

School Parent Council Meeting: Overton Church of England Primary School

Wednesday 24 June 2026

Attendees

Name	Role	Abbr as
Fiona Wyeth	Head	FW
Rob Zealey	Governor	RZ
Oli Rodi	Parent-governor and meeting chair	OR
Catriona Clarke	Class 1	CC
Hannah Smith	Class 4 (minute taker)	HS
Rosie Oglethorpe	Class 5	RO
Sarah Lambert	Class 6	SL
Liz Chapman	Class 9	LC
Emma Daniel	Class 11	ED
Laura Harrison	Class 12	LH

Apologies from Clare Brady Class 3

Minutes

1. Actions from the previous meetings:

- a. *(Ongoing) Gaps in representation:* We are still missing parent reps from classes 2, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 – **Action: Carry over and recruitment to be left until September and the arrival of the new Head. FW to hand over.**
- b. *(Ongoing) Inter School Sports:* It has been challenging to successfully engage with other school's head teachers, but this is still something that OPS would like to develop – **Action: Carry over. FW to hand over to new Head.**
- c. *ASC and other club details on school website-* **Completed.** FW took decision to include this in weekly update, otherwise website would need to be updated too frequently.
- d. *(Ongoing) TV usage during wet break:* In the recent heat wave this has now also become relevant for "hot break". FW felt that this is at points necessary to keep children cool in the classroom and to reduce levels of movement. **Action: For review in 6 months. FW and future Head to continue to monitor going forward.**
- e. *FW to speak to Mrs Parry about the frequency of 1:1 reading with teachers in KS1:* This has been investigated by Mrs Parry. It was found that all children were being read with twice a week, but that a teacher and an LSA were not always initialling when they had read with a child, but were perhaps drawing

smiley faces or leaving another comment. It was noted that it would be useful for parents to be able to recognise the signatures of the relevant teacher and LSA. **Completed. Actions: Individual teachers and LSAs to notify parents of their signatures at the beginning of term via link books. Review in September.**

- f. *FW to look into organising reading workshops for parents/carers – 08:30 after drop off. **Completed.*** Organised and well attended-teachers chose a focus that would be of benefit to most children and the workshops are a starting point to be built upon in the next academic year.
- g. *(Ongoing) FW to put Meet and Greet slides on website.* For new Head if she in agreement (have suggested that the sessions are offered virtually as well but to encourage attendance where possible to meet the new class teacher. **Action: Carry over. FW to Hand over to new Head for September meet and greets.**
- h. *FW to consider “cheat sheet” and some reading support resources for parents/carers.* Not discussed at this meeting. **Completed.** All KS1 parents have been given some support material.
- i. *Forest school timetabling affecting classes as teachers are taken from usual class to run forest school. **Completed.*** FW confirmed that this has been minimised for next academic year 2026-2027 and data showed that children had made good progress across the curriculum.
- j. *(Ongoing) Loss of breacktime as a punishment for poor behaviour and in wet weather. Not discussed at this meeting. **Completed.*** All year groups confirm that whole class sanctions such as losing breacktimes do not occur, but classes may lose a few minutes when the majority are not following an age-appropriate instruction. FW discussed what to do when it is a small minority causing the issue- the children can then be sent out with the other class so that they don't miss out due to a few children's behaviour.
- k. *Playtime trollies. **Completed.*** FW asked teachers to confirm whether KS2 were also getting use of playtime trollies, it was reported that play equipment is being used by both KS1 and KS2 and Sports Ambassadors have been trained to support. Positive feedback from the children.
- l. *Use of nursery building. **Completed.*** We have let out the spare nursery classroom on a long-term lease to an alternative provider (offers therapeutic THRIVE sessions for small groups of children).
- m. *Screen time. **Completed.*** Alternative to screens is permitted. Spellings are provided on paper or through spelling shed and Google Classrooms as are

multiplication practice (please let school know if you will prefer this). This will be included on the Meet and Greet slides for all parents.

2. Smart Phone Free Policy

The policy introduced in September 2025 indicated a move towards no smart phones from September 2026 for all year groups.

As this is a significant change, the school decided to consult formally with all parents. FW informed parent council that there have been 107 responses so far. Some insights have already been gained from the survey. The comments are polarised with a lot of strong opinions. Currently the majority of parents are in favour of a Smart Phone Free School. OPS is part of a collective of local Basingstoke and Deane Primary schools that are working together to be Smart Phone Free. Some of these schools already have a complete ban, some have given parents notice of a year, and some are undecided. LH stated that Hampshire is currently leading the way in the UK.

RZ asked whether the new Head's current school is part of the collective - FW answered in affirmative.

RZ asked what would happen in practical terms if a child arrived with a smart phone. FW stated that the phone would be confiscated and the parent would have to come and collect it. This would need to be included in the policy.

FW stated that if a child (Year 6 only) is bringing in a brick phone then parents will need to complete a form online with the make and model (this form will likely be sent out as an email with a link for Year 6 parents as this year. If a child brings in a phone different to that on the form then this will also be confiscated. LH suggested that parents should have to request the form as there should not be an expectations that children will bring mobile phones to school.

LC raised concerns that some parents may want their child to have a phone for walking home independently. LH answered that smart phones have not been shown to be protective for children while travelling, and in fact may increase risk of pedestrian vs vehicle collisions due to distraction.

LH suggested sharing current secondary school policies with parents. This is relevant because by the time the current Year 5 go to Testbourne there will be no more Smart Phones permitted on site.

All thinking will be discussed at the policy meeting in July. FW wishes to make sure that policy is clear and unambiguous.

- There are various changes including relating to smart watches that will need to be considered.
- Smart phones needed for medical devices and for young carers are likely to be exempt from the policy. The Parent Council could not think of any other exemptions.

Action: Collate and respond to results of Smart Phone Survey. Policy Review and approval by the Governors at their next meeting in July.

3. Relationship and Sex Ed Policy

There have been 93 responses so far to the Sex Ed questionnaire. Overall, the responses have been supportive of the current proposal. There have been some questions around identity primarily including how we ensure a focus on diversity and inclusion including raising awareness of those who are transgender, and also that all families are different.

Action: Collate results of Sex Ed survey and for governors to consider at the next meeting in July 2026.

4. Continuous provision

Some parents in Key Stage 1 asked about our approach to continuous provision. FW explained the Continuous provision describes all of the different provision areas which are available for children to use every day (e.g construction, small world etc). Within each of these areas of provision there should be a core range of resources that children can use all of the time, throughout the whole year. Planning effectively for continuous provision is crucial and involves a consideration of classroom layout and resourcing that will enable staff to offer a breadth of learning possibilities. This should enable more opportunities for children to learn through play. This is embedded in Year R planning but has also been rolled out into Year 1 and 2.

In Years 1 and 2, all children have access to continuous provision on a daily basis. The first half hour of each day is a 'soft start' to support children coming into the classroom and feeling settled. There are often other parts of the day where children have the opportunity to access continuous provision too. FW emphasised that what this looks like changes as the year progresses as the children grow and develop in order to meet their needs.

Each day begins with children accessing continuous provision. This looks different in each year group and sometimes between classes as activities are planned to be age and stage appropriate and target key skills that the children might need to develop. For example, teachers often include fine motor activities which strengthen the finger muscles to support with accurate letter formation and handwriting. At the start of Year 1, this is 'free flow' to mirror what the children experience in Year R. This then moves into a rotation of continuous provision activities which children access over the course of the week. From the start of Year 2, children access a range of activities in a rotation over the course of the week. Regular provision includes: phonics and maths games / activities., fine motor activities – play dough, cutting skills, drawing and colouring, construction, puzzles, role play. Resources / activities are carefully chosen by the teachers to enable children to practice key skills in a playful way. They need to learn learning behaviours as well as academic and practical skills. These include being able to make mistakes, being resilient, collaborating and participating. It has been noted by the school that the personal/social/emotional development of children born during the COVID-19 Pandemic and post pandemic have changed "and therefore this softer start has been emphasised in Year R to Year 1. It has also

been noted that Y2 are also needing it more. Previously continuous provision stopped at Christmas in Year 1 but this is now continuing all the way through the year. The teachers have noted a benefit of this.

CC asked how the gaps can be identified. FW explained that they look at the EYFS assessments and also had formalised Pupil Progress Meetings. At these meetings the leadership team meet with each year group and discuss how the children are learning and identify any child who may not be struggling or working below age related expectations. The meetings focus on problem solving to ensure that there are sufficient resources and knowledge and appropriate interventions are in place and having impact for the children.

At these meetings they also consider children who may go on to achieve greater depth.

Completed. HS to add continuous provision information from the Phase Leader to meeting minutes (as above).

5. Heat and Climate Change

- a. Sun cream policy- RO raised why pupils cannot bring in their own sun cream and asked where this was stated in the policy. Some members of PC thought that children were competent to reapply their own sun cream, while others disagreed, and it was felt that whatever was decided should be consistent across year groups. HS raised that loose long-sleeved clothing and hats was more effective protection from sunburn than sun cream. It was agreed that all aspects of this issue needed further consideration in policy. **Action: Further discussion needed within PC and OPS more widely.**
- b. The importance of adequate hydration for pupils was raised- especially considering how some children had become unwell due to the heat this week. **Action: class “water breaks” are already in place and staff are actively encouraging all children to drink.**
- c. Air conditioning- All members felt that consideration of future proofing the building with Air Con is an appropriate idea. Expense and infrastructure difficulties were noted. Query as to whether OSA would agree to fund. **Action: OR to raise this with governors and the new Head Teacher.**
- d. LH and HS raised idea of outdoor “classrooms in the woods” on hotter days. **Action: FW confirmed that outside spaces were used during the hot spell**
- e. HS raised whether a shift in the school day to starting earlier for second half of summer term could be considered. If pre planned then discussions could be had with work that may make it easier for working parents, compared the last-minute closures that we experienced this week. FW said that this would need to be considered within the context of national guidelines.
- f. OR gave news that thanks to the work of Cllr Juliet Henderson Court Drove will be gritted again over winter.

6. Parent Council under new Head.

- a. New Head has confirmed she will continue with Parent Council, and new volunteers will be called for in September 2026.

7. New Inclusion Manager

- a. New Inclusion Manager has been appointed. She has come to visit the school and will start in September. She will be the new Assistant Head and will be full time.

8. New Classes

- a. Parents will be informed of new classes in reports released on 9th July.

9. AOB**a. Portions in the kitchen:**

- i. Concerns have been raised that KS1 and KS2 get the same portion size and that this is not enough for KS2. FW told us that there has been some change in Dolce and the kitchen personnel recently and that they have agreed some improvements moving forward.

10. Agenda items for next meeting and date

Next meeting will be in Autumn Term 2026.