

Attenborough School Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 26 February 2026

Location: CATT Briefing Room

1. Attendance

Present:

- Mr Andy Chapman - Headmaster
- Mrs Amy Cunningham – Deputy Head
- Col Tom Jefford
- Lt Col Alex Mills – Chair
- Maj Andy Bennett – Vice Chair (online)
- Revd (Maj) Nick Adley
- Maj Paul Browne
- Maj Dale Jones
- Mr Gary Margarison
- Ms Vic Rodes
- Ms Ami Buten – Assistant Head, Defence Infrastructure
- Mrs Dawn Adley – Admin assistant
- Mr Derek Hefferman – Garrison Welfare Representative

Apologies:

- None

2. Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed Maj Andy Bennett as Vice Chair. Col Tom stated that he was very happy with the governors work and school performance

3. Updates

Friends of Attenborough School provide photo board

No change to school structure not able to provide teaching for years 7 and 8

Military talk 16th & 17th April – open days to mainly feature veh racing (vice shooting!)

House name for teams in school to change (**Chair to update**).

4. Governance Structure

New Vice Chair in place – Maj Andy Bennett – following a successful vote by Governors
Rev'd Adley will be assigned in the summer, he is to request that the new chaplain, Rev Mike Jenkinson be willing to take on the Safeguarding Governor role.

5. Headteacher's Updates

23% increase in SEND pupils.

Attendance above 97%.
Unauthorized increase of pupils.
Military and school Christmas holidays didn't match, hence increase.
Amy commented cohort size is very small.
R&R discussion authorized /unauthorized absences.
Optional 10 days available for pupils.
Gary recommended that each individual case be reviewed.
In Germany fines cannot be imposed for unauthorized absences.
Only cause of action would be a talk with the Ed Welfare Office and issue a warning.

Discussion about statics and achievements at the school. Often results higher than UK schools.
Very few children complete all their Ed at school.
Longer a child stays better achievement.

6. Reports

Improvement ROW/DCS update.
Visit completed 25 -26th February 2026.
Overall, there was a very positive outcome, high quality nursery teaching.
Repeat learning walks in summer term.
Teaching & Learning advisor, visits once a term.

School improvement plan update Lead
Communication between school and parents via Whats app (FoA)/Facebook site.
Possible schooling provision for year 7 & 8, Cologne International School (St George's) - weekly boarding. Visit needed.
Ski trip 34 children took part in Austria – excellent experience.
Alex thanked Ami for work completed on house renaming.
Discussion about selected new names of houses - concerns raised about one name and memoirs.
Names will be decided by the end of term (Chair lead).
Maj Paul Browne posted in summer John Donnelly (replacement)
Visits planned to school from military personnel e.g. dental and nursing staff – *timetable sent out for summer term.*

7. Safeguarding

Discussion about information process between school and military. Some suggestions including posting process and using CUB meetings.
Maj Dale Jones liaison for Military Information.
DBS update service available costs £13 to renew each year – very useful service.

8. SEND

Parents don't understand that SEND provision information can take up to 3 months to be transferred over to another school.
Positive feedback from parents.

9. Infrastructure

New flooring required old flooring to be removed Gary highlighted this as a high priority.
Air condition unit, no power suitable for this unit.
Shed on school ground, not maintained electrics are safe.
Lights - Glare can be problematic.
Amy to raise jobs for above work completed over several holiday periods.

10. Finance

DBS checks are very important.
Local police checks needed and photos required.

11. Any Other Business

Headmaster thanked Governors for visits and Col Tom for his support.
New Head of DCS (retired) Brigadier Drummond.

12. Date of Next Meeting

2nd July 14:00 – 16:00 CATT Briefing room.