



The Friday Update from School & Governor Support(S&GS)

FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2018

This update refers to changes to the Ofsted inspection timeframes that were announced last month but too late for inclusion in the update published on the 20th April. Governors at schools expecting a visit from Ofsted should already know the strengths and weaknesses well enough to answer any questions, but **our preparing your governing board (GB) for Ofsted training course on the 19th May (see below)** will help you identify what will be expected of you.

Ofsted also expects GBs to ensure the school is meeting its legal duty to “actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”. Our **Promoting British Values training course taking place on the 16th May (see below)** will help you understand and ensure the school delivers on this important **statutory** duty placed on schools.

This update also refers to a **S&GS briefing paper on the role of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Governor**, which is available to all schools on the Birmingham City Council (BCC) website and has recently been updated. On a separate, but related, note you may have seen in the news that the Education Select Committee has launched an inquiry into changes to the SEND system that were made in 2014 and the impact they have had in meeting the challenges faced by children and young people with SEND. The Committee has invited written evidence and you can find out more by visiting: www.parliament.uk.

S&GS are looking forward to visiting **Al Furqan Primary School in Tyseley** next week and leading an awareness raising session for parents on the roles and responsibilities of GBs and governor volunteering. We welcome all opportunities to discuss the benefits that serving as a governor brings (both to individuals and schools), the importance of school governance and how it, when it is working well, can be an overwhelming force for good at a school.

We hope you continue to find this update useful and we welcome any feedback you wish to give.

Have a good (long) weekend and thank you for all that you do.

GOVERNOR TRAINING COURSES IN MAY

S&GS offers a comprehensive programme of high quality governor training throughout the year. Follow this link to the [Training Programme](#).

In addition to the programme of published courses, S&GS **also provides bespoke training to GBs and groups of schools/academies on request**. Bespoke training is designed to meet the needs of your school/academy governors at this time. **It is delivered locally and at a time to suit you.**

Email us at governors@birmingham.gov.uk to arrange bespoke training and explore your options.

Places are still available on the following courses that are taking place in May and a course booking form is attached.

Evaluating Pupil Premium Spend - Tuesday 8th May, 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the Midlands Arts Centre)

This course is aimed at all governors and will be particularly helpful to those governors responsible for monitoring the impact of the Pupil Premium. As well as explaining how the Pupil Premium is allocated, the course will help governors to use data to evaluate impact, share good practice and cover the reporting requirements.

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Promoting British Values - Wednesday 16th May, 6.30pm – 8.30pm at the Midlands Arts Centre

Is your GB meeting the school's legal duty to “actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”? As well as covering statutory requirements and what Ofsted expects, this course will explain how spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and promoting fundamental British Values can lead to improvements in pupil achievement and teaching and learning. It will also provide some key questions to ask your leadership team in school.

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Preparing your GB for Ofsted - Thursday 17th May, 6.00pm – 8.30pm at the Midlands Arts Centre

This course provides essential knowledge and insight for all governors, especially governors at schools expecting an Ofsted inspection. The course will help the GB prepared for an Ofsted inspection. It covers the school inspection framework and criteria under which schools are inspected; how Ofsted's inspectors make their judgment about a school; the documents inspectors will ask to see, and how you might show the impact of the GB.

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Governor Induction course - Saturday 19th May 2018, 9.00am – 4.00pm at the Midlands Arts Centre

Essential for new governors and governors in need of refresher training.

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Role of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Governor - Thursday 24th May, 6.30pm – 8.30pm at the Midlands Arts Centre

This course is essential for SEND governors. It clarifies their particular special-interest role and duties, their relationship with the SEND Co-ordinator (SENDCO) and how they challenge and support the Senior Leadership Team.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) COUNTDOWN

It is now less than a month until the implementation of the GDPR (25th May) and all organisations handling personal data, including schools, need to have the right governance measures.

Last month the Department for Education (DfE) published its *Data protection: toolkit for schools*. The toolkit is intended to support schools in developing policies and processes for data management, from collecting and handling the data through to the ability to respond quickly and appropriately to data breaches. [Click here to access the toolkit.](#)

S&GS will be issuing further guidance to clerks of subscribing schools that includes practical methods for securing the data they hold.

LOOK OUT FOR

The updated BCC education services Core Offer - The Core Offer gives full details of the

education services that BCC provides, along with its priorities for the 2018 to 2019 academic year. It has recently been updated and is available to view via: www.birmingham.gov.uk/education-coreoffer.

The updated S&GS briefing paper on the role of the SEND governor – The briefing paper is available to all schools via: www.birmingham.gov.uk/sgs. It has been updated to include reference to Birmingham's Strategy for SEND and Inclusion, a revised list of suggested questions for the SEND Governor to ask and links to further sources of information to assist governors in their role.

The National Governance Association (NGA) and Times Educational Supplement (TES) school governance survey - The survey is open to all governors, trustees and academy committee members in England and you do not have to be an NGA member to take part. The survey aims to build a picture of who is governing our schools, help understand governance practice, and shed light on the impact of national policies on schools. To take the survey visit: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NGATesSurvey2018.

Some case studies exploring the lessons learned by Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) – The case studies were published by NGA last week and have been provided by the Evolve Trust, based in Mansfield and the Spring Partnership Trust, situated in Bromley, Kent. They consider the challenges experienced by MATs as they form and develop, and the lessons learned by executive leaders and those governing. The intention in developing the case studies is to provide a resource to other MATs by sharing approaches that others have found productive and some common barriers to success, rather than best practice exemplars. The case studies are available to view in the members area of the NGA website: www.nga.org.uk.

The Government consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper - The green paper sets out an ambitious programme of actions to deliver the government's vision for building strong integrated communities where people – whatever their background – live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. The Government wants to hear from individuals, communities and organisations about the most effective ways to address integration challenges and BCC are strongly encouraging schools (their GBs) to respond, either individually or in networks. The consultation closes on the 5th June and is available via: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper.

TAKE NOTE OF

Recently announced changes to school inspection timeframes – The changes announced by Ofsted last month mean that schools previously judged “good” will now receive a short inspection approximately every four years rather than every three years. Schools judged “requires improvement”, “serious weaknesses” or “special measures” will be re-inspected within 30 months while monitoring inspections will continue as before. For further information visit the Ofsted website: <https://educationinspection.blog.gov.uk/2018/04/13/changes-to-the-school-inspection-window/>.

Advice from the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) to support schools with responses to pupils who are fasting during the month of Ramadan - Ramadan will be celebrated around 15th May, following the Lunar calendar and will last until approximately 14th June. The advice covers fasting during exams, associated health and performance issues. The advice is available via: www.ascl.org.uk/help-and-advice/help-and-advice.ramadan-exams-and-tests%202018.html.

Advice from by HR Services for Schools regarding pre-employment checks – The advice has been published following recent audits that were undertaken in a number of schools, which highlighted common errors in the process of carrying out pre-employment checks. GBs should seek assurance that pre-employment checks carried out at their school and their school's Single Central Record (SCR) are compliant with safeguarding requirements, as set out in Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education and the Model Safer Recruitment Policy. Further information can be found on the School Noticeboard published on the 26th April: www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2013/school_noticeboard_summer_term_2018.

Recently published guidance for schools on good estate management – Published by the

Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the DfE, the guidance is for anyone with responsibility for overseeing or managing the estate. This includes governors and trustees. The guidance includes the fundamental policies and procedures needed to manage the school estate effectively; guidance on strategic estate management; organisational oversight; understanding your land and buildings; energy and water management, and managing projects. The guidance is available via: www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools.

Best wishes

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The School and Governor Support team

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