJS does not meet the Gatsby Benchmark of careers provision as we do not have a Careers Advisor on island. 	

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2	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting	<p><u>Ser 3 Headteacher Report Summary – Student Satisfaction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EB asked for an update regarding the work being done on some of the girls' dissatisfaction with themselves and SJS. CG reported that there is a common theme in that many of the girls feel that they are treated differently from their male peers, both in and out of school. CG added that they feel that there is a traditional theme of misogyny particularly in this environment and that social media also contributes to this. CG advised that Chelsey Sofianos (CSO) is undertaking a wider project on this with Cheryse Shephard (CS), DCS. CG said that he will invite CSO to present their findings at the next SGC meeting. ● CG said that all students have been asked what worked well for them last year and KS3 especially reported that they liked drop down days, less so for KS4. CG said that our girls wanted to find good examples of female role models but feel that they are limited here. CG added that he hopes to bring in somebody qualified to teach the girls debating skills, etc, which they have expressed an interest in. ● CG said that we have experienced problems with some students using misogynistic and homophobic language in school and advised that even some parents have admitted to using the same language at home and have apologised for this. ● JC asked if we track where some of the behaviours come from? EB said that such matters could be reported to the respective parents' chain of command. CG expressed a certain reluctance to do so but JC said that the governors could approach chains of command as part of the SGC, rather than the school. JC said that he would welcome the opportunity to work with the military as he realised that something like this needs to be handled delicately. CG said that we have worked with the UWO for the battalion in the past regarding these kind of issues but is not sure who the equivalent contact would be for some of the other units. DT added that it is definitely something that needs to be looked at but advised that caution needs to be taken. DT suggested that the governors address this as a separate concern and report back at the next SGC meeting. RC advised that it would be best to wait for the results of the Action Plan which will be shared with governors asap. ● EB said that the school also has some issues with the boys in the Sixth Form. CG replied that we are working with both the girls and the boys. CG advised that although generally boys are less likely to speak up, that this year's Sixth Form have let their guard down and have shared their concerns. ● KP reported that lately there has been much more focus on social media due to a problem identified with a group on WhatsApp that several of our younger students had joined. KP advised that our students on there believed that they were talking with other children their age but said that this could not be confirmed. KP also added that one of our Y9 boys was found to be 'catfishing' younger students. 	CG

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3	DSL Safeguarding Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In order to raise awareness of the potential dangers of such a WhatsApp group, KP reported that she had sent a letter out to all KS3 parents, all MOD Schools on island and also to both Station Commanders. Also KP said that she had that day delivered a 2 hour session in the school hall to KS3 students focussing on social media issues, including criminal risks and their responsibilities. CJPU, CJSU, lawyers and BFSW were all invited in to try to get the right message across to the students. KP said that she had received a lot of good feedback from the students from this session. Head of KS3, Katie Gardiner, also did a BFBS interview to help put the message out to the BFC community. ● KP said that in the run up to Christmas we have seen a rise in domestic violence/coertion/control and so we are making sure that our more vulnerable students are looked out for. ● KP advised that the next focus will be on boys' mental health, mostly as they feel that they do not have much to do here and are unable to find part-time jobs. KP added that we will be working more closely with the Youth Service to help to arrange trips for them. ● KP reported that we are expecting attendance figures to be down as our school closure date clashes with the military standown for the Christmas holiday. ● KP reminded governors of the importance of them completing their mandatory training for the SGC. PD to check what is outstanding and to email governors. 	PD	
4	Governor Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CG advised that HQ DCS, in the absence of Ofsed, have come up with their own inspection plan, a Review of School Effectiveness (ROSE) Visit. This audit is part of a suite of assurance processes which check, challenge and support the quality of education and care provided across all schools and settings. CG stated that he has asked for HQ DCS to conduct a ROSE Review of SJS. In order to prepare for this ROSE Visit, the governors conducted a very useful activity during the meeting which will be continued at the next SGC meeting. 		
5	Sub-Committee Questions	<p><u>Sub-Committee 1 – Safeguarding Provision and Inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CG confirmed that removing a number of Y11 students from all but core subjects last year had a great effect for them in their final exam results. CG advised that we will look to replicate something similar this year following the Y11 mock exams and that this will be data led. CG said that students are not aware of this at the moment and added that parents also recognise the importance of their students being able to get English and Maths qualifications when leaving school. ● CG said that our more able students are doing very well but that they could do better. ● CG confirmed that unfortunately the Sixth Form UK university trip has been cancelled by Army Command as 		

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5	Sub-Committee Questions	<p>“not an appropriate use of tax payers’ money.” CG stated that this has not actively been communicated to parents yet, only to the students. CG said that, as a school, we were very disappointed to receive this news. CG added that the trip would have cost approx. £15,000 and said that due to rules and regulations we were unable to ask the parents to pay for it. EB expressed disappointment that the trip was not happening, especially as this was publicised to parents at the Sixth Form induction, and that there had been no opportunity to work together for the parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EB asked CG what measures are now in place to completely eliminate issues surrounding standardisation and moderation? EB said that she was aware of some over grading by certain teaching staff. NR replied that she does not think that all staff are aware of over marking. CG replied that there has been an issue with over grading of Geography Subject Leaders and their HOF has been addressed about this. The cohort in Geography, however, are still some of the highest achievers in school. • CG said that historically staff have reported home to parents inflated grades. NR said that there was a culture here and in other schools of doing this in order to avoid issues with parents. CG added that we are trying to eradicate this at SJS. • CG advised that we are hoping to organise a Geography Fieldwork Trip for students in Cyprus this year, rather than in the UK. <u>Sub-Committee 2 – Educational Offer, Student Mobility, Community Pride</u> • PD had asked what arrangements did SJS have in place to work with mobile students and their families before they arrived on island? • CG confirmed that SJS had a lot of contact with new students, parents and 1 PWRR before they arrived on island and provided a lot of support for them. CG added that there were some difficulties in being able to match with the same exam board. <u>Sub-Committee 3 – Student Satisfaction, Staff Wellbeing, Attendance</u> • DT advised that his sub-committee will draw up an action plan to help compliment the work of SJS in the area surrounding girls’ issues and boys’ mental health. DT said that we must seek to be a critical friend, to help SJS and the students. 	DT, CT, DD, SR
6	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC informed governors that if they have something to raise at the next meeting to please inform the Chair/CG beforehand in order for them to be able to prepare for this. • CG advised that the results of the Y11 and Y13 mock exams will be published at the next meeting. 	All
7	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 10:00 in the Conference Room. 	

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