

ST HELENS COUNCIL
COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
OF COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE HELD ON
TUESDAY 7 JULY 2026 AT 5 PM

Members:

(Based on
Constitution = 16)

Co-Opted Governors

*Mr Garry Anders (Chair)
Mrs Stacey Hill (Vice-Chair)
Mr Innes Arnold
*Mrs Margaret Bellis
*Dr Claire Lucas
Mrs Angela Farrell
Mrs Linda Emmett
*Mrs Clare Powell
Vacancy

Local Authority Governor

*Mr Anthony Burns

The Principal

*Mr Russell Cormack

Staff Governor

Mr Corey Gerrard

Parent Governors

Mr Karl Van Der Laan
*Mrs Sharon Ahmed

Associate Members

*Miss Fiona Barry
*Mr Chris Dickinson

*denotes those present

Also attending:

Mr N Robinson Trinity Trust (5.27pm)
Mrs Angela Webster, Governor Services, acting as Clerk

Part 1

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

1. Apologies and Consideration of Consent to Absence

Apologies were received from Corey Gerrard, Linda Emmett, Stacey Hill, Innes Arnold and Karl Van Der Laan. Governors consented to their absences.

The meeting was quorate.

The Head advised that Nick Robinson will be slightly late to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were declared.

3. Governor Membership

Mrs Clare Powell was welcomed to the meeting as a Co-Opted Governor.

Corey Gerrard will be resigning as staff member from the governing body and the Head will look to fill the staff vacancy in the autumn term.

It was noted that all DBS details were up to date however the Principal was not aware of Andrew Roberts and he should not be on the governing body list

4. Minutes from the Meeting held on 12 May 2026

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Action: Defer Mrs Hill's action (Link Governor Report – Curriculum and SEND) to the next FGB meeting.

Defer discussion on 2027/28 school holiday pattern to the next FGB meeting.

6. Local Authority Standard Items

LA Pay Policy is not yet available.

Action: Defer LA Pay Policy to next FGB meeting.

7. Policy Review

Governors noted the following updated Policies uploaded on Governor Hub.

Uniform Policy

Q. Has this massively changed?

Mr Dickinson advised that it had not massively changed and that the “*” had been removed and girls could wear skirts with tights or wear pants.

The Head added that in the extreme heat the uniform had been relaxed and pupils could wear PE kit.

Behaviour for Learning Policy

Mr Dickinson informed the meeting that there are only a few tweaks to the policy.

Q. Has the balance of behaviour and rewards gone out of fashion, as it seems we are focussing on badly behaviour students, what about those who turn up and get on with their work?

Mr Dickinson advised that although this is the focus of the policy we also have the rewards system; this is being looked at again.

Restrictive Intervention Policy

Mr Dickinson explained that this is not a new policy and we always act on it however, if there is a significant intervention this needs to be reported and the parents informed and we have been using this since April.

Q. How is it communicated to Parents?

Parents will receive an email as well as a phone call.

One governor asked if the Behaviour Committee can be removed from the documents as we do not have one.

Resolved: Policies x 3 approved.

8. College Improvement Plan (CIP) and Self Evaluation

Mr Cormack proposed discussing the College Improvement Plan and Self-Evaluation (Item 8), and Principal's Report (Item 10) all together, as these are all linked.

The Principal informed the Governors that there are no changes to the CIP as we don't complete a final evaluation until the end of term and many areas are green and amber.

Principal's Report – focussed upon internal and external examinations with over 201 examinations taking place across the two sites and thanks to Sarah Platt for allowing

us to use the bottom floor of the Sarah Cowley Building for provision for SEN concessions. Thanks also to Angie, Danny and Stacey for their support during the examinations.

There is no further data on KS4 but there had been a significant shift in focus and atmosphere during the examinations, we had a strong start with pre-exam sessions and warm ups.

The Sixth Form examinations have gone well but we have concerns around one subject and we have some further work to do.

Attendance – the day after the strikes was the worst attended day of the whole year and also during the hot summer days we have remained open and kept students in school but unfortunately this has caused a low attendance. We have bounced back and increased by 10% but we have again been knocked by the World Cup football match. We are holding 90% but it will be tough over the next ten days with the weather, attendance is a challenge.

Q. What about holidays did that impact in May?

Yes this has been an issue but we are fighting back.

Q. Have you thought about showing the football?

A. Yes we did.

Behaviour – Suspensions have reduced and there has been an improvement since last year. Unfortunately we have had three permanent exclusions with two over the last three weeks, with one moving to a hearing on the last morning.

Safeguarding – Still have a lot of responsibility for safeguarding issues within the community.

9. Financial Management

The Principal informed governors that the budget had been signed off, with one matter of an SLA outstanding. That is the Careers Connect SLA, they have run the contract for the last few years and the cost for this year is £18,699 which has slightly increased. ~~this fall within Rob's brief.~~

Q. Is this the only Company?

A. We have looked into this and it is fairly comparable across authorities, there is always the question around advice and delivery, however it is a statutory requirement.

Resolved Governors agreed to the Contract.

10. Principal's Report

See item 8.

11. Link Governor Reports and Monitoring Visits

None to report.

Defer Mrs Hill's action (Link Governor Report – Curriculum and SEND) to the next FGB meeting.

12. Holiday Pattern

Defer discussion on 2027/28 school holiday pattern to the next FGB meeting.

13. Governor Development

The Chair advised governors to attend the training that is on offer.

14. Date and Time of Next FGB Meeting – Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 5pm

The Chair confirmed the above date for the next meeting.

15. Urgent Matters

The Principal added his thanks to all staff.

Also acknowledging all staff for arranging and taking Residential trips to Wales, France, Germany and we gave students in China

The Principal and governors noted the issues with the Sarah Cowley Building and stated it was not what was agreed and we will see what happens.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 5.40pm

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....