



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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11/02/26

Minutes

Learning, Standards & Safeguarding Committee Spring 2026
Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 9.30am at ADMAT Central Office

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

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

Apologies: None

Not Present: Graeme Barriball and Ian Wilkinson

In Attendance: Gemma Peacock (Governance Officer)

The Chair discussed question 2 of the Trust Identity, ‘How do we Behave’ and reminded Committee members of their responsibility during the meeting’s discussions to ensure that value is added to the organisation.

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

None declared relevant to this agenda.

3. **Confirm minutes of previous LSS Autumn (15th October 2025) and matters arising (MS/GP)**

- Add to priority number one – try to identify funds to provide maths interventions (EG/JC/FRS). *Everything that is being done is being done. There is no funding for tutoring. JC and the committee discussed potential other options but there is no perfect answer. We may need to make difficult decisions in order to ensure we maintain good standards. There is no spare money, so if we want to provide additional Maths provision, we will need to cut something else. Perhaps discuss under item 5?*
- **Look why the good teaching is not translating into good results (JC).** *Discuss at item 5.*
- Look at whether money can be found from somewhere, even if decision needs to be made to cut something else (FRS). *This will have to be found from within the current budget if it is to happen. Perhaps discuss under item 5?*
- Future staffing will be discussed at FRS. *Discussed under confidential minutes at FRS.*
- Cyber Security response plan to be approved at full Board. *Approved at full Board 10th Dec 2025, item 12. Done.*
- **Child on child abuse policy carried forward due to awaiting changes from LA (CP).** *See item 13*

The Committee agreed the minutes and the chair signed a copy.

4. Confidential Agenda Items (Chair/JC)

Two items of confidentiality relating to collaboration and a staff member were recorded in the confidential minutes.

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

5. Data (JC)

The Committee reviewed the Trust data which was based on assessments completed during the Autumn term and teacher assessment. JC noted:

- EYFS is in-line with the national average
- Year 2 data is ok although the data for children with SEND is low and this is the same for children with SEND in EYFS.
- Maths is looking ok for the year 4 children who will be taking the multiplication check.
- The year 6 cohort is looking better this year although their data is slightly below the national average in SPAG and maths. Writing is also lower for this year's cohort at 68%. Further work will be undertaken to try and improve this percentage and a conference was recently attended which provided some ideas to help support the children.
- Phonics- the Trust are currently expecting 71% of children to pass phonics.
- The English Hub are providing support to Callington.

How many free school meals are also children with SEND? CP confirmed that there is an enormous crossover between these groups of children. The data also includes children who are part of the ARB at St Stephens. **Could SEND children be disaggregated from the data to enable the Committee to further view performance against the national average?** JC noted that the Trust will be judged on all children and children with SEN will be included in the data. The Trust however, ensures that all children are making progress however, it has to be accepted that some children with SEN will not make the national average. **Is there anything additional that can be done?** The Trust provides a 'Small Steps' programme for SEND children. **Can progression be compared with other schools who also have a 'Small Steps' programme?** Schools offer different programmes however, Ofsted reports for schools in the An Daras Trust have all praised the SEN provision. A recent audit by SEN Services supported this with the provision being commended.

The Directors noted that they need to be assured that the Trust continues to challenge themselves and further work needs to be undertaken with boys. **What is the issue with writing?** JC explained that the experiences children have been exposed to varies, however, it is often easier to access reading and maths at home. **Have maths interventions been taking place?** Resources from the National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics are being used with the younger years, however, it will take time for there to be an impact. Callington have been given 15 I-Pads for maths and the subject area is looking stronger this year however, it is being monitored.

At school level, LGBs analyse individual children and where improvements can be made. Pupil progress meetings are held, and personal and challenging targets are set for each child. Neil Swait has visited all schools in the Trust to review pupil progress meetings and provide suggestions for further support.

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.

It was noted that staff retention and sickness have had a significant impact on the data.

Attendance data was discussed and is in line with the national average however, it was noted that there is some persistent absence in certain schools which needs to be improved over the next few months. St Stephens School and St Catherine's will be presenting on a parent engagement project at the next meeting of the Cornwall Association of Primary Headteachers. CP has also recently attended a conference on school attendance in Cornwall which considered the different factors that affect attendance.

6. **Improvement (JC)**

JC discussed the Academy Improvement Plan which is focusing on fortnightly coaching for staff. This is going positively and was also the topic of a recent inset day. It is, however, trickier in some of the smaller schools due to staffing and this is being supported by Deborah Saunders who is providing some coaching. The other priority of the Academy Improvement Plan is oracy.

Progress is being monitored at St Stephens following the changes to teaching classes of mixed ages and the reduction in the number of classes.

The Committee considered Deborah's report on 'Why Teaching isn't Translating into Good Results'. [The Directors asked if repetition and routine can be introduced?](#) JC explained that it is often difficult when a teacher is absent because a supply teacher wouldn't know the individual needs of a child. [How would you describe the quality of teaching in the Trust?](#) The quality of teaching across the Trust is variable however, where support is needed this is put in place. The Trust always looks to improve.

The Directors felt that it was very helpful to have the internal progress report.

Low Trenchard is due a SIAMS visit. The Foundation Director noted that the Christian culture is visible and the school is well prepared and confident ahead of the visit which is likely to take place this year. [Is there any further work to be done?](#) The Diocese have visited the school to undertake a mock SIAMS visit and monitoring is being undertaken by the LGB.

A confidential matter relating to collaboration was discussed and recorded under the confidential minutes.

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

No recent changes have been made to the curriculum however; the new curriculum is expected to be released shortly.

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

JC confirmed that the Trust are meeting both the PPA and ECT requirements for staff.

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

An error was noted in the HR Exceptions Report- the number of days absent on page 3 of the report should state from 1st November. There have been several staff absent through serious illnesses which is having a massive impact on staff absence figures. Several maternity covers are also expected shortly.

Recruitment and retention are a national issue, and it is important to make the Trust an attractive

place to work. [The Directors asked that bearing in mind the Trust's mission statement that An Daras is seen as a family, is there anything further that can be done to retain staff?](#) The Committee noted that there are subtle things such as recognising when people are doing well. [What do other Trusts do?](#) JC explained that retention rates for the Trust are actually good, it is recruitment of staff that is more difficult. It is hoped that the tackling of some long-term absence issues will also help to improve staff morale.

10. Safeguarding (JC/CP)

Devon Schools are required to submit their S157 by 13th February. There is a different timeline for the Cornwall Schools who are awaiting copies of the forms which will need to be submitted by the end of June.

There have been no safeguarding concerns reported in any of the schools. Callington are pending a safeguarding audit. CP has been reviewing the SCR's for some schools with LGBs to ensure compliance. No safeguarding training will take place this term however, with the move to the new training platform, National College, all staff will be required to complete one safeguarding module after Easter. New school support staff will now be given their first working day to complete their mandatory training packages. It has been decided that staff will complete GDPR training every other year. CP further noted that the release of the White Paper is likely to have an impact on safeguarding.

11. Safety (JC)

The committee considered the Health and Safety Exceptions report. The report highlighted some concerns with some major repairs remaining outstanding. The water hygiene risk assessment ensures that the schools are currently compliant however, there would be a risk if repairs are not made. There are also two schools where the heating system is not working. [Will there be any CIF funding?](#) JC explained that CIF funding is more difficult to obtain. [Are there plans in place for next winter?](#) The schools concerned have small heaters. Princetown have undergone a radon survey due to increased radon levels. [Have the other schools also had a radon survey?](#) **JC would check and report back at the next LSS meeting.** [Is there a grading system for the repairs that need to be made?](#) Sam Cardew has a grading system to help with prioritisation.

12. Compliance (JC)

All new staff are required to complete cyber security training. Schools display posters regarding GDPR. The Class DOJO platform is now being "housed" in America and parents will be required to re-sign consent forms to access the App so that they are aware of where their data is being stored.

13. Update on the Werrington Support Plan (JC)

JC explained that Werrington is now in a positive place and fully staffed. The Head of School now has release time in which they are coached by the Headteacher. The 30/60/90 day support plan is being worked through, and the Committee noted the positive report that was received from the Headteacher. The Committee wished to thank the Headteacher, Head of School and SENDCO in recognition of all their hard work.

It was agreed that Werrington no longer needs to be a separate item on the committee agenda.

14. **Policy Review (GP)**

- a. Asbestos Management (SC)- approved with no changes.
- b. Fire Prevention and Precaution (SC)- approved with no changes.
- c. Health & Safety (SC)- changes approved and the statement of intent was signed by JC and JS.
- d. Child on child abuse (CP)- approved with minor amendments. A further review of the policy may be required following the release of the White Paper.
- e. Restraint and control of pupils (JC)- approved with minor changes.
- f. Inclusion Guidance (JC)- approved with no changes.

15. **AOB (Chair/GP)**

MAT Inspections. **This item was carried forward to the full board agenda.**

A confidential staffing matter was discussed and recorded in the confidential minutes.

16. **Date of Next Meeting (GP)**

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 13th May 2026

Meeting closed at 11:21 am

GL Peacock

ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

J. Callow – CEO Director M. Savage – Director (Chair) G. Shippesides – Director (Vice Chair) J. Sharpe – Director (Board Chair)	G. Barriball – Director C. Paul – Director I. Wilkinson - Director
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