

OLDCASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

INSPIRE - MOTIVATE - EDUCATE

Goreu Cam, Cam Cyntaf - The most important step is the first step



Oldcastle Primary School Minutes Curriculum Meeting 29.01.2026

Present - Ceri Littlewood, Lowri George, Sara Peters, Barrie Lewis, Angela Minton, Rachel Evans, Charlotte Ellett, Ian Williams, Liz Maddocks

Apologies - Damian Faulkner, Lyn Walters, Heather Holder, Ros Whitelock, Nerys Sales

Not Present - James Lewis

1. Matters arising

● For Information	● To be Actioned
● No minutes to agree ● No matters brought forward from previous minutes	● Noted

2. Data Update

● For Information	● To be Actioned
● The new updated MER was shared with governors, this is now very much focused on teaching and learning and has been developed with staff working on a focus of 'seeing the school through each others eyes'. An explanation was provided around how the MER will be used and how it will be updated focusing on the Magic 8 wheel and the school's priorities. Gvs Version of Oldcastle MER Programme 2025 - 2026 ● Feedback reports will also change, in future they will show what the school has noticed, what analysis has shown, what the school's response is along with future actions. ● Book Looks and Learning Walks have also been changed following consultation with staff and the focus of seeing the school through each others eyes; these are now group efforts, allowing all staff the opportunity to give feedback to their peers with collaboration between staff. ● Autumn Data is now available in three formats, teacher assessment data, WAG assessment data, Summative assessment data and this has been shared with staff with planned actions. Links are shown below to all the data that has been shared - PDF Data analysis overview- Autumn 2026 (3).pdf PDF Data analysis (main findings) - Autumn 2026 (2).pdf PDF Data analysis (Vulnerable groups)- Autumn 2026 (1).pdf	● Noted ● Noted

Mrs Ceri Littlewood - Headteacher

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Data analysis (RWI)- Autumn 2026.pdf

- Discussion was held around spelling and the school's ongoing progress in this area, progression is being made but children are not yet reaching their chronological age. This is currently being reviewed to see what changes can be made to move this forward.
- Governors asked the following questions-
What does on or above mean?
CL responded that this means children are on or above target. This is based on the progression of each child against a pre-agreed target, the target is based on a criteria set by the school.

How does the data compare with other schools?

CL responded that this is difficult to judge as every school has its own criteria and targets, and each child's targets will be set against the school criteria, WG recognise that the system is difficult and hopefully information will be forthcoming around a future directive bringing this data together.

Brynteg recognises that Oldcastle children arrive ready and able to learn and as a governor, I do not want that to change? How are we ensuring this continues.

CL responded that the cluster is working very closely together in maintaining some non-negotiables in the criteria during transition, and the cluster has been recognised for its good work in this area.

Is the standard of children starting school lower?

CL responded that yes it is, some children start school with very good iPad skills but have never seen a book, communication skills are often lower.

Does the fact that the school has a no homework policy affect spelling?

CL responded, that yes possible not sending spelling homework home may be having an impact and the school is about to look at this, but we only want to send spelling home if it is purposeful, previously children had set spelling words that they sometimes learned but then did not use the words again in context, this is being reviewed and we will update you in due course.

When is the next review of data?

- Noted

- Update on spelling changes in the summer term

*ongoing
Ryfle pckeo*

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CL responded that it is in the summer term.

3. Feedback from the book look

For Information	To be Actioned
The Headteacher shared the guidance provided to teachers around the book looks a copy is available to view below.  Copy of Stakeholders Purpose and Goals of Book Looks. Feedback from the book look was shared and the full report is available to view below. - The recent book looks feedback indicates a comprehensive approach to integrating cross-curricular skills, specifically in literacy, numeracy, and digital competence, across various year groups. The whole school participated in their progression steps. - The reports highlight the scaffolding strategies employed to support all learners, including those with ALN, English, and EAL. Teachers utilise various methods such as visual aids, sentence starters, and modelled examples to ensure that all students can access the curriculum and thrive in their learning environments. Next steps agreed - - Continue to embed cross-curricular skills in lesson planning and delivery. - Increase the focus on documenting and evidencing numeracy progression across all year groups. - Enhance the integration of digital competence through planned activities and assessments. - Provide ongoing professional development for staff on effective feedback strategies. - Teaching staff to implement regular monitoring and evaluation of pupils' progress to inform teaching practices. A copy of the full report is available below.  Govs Cross Curricular Booklooks Stakeholder Feedback Report: Oldcastle ...	Noted

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4. Progression Step Planning

• For Information	• To be Actioned
A Report was provided across progression stages 1,2 and 3 providing feedback, an analysis, the school's response and actions required. The report is available to view in the school drive and a link is shown below. Govs Feedback Report: Oldcastle Primary School Planning CL advised that there will be a review of the curriculum and some changes are likely to be made, staff will be fully involved in this through evaluation at the end of the term, this feedback will then be used going forward to further develop the school's curriculum.	Noted

5. Enrichment and PE

• For Information	• To be Actioned
- The headteacher advised that there seems to be some talk amongst parents regarding PE and enrichment activities being stopped. Clarification was provided to governors that PE is ongoing in all classes weekly and is a time tabled activity. Enrichment also takes place in all classes but this may not look like it did before due to staffing, it no longer always takes place on a Friday but it is happening. - Governor questions - How long is a PE lesson? CL responded that it is 50 minutes physical exercise with additional time of 20 minutes around PE based theory. The theory part may not always happen, for example Year 6 are currently swimming as their PE lesson and the time it takes to get there, get changed, swim and get back means that the theory part does not take place.	Noted

6. Governor Day

• For Information	• To be Actioned
A governor day is planned for Monday 16th March 2026 between 9.15am and 12pm.	Noted

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- This is an opportunity for all governors to visit classes, talk to pupils and staff, look at books or do some table sessions with children. It's an opportunity for you to watch classes, and help you to see the school's day to day activities and to give you a feel for what's going on. - Confirmation of attendance received from the following governors - - Lowri George - Charlotte Ellett - Barrie Lewis - Sara Peters - Rachel Evans - Ian Williams Apologies received from- Angela Minton Lyn Walters Please can remaining governors advise the school office as soon as possible if they are able to attend	Action - remaining governors to advise school of attendance.
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7. ALN Evaluation

For Information	To be Actioned
An evaluation of ALN provision has been carried out by Nia Vaughan and a report was provided. This report has been shared with teachers who have children on IDPs. See the link below -  Oldcastle Primary School ALN Evaluation.pdf	Noted

10. PDG Evaluation

For Information	To be Actioned
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- The school is required to report back in this area to both WG and the LA. The report highlights what Oldcastle does as a school with its PDG funding and shows the support being provided. - Governors copy of PDG Evaluation- Oldcastle 2025 - 26 - Highlights of the report are - - The school shares the Pupil Development Grant on its website. - The school is effective in many areas of the provision. - There is a gap in attendance between EFSM and UPFSM and staff are actively addressing this. - The school maintains a deep seated approach to mitigating the impact of poverty and has a planned approach.	Noted
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13. AOB

For Information	To be Actioned
- The Headteacher thanked governors for their support last term in agreeing the additional staffing requirements in order that the school could move forward. The staff are now in place and have hit the ground running and settled in really well. - A governor asked if there was any budget news for the new school year. CL responded that no news other than there would not be a cut this year and grants may be slightly bigger. No details have yet been confirmed.	Noted

The minutes are a true reflection of the meeting held on Wednesday 29.01.26

Agreed and signed by

Name R. A. WHITELOCK Date 18/3/26

Signed

Mrs Ceri Littlewood - Headteacher

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