



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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Minutes

Learning, Standards & Safeguarding Committee Summer 2026
Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 9.30am at ADMAT Central Office

1. Welcome and Apologies/Trust Identity Reminder (Chair)

Present: Margaret Savage (Committee Chair), Jon Sharpe, Jo Callow and Claire Paul.

Apologies: Gill Shippides

Not Present: Graeme Barriball

In Attendance: Gemma Peacock (Governance Officer)

The Chair began the meeting by noting that with Ofsted inspections due, Directors may be asked questions about the Trust's Identity. The Directors were asked if they could list the five words beginning with the letter 'c' within the vision for 'Why do we Exist', that the Trust aims to imbue within the children? The five words were, capability mature, compassionate, competent young people, conscious of the role they play in society and curious. The chair asked Directors to consider if the Trust does imbue these characteristics into the children and it is a good reminder that this is the focus of the work that is done within the Trust.

2. Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests relevant to this Agenda (GP)

None declared relevant to this agenda

3. Confirm minutes of previous LSS Autumn (11th February 2026) and matters arising (MS/GP)

- The Directors asked to have more information on SEN, writing and reassurance about phonics at the next LSS Committee meeting so that progress can be monitored. *This was discussed under item 5.*
- Have the other schools also had a radon survey? JC would check and report back at the next LSS meeting. *This was discussed under item 11.*
- MAT Inspection was carried forward to the Full Board agenda. *MAT Inspection was discussed at the Full Board meeting on 18th March 2026. Matter closed.*

Actions from confidential minutes:

- Improvement (Collaboration)- refer to confidential minutes. *The matter was discussed at the Full Board meeting on 18th March 2026. Matter closed.*
- AOB- refer to confidential minutes. *The decision was reported at the FRS Committee on 25th February 2026. Matter closed.*

The Committee agreed the minutes and confidential minutes, and the Chair signed a copy.

The Chair asked the CEO if during the meeting she could comment on writing, the year 4 multiplication check, coaching and in particular the impact that this is having and the quality of teaching across the Trust as these were themes from the Spring LSS meeting.

4. Confidential Agenda Items (Chair/JC)

None raised for this meeting.

All items below are the responsibility of this committee and can be discussed by exception

5. Data (JC)

- EYFS- the Directors discussed the latest data set from April. The data is in line with the national average for good levels of development however, this is dropping by roughly a percentage point each year. This will be a priority area for the Trust next academic year. The EYFS provision throughout the Trust is strong and staff have received lots of training. A major issue, however, is that children are beginning school at a much lower starting point e.g. speech and language and some children are not toilet trained.

Do we need to do more monitoring in the pre-schools? Previous Ofsted inspections have shown the pre-school provision to be strong. There have been some staff off on long term sickness however, the children are making good progress. Not all the children who join EYFS have attended Trust pre-schools. The number of children requiring EHCPs in Foundation is high. **The Directors agreed that it would be useful to look at the data set behind this to see why the numbers have increased. They also noted that the drop in the good levels of development by a percentage point each year is concerning and this needs to be monitored to ensure that the Trust does not become complacent with the trend.**

- Phonics data is improving but continues to be below the national average. This is particularly evident at St Catherine's and Callington Primary School. Schools have been doing lots of work to try and improve the data and have been working with the English Hub and the Trust's English Lead. JC is receiving regular data updates. **The Directors noted concern over the number of schools who are below the national benchmark.**
- Year 2 are currently on track and are making good progress in preparation for starting key stage two.
- The year 4 multiplication tables check is due to take place shortly. The overall data for the Trust is improving however; there are some schools which are a concern. **Are there any particular schools which are of concern?** Additional practices are taking place at Callington Primary School this week. Whilst progress is being made, it is a concern whether the progress will be enough by the date of the check.
- The year 6 data presented to the Directors was based on the children's last assessments. The data is currently in-line with last year's national statistics however; the data is right on the national average so there is concern that the results could dip below. **When are the SATs results released?** Results are released around the 7th July for discussion at the Full Board meeting on 8th July.

Last year was the first year as CEO that JC set projections for the Trust Schools and the Directors asked how will the projections be set this year? JC explained that the projections will be set on the results of the regular assessments that the children are undertaking whilst also

trying to be realistic. Individual data meetings are taking place between the Headteacher, JC and Neil Swaite to analyse the data. These took place last July, in the Autumn term and will happen again this July. These meetings enable the data to be looked at in-depth and are also positive in terms of knowing where both the schools and children are at. The meetings are also used to inform coaching and see what needs to be targeted. Coaching is having a positive impact however; it will take approximately two years to see the impact of this. **The Directors noted that coaching can become too familiar if everyone knows one another.** Whilst coaching is confidential, the Trust are using an external system called Steplab. This allows teachers to upload notes which can be seen by the coach. The coaching is then recorded and uploaded and quality assured by Steplab. The Trust's Director of Learning is providing coaching for the smaller Trust schools. JC currently does not receive any coaching as the CEO. **JC to reflect on if she should also receive some coaching for her personal development and to feel supported. The Directors noted that the coaching could be provided by JS in terms of running a business.**

The Directors asked how they are able to view a school's IDSR? JC explained that IDSRs are approximately 68 pages per document but don't include an overall summary. **JC will send the Directors a copy of Callington Primary School's IDSR as an example.**

Which are the strong schools within the Trust? It is often cohort specific however, children are making good progress at Werrington Primary School.

Six schools are due Ofsted Inspections next academic year. These are Callington Primary School, Coads Green Primary School, Windmill Hill Academy, North Petherwin Primary School, Werrington Primary School and Lew Trenchard Church of England Primary School.

The Directors noted the Government expectation that children with SEN should reach the same standard as all other children. Trust data shows that SEN children are not reaching the national average however, 70% have made expected progress in maths and 53% have made expected progress in reading. **It was agreed that JC would contact some other Trust CEO's to discuss this topic further.**

6. **MAT Improvement Plan and Improvement Officer Reports (JC)**

The CEO has updated the MAT improvement plan. Data and finance continue to be areas of concern however, all other aspects are proceeding as expected. Lew Trenchard are expecting a SIAMS visit imminently.

7. **Curriculum & Learning (JC)**

The Committee discussed the report that the CEO had provided about writing. JC noted that there are some aspects that will take time to have an impact. The Trust are focusing on the basics of writing at foundation level e.g. handwriting. The new Writing Framework will be embedded over time.

There is a new Inclusive Teaching Framework. This provides ideas for things that can be done within the classroom however, many of these things are already being done by the schools within the Trust.

8. **Parents, Pupils & Staff (JC)**

St Stephens has recently been part of a project on the parental framework and asked parents/carers to complete a questionnaire about communication at a recent parents evening. The results from the questionnaire were positive.

During the summer term, all parents/ carers, children and staff will be given surveys and the results of these will be reported at the Autumn LSS meeting. The number of responses to the parent/ carer survey are not always that high in number as the survey is sent out via the parent communication system. The CEO noted that the results will be individual by school as it is extremely difficult to collate the responses as an overall Trust. There is software that can do this however, it is expensive. Headteachers within the schools respond individually to any concerns raised in the surveys.

The Directors discussed the number of pupil applications for each school for next academic year. Numbers are variable across the Trust. St Catherine's had allocated 30 places as per their PAN however, there was an error in the allocation of places by the County Council and there will be an increased number of 35 children now starting at the school in September.

9. Staff Absence, Retention, Recruitment and Staff Well-Being (JC)

There have recently been a number of changes in employment law in favour of the employee. Further changes will also take place in January. Staff absence for varying reasons continues to be an issue however, this is improving. **The Directors noted that the total number of days lost seems to be a lot and this has an impact on teaching for the children.**

Advice is sought from the legal team regarding job descriptions. Staff continue to receive CPD as necessary.

There is a new statement of entitlement for R.E. for all schools starting from September.

10. Safeguarding (JC/CP)

An updated 'Working Together' document has been circulated to all Headteachers who will cascade to their staff.

All schools are mobile phone free for children. Children hand their phone into the school office on arrival, and they are returned to the child when they leave the site.

There has been new national guidance on AI and the use of photos online.

At a recent CAPH meeting, schools which have had Ofsted inspections under the new framework reported that little has changed around safeguarding in the new Ofsted inspection toolkit.

The S157 audit has recently been released by Cornwall County Council. This year the audit will be done by peer review and the Trust's Cornwall School Headteachers will be meeting on 22nd June 2026 to peer review one another. CP will also provide a DSL update on this date and discuss any safeguarding issues with the Headteachers. Going forward, Cornwall County Council are intending to release the S157 in the Autumn term, and it is likely to become a continual monitoring document.

No significant safeguarding issues have been reported.

This term staff will be receiving allergy and anaphylaxis training. In September big changes are expected to be made to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' in-line with the White Paper. The Trust continue to be happy with the 'My Concern' reporting system however, CP is attending a presentation from CPOMS.

11. Safety (JC)

Additional staff were first aid trained on 1st May 2026. The Trust is fully compliant with legionella testing. **The Directors asked when the outcome of the CIF bids would be known?** JC confirmed that this would be in June.

Princetown is currently showing high detections of radon. This has been reported to the HSE who have acknowledged the report but not yet replied. The contractors who installed the ventilation fans which measure the radon levels are double checking the fans to ensure that they are working correctly. St Catherine's, Callington, Lewannick and Boyton are all currently undergoing radon assessment checks. **The Directors expressed concern and asked for this to continue to be monitored.**

JS is continuing to complete the Director's Health and Safety training.

St Stephens security gates are currently in hand to be fixed. It was noted that it is frustrating that the work isn't always completed correctly during installation and then the schools have to wait until the school holidays for the remedial action to be undertaken.

12. Compliance (JC)

All new staff have completed cyber security training. This also includes password protection and phishing awareness. It is hoped that all Trust schools will be certified as being Cyber Secure from September. **Does Trust insurance cover the Trust for a Cyber-attack?** JC confirmed that yes this has to be included as part of the insurance.

The Trust have moved to two yearly GDPR training for staff. All schools have been given a do's and don'ts document for GDPR. **CP will also send a copy to GP for circulation to Directors.**

New food standards guidance will shortly be released which the Trust will need to comply with.

13. Callington Primary School (JC)

Callington Primary School was discussed and the discussions recorded in the confidential minutes.

14. Policy Review (GP)

- a. Visitor Agreement (AF)- approved with minor changes.
- b. Invacuation (JC)- approved with minor changes.
- c. Safer Recruitment (SC)- approved with minor changes.
- d. Exclusion (JC)- approved with no changes.
- e. Restrictive Interventions (Replaces the Control or Restraint of Pupils Policy)- Directors approved by e-mail on 23/03/2026.

15. AOB (Chair/GP)

The Chair thanked JC for the helpful and informative talk that she gave at the Governor Networking Event on Monday 11th May 2026. The LGB Governors who attended were all engaged and it was suggested that a daytime event should be held during the winter and an evening event during the summer to enable as many Governors as possible to attend. MS also thanked Neil Swaite for providing the list of questions that Ofsted may ask Governors during an inspection. Over the next few weeks MS will have a go at answering the questions from a

director's perspective and circulate to the other Directors. These will then be stored with GP for future reference. It was recommended that Headteachers may want to discuss the questions with their Chairs of Governors who could not attend the Networking Event and this may be particularly useful for those schools who are shortly due an Ofsted inspection.

16. Date of Next Meeting (GP)

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed at the Full Board meeting when all meeting dates have been set for the new academic year.

Meeting closed at 11.26 am

GL Peacock

ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

J. Callow – CEO Director	J. Sharpe – Director (Board Chair)
M. Savage – Director (Chair)	G. Barriball – Director
G. Shipsides – Director (Committee Vice)	C. Paul – Director