

Date	16.7.24	Location	West Down Primary School		
Governor name	Initials		Present	Apologies (Sanctioned)	Apologies (not sanctioned)
Susan Carey	SC	Co-Head	Y		
Faye Poynter	FP	Co-Head		Y	
Rachel Harding	RH	Staff	Y (online)		
Sian Jenkins	SB	Co-Opted Chair	Y		
Chris Galloway	CG	Co-Opted			Y
David Richardson	DRi	Co-Opted		Y	
Tandy Ruoff	TR	Foundation			Y
Caroline Raby	CR	Foundation	Y		
Campbell Orr	CO	LA		Y	
David Chugg	DC	Parent	Y		
Debbie Radley	DRa	Parent	Y		
In attendance:					
Jo Williams	JW	Clerk			
Gary Chown	GC	CEO, Ventrus	Online		

Staff in attendance:

Lucy Jones	LJ	Isobel Fowler	IF
Sarah Higgins	SH	Carole Henderson	CH
Jane Upton	JU	Tim Spelman	TS
Louise Richards - online	LR		

Being the best we can be, committed to making a difference

1	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Prayer</p> <p>There were apologies as recorded above. The meeting was quorate. CR leads the prayer.</p> <p>Governors welcomed Rachel Harding (Class Teacher) as the new staff Governor.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no new declarations of interests.</p>	
3	<p>Agree the minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>W 13 June 2024 Minutes FGB .docx</p> <p>Governors approved the minutes as an accurate and true record.</p>	
4	<p>Tarka Conversion Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion with staff and CEO of Ventrus - staff members have been invited to discuss changes within Tarka with Governors <p>Staff were invited to speak with Gary Chown, CEO of Ventrus, to discuss the merger of Ventrus and Tarka and how this will affect the academisation of West Berry Federation who are going through due diligence to join Tarka.</p> <p><i>Does Ventrus understand the challenges small schools face as well as Tarka do?</i> GC explained that Ventrus has a lot of small schools, more than Tarka has and some smaller than Berrynarbor and West Down. He explains the trust started with small schools so he feels the trust understands small schools well.</p> <p>GC shared that Ventrus supports quality teaching to improve outcomes for children. He states Ventrus has better results than Tarka, which does not have such a strong model for School Improvement as Ventrus. Children from deprived backgrounds have performed better in Ventrus schools than Tarka schools for the last three years. Attainment is roughly 20% higher on average. GC therefore believes Ventrus is better for all children.</p> <p><i>Would Ventrus separate the federated schools?</i> GC explains legally the federation wouldn't exist after they joined the trust. But schools who were federated before academising with Ventrus can still consider themselves a federation and work together as they did before. As time passes the schools may see themselves more as part of the trust rather than in a federation. A previous federation who joined the trust retained their Head Teacher, but when they resigned the trust reverted the schools to a single Head Teacher model. This was over a few years and naturally evolved.</p> <p>CG believes the merger between Tarka and Ventrus will help Tarka become the bigger trust it needs to be and Ventrus to have a better foothold in North Devon. He believes this will be a bigger and better trust after the merger.</p> <p><i>Does Ventrus have more schools in South Devon than North Devon?</i> If Tarka and Ventrus merge there will be 24 schools in North Devon. Many of Ventrus' senior team already live and work in North Devon.</p>	

West Berry Federation Governors choose to academise with Tarka over Ventrus partly because they felt their vision and values aligned. Will Ventrus' values incorporate Tarka's when they join together? GC feels the trust's vision and value statements are similar already. He invites staff to visit any Ventrus schools to talk to staff to see how they feel the values benefit the school and children.

CG states a larger trust is in a better position to protect the cultural identity, vision and values of the trust more than a smaller trust which relies more on individuals to lead on these.

A larger trust will also provide more opportunities for staff and a wider pool of talent to access.

Governors voted to join Tarka but they won't exist anymore. Should Governors relook at the decision? If the Department of Education approves Ventrus and Tarka joining this will be true and Governors should reconsider their decision and decide if they would like to continue with the new trust. Many of the reasons the Governors chose to join the Tarka trust will still stand.

Staff have had time to get to know colleagues within Tarka and have learnt a lot about the way they work. Will staff have the opportunity to get to know Ventrus staff?

Yes, GC believes this is a good idea and he would encourage staff to meet informally and meet with different groups, for example, the SENCO network, and to visit schools and see how the Ventrus schools work on the ground. Staff and Governors should be assured that the schools fit within the trusts philosophy as well as practically and they know what they are "buying in to". SJ also informs staff that although the federation will not be able to join until January 2025 (as they would wait until the merger has taken place) it means they will have the Autumn term to work alongside Ventrus and Tarka schools, as they have been with Tarka, so have this time to get to know Ventrus.

If the federation had already joined the Tarka Trust they would not have the choice to join Ventrus or not, but currently the federation still has the opportunity to rescind their decision to join a trust.







When would the federation be able to join the trust from? It would probably not be able to join until January 2025 if all goes well with the merger.







From September Ventrus and Tarka will merge their School Improvement teams, the same quality assurance and peer reviews will take place across all the two trusts schools. West Berry Federation will be invited to join all of this which will be a great opportunity to test what's on offer.

The landscape around multi-academy trusts is not complete, the other local MATs will be reforming and evolving. CG believes it is up to school leaders to ensure this is done with a legitimacy and legacy which really works and will make sense when we look back at the architecture of education in the future and this is what he is focusing on.

CG asks for everyone to be wary of urban myths. He believes there has been a breakdown in communication within some of the Tarka schools which has meant there has been some anxiety about the direction of Tarka. He asks that a decision on the federation joining Ventrus is made

	<p>on good, hard evidence.</p> <hr/> <p>4pm GC, SH, LJ, CH, IF, LR and JU leave the meeting.</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tarka and Ventrus merger <p>FP was concerned about the Deputy HT role being safe but Governors have confirmed this would remain as long as she kept the post. If she leaves however, Ventrus would not reappoint. The Co-Headship would not continue if either SC or FP resigned.</p> <p>DC proposes West Berry Federation continues with academisation with the Ventrus/Tarka merged trust. SJ seconds.</p> <p>DECISION Governors vote to continue with joining the Ventrus/Tarka trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Governance structure and vacancies <p>Governors will ask GC to come and speak to Governors again on this.</p>	DECISION
5	<p>Review Actions from the last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TR to look at the elements of Christian distinctiveness at Berrynarbor against the SIAMS requirements. SC and TR to organise time to look at this. - ACTION SC to talk to TR - Staff Governor Vacancy - Completed - Governors welcome Rachel Harding. - SJ to review the Governance section of SDO and share report with Governors - See item 10 - CO to share his report on behaviour with Governors. Completed (item 10) - DC to meet with the Business Manager for Budget Monitor. Ongoing ACTION DC spoke to BM and suggested they meet in the new term - SJ to contact Tarka and Ventrus to ask what the new trust will look like and how they will consider federations. Completed. - Staff Exit Interview questionnaire. Completed Exit Interview Policy March 2024.docx <p>Exit Interview Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dates for meetings next year Ongoing ACTION JW to share dates for Autumn term only. 	<p>ACTION SC</p> <p>ACTION DC</p> <p>ACTION JW</p>
6	<p>Business brought forward by the Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teeth brushing - <p>DRa received a letter to ask if schools would sign up to the toothbrushing initiative. The schools have decided they are not able to facilitate this at this time.</p>	
7	<p>Head Teachers Report - Written</p> <p>Summer 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sport Premium Report - Pupil Premium Report - SATs results analysis <p><i>Have Berrynarbor's Early Years results fallen?</i> Yes, but these results are based on just eight children.</p> <p>Two children from West Down KS2 have had special circumstances approved for their exams, but this is not reflected in the data. The Department for Education would take this into consideration when they look at the data though.</p>	

	<p>Berrynarbor KS2 results actually showed amazing progress for many of this year group. There are some lovely individual success stories but this does not reflect in the data unfortunately. When you see where children came from these are great results.</p> <p>Will an After School Club be offered at West Down soon? SC is trying to set up one up to start in September 2024. However, it can only be offered to Year One and above as the person who will be running it doesn't have the Early Years qualification.</p> <p>Will this mean families who need the wrap around care won't be able to access it? It will, but not much need has been presented at the moment. SC will reconsider the offer if lots of families who need the care are not able to access it. There will be a requirement soon to offer wrap around care, but it is difficult to find staff to cover these awkward times. There is a Breakfast Club at both schools which are covering their costs. If this becomes funded more families may access it.</p> <p>Berrynarbor's After School Club is doing well.</p> <p>Attendance - there have been no unauthorised absences which have met the threshold for a fine this year, but absences have been higher this term due to term time holidays. Sarah Higgins has agreed to take on the lead teacher role for helping to manage absences and speak to families.</p> <p>Bullying and racism is still an issue with some children. The schools are tackling this but it is an ongoing issue.</p> <p>Do other schools have these issues too? Yes, other schools are seeing the same issues. It is possibly due to online use. It used to be more of an issue for senior schools but it is filtering down.</p> <p>Have there been any concerns raised by parents on the Life Curriculum? None have been raised with school.</p>	
8	<p>Budget Monitor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  G121 Detailed BM 11.07.24 - Gov.pdf  Cover page - 11.07.24 - Gov.pdf  G120 Detailed BM 11.07.24 - Gov.pdf <p>There have been some staff changes so there will be some new appointments and a slight change in the structure. DC will discuss the budget with the Business Manager in the new term.</p>	
9	<p>Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life Curriculum Policy  Life Curriculum Policy (Relationships and Sex Education Poli... - SC Ongoing ACTION - Collective Worship Policy  Collective Worship Policy 2020-2022.docx - SJ, TR and CR Ongoing ACTION - Behaviour Policy (and Exclusion Policy)  Promoting Positive Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy April 2023-2024.docx - Ongoing ACTION SC is working on this with staff at the moment. 	<p>ACTION SC</p> <p>ACTION SJ, TR and CR</p> <p>ACTION SC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff Behaviour Policy - DECISION Governors agree to continue with the Code of Conduct already in place. 	DECISION
10	<p>Governors Monitoring Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum Governing monitor report - SJ Ongoing ACTION - SENDCo report - CO Ongoing ACTION - Safeguarding Lead report -  Respect and Values Report 12.07.24.pdf - Health and Safety report -  Health and Safety Report Spring : Summer.pdf <p>Are the school exits compliant and safe? SC is looking at all the school access points and will be reviewing this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review progress against SDP from learning walks - The Headteacher reports have have rag rating to show how far they have progressed on the SDP. 	ACTION SJ ACTION CO
11	<p>Ethos and Vision Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TR, CR and SJ to share Ethos and Vision discussion from their meeting 21 June 24 - meeting has been postponed until 17 July 2024. <p>ACTION TR, CR and SJ to share update</p>	ACTION TR, CR and SJ
12	<p>Data Protection Officer Annual Report</p> <p> DPO Report for Gov 16.07.24.pdf</p> <p>ACTION Governors to read the report.</p>	ACTION All Governors
13	<p>One Minute Update</p> <p> No 02 Single Central Record - Jan 2024.pdf</p> <p>All Governors to read the one minute update.</p>	
14	<p>Impact of Governance</p> <p> gb-self-evaluation-guidance-20220329.docx</p> <p>ACTION All Governors to read and consider the self evaluation.</p> <p>ACTION JW to add to September agenda.</p>	ACTION All ACTION JW
15	<p>What have we done today to ensure and assure ourselves in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; SC would like to see Governors contribute to the School Development Plan. There are three main points - mental health, writing and inclusion. The SDP will create a 100 day plan from next year rather than the plan lasting a whole year so it will be more responsive.</i> ACTION All Governors to read and add questions or comments to the SDP. ● <i>Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;</i> Governors reviewed the achievement data with SC. ● <i>Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.</i> Reviewed budget monitor and plan for a review of the budget in the new school year. 	
16	<p>Date of next meeting -  Autumn 24 FGB dates</p>	