

St Anthony's and St Walburga's

LAC minutes

Wednesday 8th July 2026

Held at St Anthony's Primary School, Shipley

Present:

Ashley Wilkinson – Headteacher at St Anthony's Shipley (AW)
 Elizabeth Fearnley – Headteacher at St Walburga's Shipley (EF)
 Kath Spillane – Chair of the LAC and Foundation Governor (KS)
 Nick Connor – Foundation Governor (NC)
 Fiona Hahn – Staff Governor (FH)
 Barbara Kelly – Vice-Chair of the LAC and Foundation Governor (BK)
 Father Kieron Walker – Foundation Governor (Fr. KW)
 Carol Armitage – Parent Governor (CA)
 Maud Halstead – Parent Governor (MH)
 David Hutton – Foundation Governor (DH)
 Irekpitan Okukpon – Foundation Governor (IO)
 Wendi Thompson – SGS Clerk (WT)

Apologies:

The meeting commenced at 6pm.

Nº	Item	Purpose
1	Opening Prayer	The meeting opened with a prayer led by Liz Fearnley.
2	Welcome, apologies for absence, declarations of interest and approval of agenda	Attendance (Clerk to confirm this has been recorded) ○ Completed. Accept or decline apologies. ○ Carol Armitage, Fr. Kieron Walker and Barbara Kelly. Any declarations of interest ○ None to declare. Approval of agenda ○ Agreed with no variations. Reminder of the confidentiality of all agenda items ○ Agreed. Any other business ○ None raised.
3	Minutes	• The previous minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2026 were approved.
4	Matters Arising	• There were no outstanding actions not otherwise covered within the agenda.
5	Correspondence	• Trust Leadership Changes: Two new CEOs (Rob Pritchard and Darren Beardsley) and two new CFOs have been appointed across the Trusts, with transition ongoing.

		• Governor Induction: Vicki Langford manages onboarding and Governor Hub access. All governors were reminded to complete the Effectiveness Tool and pen portraits by September 2026. • Website Updates: Discussion on updating governor information and photos, with privacy concerns raised about using images online.
6	Chairs update	None to add.
7	Catholic Life & Mission	Key Activities: • Year 5 Saint Day: Focus on St Gianni Beretta. • May Devotions: Processions and prayers for Mary, despite weather challenges. • Ascension Day: Masses held in person and online, with good participation. • First Holy Communion: 24 children participated across the parish. • Charitable Acts: Sponsored acts of kindness with funds donated to the Mark 10 Mission. • Collective Worship: Use of national resources (Mark 10 Mission), with staff and children leading worship and positive community feedback. • Community Engagement: Flowers from May procession donated to a local care home; choir participation noted.
8	Headteachers summary	St Anthony's • Pupil Premium: 40% of 105 pupils, with numbers rising as overall roll falls. • Attendance: Below national and local authority averages; Friday and Monday absences prominent. ○ Current Strategies: Letters to parents, meetings, fines, use of Arbor app, attendance rewards, signage, and enrichment activities. ○ New Ideas: More child-focused incentives (e.g., discos), potential parent/child questionnaires to identify barriers. ○ Challenges: Parental attitudes, term-time holidays, and persistent absence among younger cohorts. • Achievement & Attainment: ○ Phonics: Year 1 at 88% (above target and national); Year 2 above target with ongoing support for children with speech/language needs. ○ Key Stage Results: In line or above targets, with close monitoring of maths outcomes, especially in Key Stage 2. ○ Multiplication Tables Check (MTC): Significant improvement from 14% to 36% scoring full marks; 50% scored above 20. ○ Progress: Strong overall, with specific interventions for high-need cohorts (notably Year 5). • Suspensions & Behaviour: ○ Two suspensions (racist and homophobic comments) handled with parental support and restorative action. ○ 12 bullying cases addressed, with one ongoing formal complaint. • SEND/EHCPs: Decrease from 6 to 5 due to pupil departures; significant SEN in Reception (30%+), impacting GLD targets. St Walburga's • GLD (Good Level of Development): 60% achieved (target 76%); high SEND percentage in Reception.

		• Phonics: 93% pass rate in Year 1; only one Year 2 child (with EHCP) did not pass. • MTC: 59% at full marks, slightly below target, with overall scores improving. • Key Stage Results: Strong reading, maths, and greater depth attainment; writing remains a focus. • Staffing Impact: Reduced TA numbers due to budget, with creative reallocation and prioritization for high-need areas (e.g., Lighthouse provision for SEND).
9	Staffing update	St Walburga's: • New SPM (Liz Dearden) has started. • Loss of outstanding SEND TA/mentor (Rebecca Layla); cannot be replaced due to fixed-term contract limitations. • Some TAs are not renewed; creative timetabling and intervention focus to maximize impact. St Anthony's: • Internal teacher moves to better match staff strengths to high-need cohorts. • Two TA contracts renewed until January; breakfast club supervisor continuing. • One cleaner on long-term sick leave, with HR support. General Concerns: • Morale affected by staffing cuts and increased workload. • Staff well-being is a priority, with recognition of the challenges faced across all schools.
10	Safeguarding update	• Audit: Successful safeguarding audit from Bradford, with only minor suggestions for curriculum efficiency. • Team: 5 DSLs in place; workload and time management discussed. • Data: Increase in vulnerable pupils to 40%. • Parental Requests: Two SARs (subject access requests) related to bullying; increased workload due to AI-driven parental requests.
11	Nursery provision update	Nursery Provision: Deferred to next meeting for full attendance.
12	Finance summary	St Anthony's: • Achieved a £16k surplus due to increased funding for disadvantaged pupils. • Plans to use surplus for SEND resources, building improvements, and Forest Schools, with some reserved for future years. • Ongoing challenge with catering debts; strict threshold for parent debts. St Walburga's: • Budget deficit of approx. £19k. • Loss of Sports Premium funding (£18k). • Staffing and enrichment activities affected by financial constraints. Income Generation: St Walburga's to host Kanga holiday club, generating £6k annually.
13	Meeting schedule for 26 - 27	Dates set for next year, with flexibility for finance meetings as needed. Dates of LAC meetings for 2026 – 2027 all at 6pm • Tuesday 6 October 2026 at St Walburga's • Wednesday 9 December 2026 at St Anthony's • Tuesday 9 February 2027 at St Walburga's

		• Wednesday 28 April 2027 at St Anthony's • Tuesday 6 July 2027 at St Walburga's Dates of Finance committee meetings for 2026 – 2027 all hybrid at 1.30pm. • Wednesday 9 December 2026 • Tuesday 9 February 2027 • Wednesday 21 April 2027 • Tuesday 15 June 2027
14	Link governor visits	Improved organisation of governor monitoring reports on Governor Hub. Plans to align governor visits and roles across both schools for consistency.
15	Policies	No new policies for approval at this meeting; several are expected in September.
16	Governor training	Training: All governors to complete Keeping Children Safe in Education in September; Effectiveness Tool and pen portraits required.
17	Questions for the Trust Board	LACs to submit any questions to the Trust Board through Vicky.langford@bcwcat.co.uk
18	Grounds and premises	St Anthony's: Tree work, water heater replacements, asbestos management, and glazing remedial work scheduled. Allergen training was completed in advance of Benedict's Law. St Walburga's: Minor jobs scheduled; income from Kanga club; ongoing communication with providers to ensure parent access. Challenges: Difficulties in engaging parents for in-school events and voluntary activities. Events: Summer fairs, leavers' events, and a new color run for fundraising and community building. Transparency: Advance notice of trip costs and payment plans implemented.
19	Any other Business	Gratitude: Chair thanked all governors, staff, and children for their commitment and achievements during a challenging year. Upcoming Events: Leavers' disco, masquerade, and color run highlighted.
20	Agenda, papers, and minutes - confidentiality	Governors agreed that there were no confidential items discussed during the meeting.
21	Meeting closure	The meeting ended at 7.30pm.