

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

28TH JUNE 2019



As the month of June comes to a close and better weather is promised, we enter the last few weeks of the school term with lots to look forward to. All across Birmingham our children and young people are rehearsing plays, concerts, assemblies and performances. They are looking forward to visits from inspirational people and to exciting places – including, for some of them, their new schools. ...and then there are the ‘graduations’ and Proms!

From September 2019, School and Governor Support (S&GS) are also looking forward. We will be working with a range of partners and agencies to focus on **The Year of the Governor**. We have started to discuss this at our Termly Briefings for Chairs but over the next few weeks and months, as The Year starts to take shape, you will hear lots about it. Of course, for us here in S&GS, governance is at the heart of what we do – every year! Later in the update, there will be more details of the plan so far.

Something else to give consideration to over the next few weeks is attending the BEP/LINK2ICT/S4E conference in September – **Learning to Shape Birmingham 2019**. This year, the conference aims to provide inspiration for Governors as well as a space for them to share in training and development. We are working with the conference organisation team to ensure a selection of workshops that will provide opportunities for Governors to extend their knowledge, skills and understanding. Governors are also invited to **join School and Governor Support for a special breakfast** to meet and connect with fellow Governors whilst celebrating the start of “Year of the Governor” **at the start of day 2**. Further details about the conference can be found at www.learningtoshapebirmingham.co.uk

GOVERNOR TRAINING COURSES IN JULY 2019

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The school can now book your place online as opposed to sending S&GS a booking form. To see the list of courses [follow this link](#), enter “Governors” in the “Keywords” filter option. This will list the courses that are relevant for governors. You can use the attached booking form to ask your school to book you a place or simply email the details of the course you would like to attend to your school. If you experience any issues relating to course booking, please email governors@birmingham.gov.uk or call 0121 464 2222. Further details can be found in our published training programme.

S&GS offers a comprehensive programme of high quality governor training throughout the year and places are still available on the following courses that is taking place in July 2019.

Governor Induction Course – Thursday 4th July, 9.00am – 4.00 pm at the Midlands Arts Centre, cost £140 (£160 non-S&GS subscribers)

This course is for new governors and governors who would benefit from refresher training. The course covers: the context (how schools work); the purpose of a GB, its core functions and how it operates; what being an effective governor means in practice; what you need to know about the school/academy that you govern, how you find out, and how to access further support and training.

Please note the Strategic Governance – Managing Risk course due to take place on Monday 8th July has been cancelled.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

The Department for Education (DfE) have published the [statutory guidance](#) regarding relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education. **Governors and schools leaders must have regard to the guidance and ensure that they have a written policy in place for Relationships Education and an RSE policy.** The new curriculum will be mandatory from September 2020. Schools are encouraged to adopt the new curriculum early from September 2019. *Schools must consult parents in developing and reviewing their policy and should ensure the policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community they serve.* Governors should discuss and consider implementation of the revised policy prior to September 2020

The DfE have also published [updated guidance on pupil premium](#) allocations, spending and monitoring. Those governing and school leaders are now being encouraged to produce “multi-year” rather than annual pupil premium strategies, over a three-year period for instance. The strategy will still need to be set out in an annual pupil premium statement, as this is a requirement for all maintained schools and most academies. You can find [frequently asked questions](#) and outlines that the governing boards have a key role to play in “checking the school’s pupil premium planning. Governors should champion evidence-based practice and consider the rationale in all pupil premium-related decisions”. The DfE’s updated guidance includes references to the Education Endowment Foundation’s recently published [pupil premium guide](#).

ITEMS TO NOTE

Schools’ Forum will be seeking governor representatives to contribute to the debate and decisions regarding school funding, through their election process. Governors from each of the four phases, nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are needed to sit on this statutory committee. The elections will be undertaken in the very near future and additional details will be emailed to all those governors eligible for nomination and election in due course. You can find out more about the roles and responsibilities from the [DfE Schools’ Forum Guidance](#).

School collaborations - ‘Taking the Next Step’: the National Governance Association (NGA), the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) and Browne Jacobson have published a series of linked papers to support governors and school leaders of maintained schools, trustees of single academy trusts and multi academy trusts (MATs). Where schools are looking to join a MAT and where single academy trusts and MATs are seeking to merge, these papers aim to assist school leaders and governors in understanding the options available, outline the benefits and types of collaboration as well as the steps they can take to form or grow a group of schools accountable to one governing board. These can be downloaded from the NGA’s website: [Taking the Next Step](#)

The Year of the Governor - September 2019 – July 2020 As already shared, supporting governance has always been and remains central to our work as part of our service offer and through our statutory work. However, a specific and sustained focus on governance - across a whole year - is going to enable us to work with you on precise areas of mutual concern and/or interest. Planning is still at the early stages and we want to involve as many of you as possible

in shaping the year's events and themes. As things stand at the moment, we hope the year will enable us to:

- continue to raise the profile of governance across our sector
- increase opportunities to focus on recruitment and retention
- discuss and explore diversity in our governor communities as well as how boards reflect the communities they serve
- engage with school leaders through conferences and joint events
- make time to consider the implications of local and national change

The year will begin with an opportunity to share and meet together as part of the **Learning to Shape Birmingham 2019** conference in September and will end with a dedicated 'gathering' (possibly conference) for governors in July 2020. Along the way we already have our termly briefings for chairs of GB's and currently we aim to plan and facilitate at least six focused events across the year.



We will aim to share more information in the next Friday Update.

The S&GA Audit Tool 2019/2020 will be published by the start of the Autumn term and we will distribute this to H/T's, chairs and clerks via email to our subscribing schools as soon as we are able to sign-off the changes in the revised version.

The Autumn Term Agenda Briefing will be sent by email next week to chairs, H/T's, clerks, the named safeguarding and training governors. We are just completing the final round of proof reading and sense checking.

CLERKS NOTICE

URGENT - Governor email addresses. Will clerks please provide an update of all your currently serving governors via email to governors@birmingham.gov.uk. This is a high priority request as we will be holding elections for governor representatives to sit on Schools' Forum and we intend to run the election via an online voting system. We can only achieve this if we have the email address for each of your governors.

Clerking Fees for the Summer term. To ensure you receive your clerking fees for the summer term at the end of July please ensure that your completed and signed claim form is emailed to gbsobirmingham.gov.uk before Wednesday 10th July. Claims received after this date will be paid at the end of August.

REQUEST FROM BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

The Food Provision, Culture and Environment in Secondary Schools (FUEL) study is to understand how secondary school academies implement the national School Food Standards and related School Food Plan to support healthy eating. The study explores: a) food provision and the culture and environment relating to food, and b) the dietary intake and dental health of school pupils. The university are recruiting secondary school academies within Birmingham. If you would like to find out more about taking part in the study, please contact Dr Marie Murphy or Dr Miranda Pallan fuelstudy@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

The next Friday update will be published on Friday 12th July 2019.

Best wishes

The School and Governor Support team

Email: governors@birmingham.gov.uk

Web: www.birmingham.gov.uk/SGS

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