

MINUTES OF THE ST JOHN'S SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2025

Attendees	
Lt Col P Francis (PF) – Remote from UK Mr R Cowin (RC) Mr C Guyton (CG) Mrs P Demetriou (PJD) Mr D Donaldson (DD) Mrs D Simpson (DS) Ms E Ballard (EB) Mr N Christopher (NC) Mr S Rai (SR) Mrs S Atherton (SVA) Mr A Goldie (AG)	Chair Vice Chair Headteacher Secretary to SGC School Improvement Advisor, DCS Assistant Head DCS (Cyprus) Sub Committee 2 Link Member of Sub Committee 1 UWO 1PWRR Member of Sub Committee 3 Member of Sub Committee 3
Guests	
Mrs K Parkinson (KP)	Pastoral Manager, SJS
Apologies	
Mr S Atkin (SA) Ms N Robertshaw (NR) Mr J Crowther (JC) Mr P Dakin (PD) Mr G Simpson (GS) Mr R Roberts (RR)	Sub Committee 1 Link & FinGov lead. Member of Sub Committee 1 Member of Sub Committee 2 Member of Sub Committee 2 Member of Sub Committee 2 Member of Sub Committee 2

Ser	Agenda Point	Comments	Actions
1	Welcome and opening remarks by Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PF opened the meeting at 1015 hrs and welcomed everyone present. PF thanked Gareth Flemington for all of his support and congratulated him on his new appointment with Ofsted. PF also thanked SSAFA for their support of the recent UCAS trip. PF commented that this is the second time that SSAFA have kindly helped SJS this year. PF also thanked SA for his great efforts in managing to secure extra funding to assist SJS this year. PF reminded governors to visit SJS as much as possible. PF also reminded Subcommittee Links to please submit any questions to him 2 weeks in advance of scheduled SGC meetings. 	SA, EB
2	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EB asked for a brief update on the work Chelsey Sofianos has been doing for the girl students with low confidence. CG replied that this will start after the Easter holidays and said that Paul Simpson will also work with these students to help to improve their self-esteem. 	

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2	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CG added that we will continue to do drop down PSHE sessions with both boys and girls in the school hall. KP said that we will work with the boys but that girls are being given priority at the moment.CG said that he will be putting an article in the parents' newsletter this week regarding the Manosphere. CG also added that recent feedback from a group of 20 students indicated that use of homophobic, racist and misogynistic language in school has recently improved.EB asked what percentage of fee payers' money is being given straight to CG? PF asked at the last SGC mtg for a 100% clarity regarding this from DCS. DS replied that she will get confirmation regarding this from Becky Goddard, Finance Team, for the next SGC meeting.EB asked why SJS does not get it's budget until Aug 25? DS replied that our budgets work incredibly differently to UK schools. DS added that the Finance Team will come out to BFC in April to sit down with the DCS Headteachers to plan the budget. PF asked for SA to also be able to meet with the Finance Team then.NC asked if the move to StratCom is likely to change anything? DS replied that she is hopeful that things will be better. DD added that DCS Cyprus have been working on an Annex to show StratCom what we need to run our schools.	DS 	

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4	DSL Safeguarding Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KP confirmed that our students' current concerns are mostly academic pressure regarding exams, transition back to the UK and parties involving alcohol outside of school. • KP advised the governors that she recently selected a group of students with ACEs for one of our Teachers, Daniel O'Missenden (DOM), who is doing postgraduate research and is investigating trauma informed practice. KP added that DOM is not aware which of our students have experienced some kind of trauma. EB said that this was very interesting and it was agreed that DOM would be invited to present this research to the governors. • NC asked if all staff are good at reporting things on My Concern? KP replied that she was happy that the staff are reporting well on My Concern. • SVA asked if we have an arrivals site on My Concern? KP advised that she would action this. • PF said that there has definitely been a positive culture shift at SJS over the last 2.5 years. • CG said that he can share the number of concerns that have been reported and are regularly discussed by himself and KP. CG agreed to give access to this information to EB. • EB asked if all the new governors could have access to the previous safeguarding review report so that they can see where we have come from and the progress that has been made? CG said that he welcomes scrutiny from the SGC. PF agreed to share this safeguarding review report with the new governors – the document is classified as Official-Sensitive and it should be noted that it is over 4 years old. PJD will have a printed copy available at SJS after the Easter break for SGC members to review, along with a copy of the Safeguarding Review Action Plan Update (dated Dec 23). • EB said that on the recent Sixth Form UCAS trip to the UK that students were asked to download Snap Chat. EB said that she was not aware that this was an MOD approved App. CG replied that because the students' Cypriot phones would not work in the UK, a decision was made with CG's full support to use Snap Chat as something had to be done to safeguard the students. CG advised that SJS is hoping to run this trip again next year and would welcome recommendations from the governors regarding safe communication for the students next time. 	<p>CG</p> <p>KP</p> <p>KP</p> <p>CG</p> <p>PF</p> <p>PJD</p> <p>All</p>
5	Subcommittee Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CG announced that he had only received questions from Subcommittee 2 yesterday. PF reminded governors that they should pose such questions 2 weeks before the SGC meeting to allow DCS, Colin and the staff to be able to reply fully. However, CG said that he would try to provide brief replies to these questions at this meeting. • <u>Aspire Programme</u> CG outlined that this new programme is initially being offered to our current Y7 students and will be launched from Sep 25 when they begin Y8. CG advised that this programme aims to provide students with a broad suit of enrichment opportunities designed to further challenge and 	<p>All</p>

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5	Subcommittee Questions	<p>develop their academic curiosity. Aspire will run after school and students will have the opportunity to achieve the CREST Award in Science and the Foundation Projects Qualification. CG added that students will also be expected to take part in some after school sporting events, learn conversational Greek from a member of our support staff, as well as go on an academic trip to visit universities and places of cultural interest in York. CG said that supply teachers will teach FPQ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CG confirmed that 18 students applied for the Aspire programme and all were accepted. CG added that new students will also be able to join this programme when they arrive. CG advised that Aspire will be evaluated as it progresses and will be refashioned for the following year and hopefully be offered to other year groups too. CG said that a third of the year group will take part in the Aspire programme. CG said that students will graduate in different ways from Aspire and added that it's organiser, Kim Fox (KF) was keen to hold a graduation ceremony for this in one of the Messes. NC asked how can we measure the success of Aspire? CG replied that Aspire's success will be evaluated using student voice, staff voice and parental views. EB asked if Aspire would involve any financial commitment for parents? CG replied that the only cost to parents would be the university enrichment trip to York. EB commented that this initiative sounded very similar to the Children's University programme previously run by SCE in The Falklands. EB and SVA asked if it would be possible for the Sixth Form students to become involved with Aspire, as part of their enrichment? CG said that he will action this. CG added that the Sixth Form students are also enjoying a variety of enrichment activities, including sports and cookery and will soon have somebody to train them in public speaking and debating skills. CG added that some of our Sixth Form students have already been helping younger students, eg by providing tutoring to Y11 students. CG said that this will be evaluated and reviewed. <u>BSA</u> EB said that she does not think that it is morally right for UKBTs to be claiming BSA for their children to be educated in the UK as this money comes out of the school's budget. EB added that the teachers are here by choice so know what to expect. None of the governors were happy that the BSA was coming out of the school budget and so taking funds away from the children at SJS. DD advised that the historic contracts for older teachers enabled them to be able to send their children anywhere for Sixth Form study and to automatically be able to get BSA. DD said that these teachers just needed to prove to DBS that their children were not able to study the Sixth Form subjects they wanted to at SJS. CG asked DD to provide a 	<p>CG</p> <p>DD</p>

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5	Subcommittee Questions	<p>list of the most popular A Level subjects that are offered in the UK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EB said that certain teachers are making it known in the BFC community that they are exploiting the BSA system. DS said that it is very important for CG to know which teachers are doing this so that he can use the DCS Code of Conduct with them. DD asked for the DCS Code of Conduct to be shared with governors. PF asked what is DCS doing to ensure that staff are not exploiting the system? PF asked SGC members to provide DS with evidence. <u>Ofsted</u> CG said that we would welcome an external Ofsted inspection at SJS. CG said that the new Ofsted framework would be very useful for our setting. DS said that DCS would be happy to have Ofsted inspections but that unfortunately contractual matters are slowing things down. PF added that we need external safeguarding checks for reassurance. 	CG DS
6	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC said that he worked at SJS for 35 years as a UKBT and for a further 7 years as a Supply Teacher and never knew of a member of teaching staff at that time who claimed BSA. RC speculated that perhaps due to the previous situation at SJS that staff have changed. RC said that he did not feel that it would be useful for today's new governors to read through a safeguarding report from 4 years ago. 	
7	Closing Remarks from Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PF thanked everybody for attending this meeting and encouraged the governors to continue to visit the school, to fact check, understand what a good and bad lesson looks like, join a meeting and become involved with SJS. 	
8	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 10:00 in the Teaching and Learning Room. 	

