

## DEANSBROOK INFANT SCHOOL

**COMMITTEE: Pupils, Parents & Community Committee ( PCC)    Date: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026**

**Committee members:** Carole Catley (Headteacher), Ryan Hannan (Secretary/Parent Governor), Nick Mailer (Co-Opted Governor), Judith Suissa ( Co-Opted Governor), Ben Amoah ( Parent Governor), Nikki Simon (Chair/Deputy Headteacher), Amun Chadha (Parent Governor), Penka Georgieva Mihov (Parent Governor)

**Present:** CC, NM, JS, RH, BA    **Apologies:** NS,AC,PG    **Minutes:** Ryan Hannan

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	By whom	Deadline
<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	NS, PG, AC		
<b>MINUTES</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record		
<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	Safeguarding poster outside the staff toilet – completed.  AI Policy – not yet complete. CC apologised and confirmed it will be circulated once finalised		
<b>PUPILS</b>	<p><u>1 Admissions and Pupil Numbers</u> Current pupil numbers were reported as follows:</p> <p>Nursery: 38</p> <p>Reception: 59 (1 space available; new child starting after half-term, after which Reception will be full)</p> <p>Year 1: 55 (5 spaces available)</p> <p>Year 2: 59 (1 space available)</p> <p>Nursery capacity: Capacity of 39 per session.</p> <p>Approximately 4 spaces available, with a waiting list in place. April intake letters have been sent. 4 new children starting after Easter.</p>		

Mobility

One short-term starter attended for one day only, creating additional paperwork.

Two pupils have moved away.

Nursery admissions remain open throughout the year; Reception is more static.

Census Day:

The school was five pupils down on census day but has since recovered numbers.

The office actively monitors the School Allocation Management (SAM) system.

2 Attendance

The school is currently experiencing challenges with attendance.

Attendance data:

Reception: 93.4% / 92.9%

Year 1: 90.8% / 93.2%

Year 2: 92.5% / 93.2%

Post-Christmas illness significantly affected attendance, with some classes reduced to 18 pupils.

Persistent absence (below 90%):

Reception: 14 pupils

Year 1: 18 pupils

Year 2: 12 pupils

Actions taken:

Ongoing monitoring.

Letters sent to parents.

Face-to-face meetings held with Attendance Officers and the Education Welfare Officer (EDO).

	<p>CC noted that post-COVID parental attitudes may be contributing to increased absence.</p> <p>Medical absence:</p> <p>Barnet requirement of 48 hours exclusion following vomiting or diarrhoea confirmed.</p> <p>Holidays:</p> <p>New guidance noted:</p> <p>Fines now apply only for 10 consecutive unauthorised sessions (5 days).</p> <p>Time immediately before or after holidays is no longer automatically fined.</p> <p>No safeguarding concerns raised in relation to absence or holidays.</p> <p>Arbor confirmed as the system used to track attendance.</p> <p>Incentives and approach:</p> <p>Stamp books not used this year due to overall attendance levels.</p> <p>Discussion took place about potentially lowering the monitoring threshold (e.g. to 88%) to better target persistent absentees.</p> <p>Governors discussed the ethics, fairness, and validity of attendance systems, agreeing on the need for a more nuanced and compassionate approach.</p> <p><u>3 SEN Provision</u></p> <p>EHCPs: 11 pupils (5.2%), higher than the national average of 3.5%.</p> <p>Two additional EHCPs pending, likely increasing the total to 13.</p> <p>SEN Support: 14% of pupils.</p> <p>Total SEN (EHCP + SEN Support): approximately 25%.</p>		
--	---	--	--

	<p>CC explained:</p> <p>SEN support is largely delivered through adaptive teaching and is now embedded practice.</p> <p>The school is providing increased challenge for higher-attaining pupils.</p> <p>Breakdown of need:</p> <p>ASD: 8</p> <p>Speech &amp; Language: 17</p> <p>SEMH: 6</p> <p>Cognition &amp; Learning: 8</p> <p>Down Syndrome: 2</p> <p>EAL pupils are not included in these figures.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding:</p> <p>Practical challenges of teachers working within specialist provision (the Nest).</p> <p>The impact on other pupils and staff workload.</p> <p><u>4 Safeguarding</u></p> <p>One Child in Need (CIN).</p> <p>One child receiving Early Help.</p> <p>Two to three families monitored regularly.</p> <p>Parental consent required for CIN cases.</p>		
--	--	--	--

	<p>Referrals are now shared with parents, requiring careful wording.</p> <p>Governors agreed that factual, objective language is appropriate.</p>		
<b>SCHOOL COUNCIL</b>	<p>School Council ★ Highlight of the Meeting</p> <p>The Committee welcomed a visit from School Council representatives from Year 1 and Year 2.</p> <p>Pupils explained that School Council members are democratically elected, having been voted for by their classmates.</p> <p>The pupils were enthusiastic and confident, sharing ideas and outlining what they had already worked on. They shared their ideas about children having positions of responsibility such as playground leaders etc.</p> <p>Governors noted the pupils' willingness to contribute, their sense of responsibility, and their pride in representing their peers.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that this was a positive example of pupil voice in action and a strong reflection of the school's inclusive and participatory ethos.</p>		
<b>POLICIES</b>	<p>Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy – incomplete and to be finalised and shared.</p>		
<b>PARENTS</b>	<p><b>PTA</b> Christmas Fun Day:</p> <p>Well attended and successful.</p> <p>Organised by Lyn Colyer (PTA).</p> <p>Ben acted as Santa; a parent provided photography.</p> <p>Raised approximately £400–£500.</p>		

	<p>Upcoming events:</p> <p>Easter Bonnets</p> <p><u>Summer Fair – 27 June</u></p> <p>PTA engagement remains challenging.</p> <p>Joe and Lyn co-chair; the PTA continues to rely on former parents for support.</p>		
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<p><u>1 School Website</u></p> <p>A new wellbeing section has been added, including links for parents and children.</p> <p><u>2 Lettings</u></p> <p>Estimated income of £11,000, with potential to exceed this.</p> <p>Holiday club was cancelled.</p> <p>Clubs are running well.</p> <p>Possible new weekend Arabic classes under consideration.</p>		
<b>AOB</b>	None raised.		
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p>Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 10.00am</p> <p>Deansbrook Infant School</p>		