

# Governors' Update

## Autumn Term 2021

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### Welcome and information on the Updates

Welcome to the update for the Autumn Term 2021. The School Governor Service passes on their good wishes to all governors and trustees for the academic year 2021-22. It is hoped that this year will mark a return to more normal school activities and testing for all our young people.

Many governing boards are continuing to meet remotely for the moment but governors may continue to visit and hold meetings with staff, where they have a particular responsibility, in accordance with the systems that governors have agreed for their school.

As in the update for the summer Term, headline information is being made available to all governors and published on Bradford Schools Online.

A more in depth update is being provided for governors at schools which have subscribed to the Advice and Guidance service.

Both versions will be posted on the Skills4Bradford website. The links to those will be included in an email sent to all school business managers and governors who have given permission for their emails to be used or for whom school email addresses are available.

The link to the more in depth version will only work for governors of subscribing schools.

### School Governor Service (SGS) Information

Currently the Systems for Contacting the School Governor Team have not changed: The team are 'working from home' but monitor [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk) daily. If you wish to speak to a particular member of the team, then please send an email unless you have the mobile number for the person to whom you wish to speak.

Calls to the SGS contact number 01274 439400 are automatically forwarded to the first available team member who will not be able to transfer your call.

The SGS clerks also work from home and can be contacted by email directly. In the event of an urgent issue requiring a response from your clerk then please call the SGS contact number and your clerk will be informed of your request.

## Termly Briefings for Governors

This term's briefing will be held virtually on Tuesday 21 September from 6.30pm-7.45pm and will include information on Finance and updates from various teams, highlighting topics of current interest and importance.

If you wish to attend the briefing then please use the Skills4Bradford website to book a place or email [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk)

The briefings give governors the opportunity to ask questions, reflect and analyse past activity. They are free for governors from schools subscribing to Advice and Guidance and cost £35 for other governors. The session will be recorded for access on demand at a later date. Governors will need a microphone and ideally a camera on their device to access the course.

## Training

The Governor Training programme for the Autumn Term 2021 has been published. See [www.skills4bradford.co.uk](http://www.skills4bradford.co.uk) for details, costs & booking; for a print version click [here](#). All courses will still be delivered virtually for the rest of this term, although it is hoped that there can be a return to some face to face sessions in the new year.

Please email [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk) if you have any ideas for courses you would like to see provided later this term or during next term.

### Training Programme until the half term break

A reminder below of upcoming courses. Book on [www.skills4bradford.co.uk](http://www.skills4bradford.co.uk) or email [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk)

### **FREE Cyber Bullying and Awareness Raising Wednesday 22 September 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm**

This session is provided for us by the West Yorkshire police Cyber Team and is regularly updated to include the latest information on this topic and so governors who have not attended for some time may find the course a useful session. There is no charge for this session.

### **Introduction to Governance**

**Monday 27 September and Tuesday 5 October 2021, 5.00pm – 7.30pm  
Or single session Wednesday 20 October, 9.00am – 2.30pm**

This course is aimed at those new to governance and includes the information that all governors need to have in order to perform their role effectively; covering organisation, finance and a briefing on national and local educational needs.

### **Planning the Governance Year and self-evaluation**

**Tuesday 28 September 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

Looking back to evaluate performance and planning ahead for effective governance are both needed to ensure that a governing board and committees are performing as well as possible. This course will support governors in doing both of these important functions.

### **Chairing the Board** 2 session course

**Monday 4 October & Monday 8 November 2021, 4.30pm – 7.00pm**

This course is aimed at new and potential Chairs and will introduce them to the behaviours and practices needed by an effective Chair. It will also be useful for Vice Chairs and Chairs of Committees.

**Ofsted – Preparing for Ofsted****Wednesday 6 October, 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

As Ofsted returns to normal inspection systems this term, this course will look at the current systems and foci and the ways that governors can prepare for a visit.

With the end of the exemption for Outstanding schools, governors whose schools have not been inspected for some time will need to clarify when a visit can be expected and familiarise themselves with the Ofsted criteria.

**Head Teacher Performance Management****Monday 11 October 2021, 4.30pm - 6.30pm**

One of the core duties of governors is the performance management of the headteacher and those governors who are involved in this, need to understand the process. This course is led by a Lead Achievement Officer and will enable governors to ensure they are performing their role of holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the performance management of their staff.

**Level 6 Award: Effective School Governance****Dates to be agreed**

This is an accredited course that looks at the role of governors and includes preparing feedback and attending a series of sessions. For more information please email [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

**SEND for Governors****Tuesday 12 October 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm**

This course will explain the role of the SEND governor but also includes the information that all governors should know concerning their role in monitoring the provision for SEND pupils. The course will take account of any updates in the requirements.

**Compliance – The Board's key responsibilities****Wednesday 13 October, 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

The DfE's Competency Framework for Governors identified Compliance as the fifth feature of effective governance and states it is important 'to ensure that all those involved in governance understand the legal frameworks and context in which the organisation operates and all of the requirements with which it must comply'. This course will explain those requirements and the expectations and responsibilities placed on governors.

**Finance Webinar****Monday 18 October 2021 6.00pm - 7.15pm**

This session will update governors on the current position regarding finance and is primarily aimed at maintained sector schools but would be of interest to academy governors. The session will be led by the School funding Team and will inform governors on recent financial allocations and demands.

**Curriculum – Governors' Monitoring role****Tuesday 19 October, 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

A focus for Ofsted and an important part of the governor's monitoring role, the curriculum needs to be at the centre of the decision making process of a school. This session will explain the requirements for teaching in maintained and academy schools and the knowledge that governors need in order to monitor it effectively.

**BOOKING:** Please visit [www.skills4bradford.co.uk](http://www.skills4bradford.co.uk) to reserve a place on any SGS courses or email [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk) with requests or queries.

## Updates from the Department for Education (DfE)

### **Education Staff Well-Being Charter**

A reminder for governors that information on how to sign up to this Charter, mentioned in the last Update, is being released by the DfE during this term. As one of the duties of governors is to ensure the work/life balance of the headteacher and teaching staff this is a useful tool for schools.

### **Early Career Payments for Teachers**

Secondary school mathematics teachers who meet the criteria can apply for the early career payment during this academic year if they work in the Bradford District. Physics, chemistry and language teachers can apply next year. This is an incentive for teachers, at the correct career stage, to work within the District and could be used as a part of staff advertisements.

### **Early Careers Framework for Teachers**

Governors are reminded that the new two year Early Careers framework is now in force and will need to be considered when looking at staff workload and performance management. Amendments to the induction process will be needed as it is now a requirement to have the Early Career Framework (ECF) as the basis of induction from the start of this term. There is also a need to have separate induction tutors and induction mentors.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework**

The new Statutory Framework was updated on 3 September 2021. The School Governor Service vlog for schools subscribing to the advice and guidance subscription will contain more details for governors and will be posted on the Skills4Bradford website in the week commencing 13 September. The framework applies to maintained schools, academies, nurseries and pre-schools and must be followed by all unless there is a good reason not to do so, and it is recommended that any such decision should be recorded in the minutes of a board meeting.

### **Reception Baseline Assessment**

Schools should now be prepared for the introduction of this assessment which is statutory from this term. It will be used to measure progress from entry into Reception to the end of Year 6 and allows the removal of the use of the KS1 tests in measuring progress

### **School Admissions Code**

The new code came into force on 1 September 2021 and applies to admissions to all maintained schools, academies and free schools in England. If a school or trust is the admission authority for the school, then the Trust Board or Governing Body are responsible for ensuring that their admissions policy complies with the legislation and the Code and for establishing any appeals' panels. The Schools Adjudicator has the power to insist on changes to admission arrangements which do not comply.

## Covid- 19 Related Updates

### **Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Monitors**

The government has announced that CO2 Monitors will be provided for all state-funded education settings during this term to enable staff to identify where ventilation needs to be improved. Special Schools and Alternative provision will be prioritised and should receive them from September because of their higher levels of vulnerable pupils. As the monitors are rolled out, guidance will be provided on their use.

As governors review the Covid -19 risk assessments; plans for the effective use of the monitors and the results of readings from them will need to be considered.

30 Bradford schools are testing the effectiveness of air purifiers to see if they will reduce the risk of transmission but no results are yet available.

### **Additional Funding for Tutoring Programmes**

Funding for the National Tutoring programme is being continued for the academic year 2021-22.

This will include: -

- the appointment of academic mentors, where 95% of the costs will be funded
- School led tutoring, where 60% of eligible pupils will be funded to cover 75% of the costs up to £18 per hour.
- Tuition partners, where the cost is funded up to 70%.

The criteria vary, with funding for all Bradford District schools for academic mentors, all schools eligible for tuition partner funding and school led tutoring payments based on the number of Pupil Premium children at a school.

The conditions of grant for the school led tutoring are quite strict and spending has to be confirmed at the end of 2021/22 with provisions for clawback where monies are not spent or not spent appropriately.

State funded schools and academy trusts will receive £205.50 per pupil for 60% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium from Y1-Y11 during this academic year. Special Schools and Referral Units will receive £529 per pupil for 60% of their Pupil Premium children.

Governors will need to be aware of plans for and use of all three of these funds and should include them in the monitoring that they undertake.

## **Updates from Ofsted**

### **Ofsted Inspections**

These inspections are resuming this term with Ofsted having published an update to their guidance on the timing of inspections. Those schools judged outstanding at their latest inspection are now subject to routine inspections under Section 5. All formerly exempt schools will be inspected before August 2026 and then will be inspected using the normal timing system. There are delays currently in scheduled inspections of up to six terms as a result of the suspension of routine inspections but Ofsted hope to return to the normal inspection intervals as soon as possible.

## **New RE Syllabus**

The new locally agreed RE syllabus is coming into effect from this month. A syllabus entitled Believing and Belonging is being adopted, which is already in use in Kirklees, Calderdale and Leeds. LA maintained schools must use the locally agreed syllabus and all other schools are able to do so. All pupils are entitled to RE teaching from Y1 to Y13 and this includes academies.

## **Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)**

### **Two new Evaluation Reports**

EEF have now published two research evaluations.

**Accelerated Reader** had previously been considered a promising project for pupils transferring to secondary school but the results of the latest trial were less encouraging. This looked at Year 5 and Year 4 pupils and showed that it was no more or less effective than other interventions used in preparation for KS2 exams. EEF will continue to list it as a promising programme for use during transition.

**Level 4 Group Triple P:** Positive Parenting Programme, is reported as being well received by parents and nursery staff with reports of improvements in child behaviour and reductions in parental anxiety and stress.

Governors are reminded that all decisions on the use of Pupil Premium Funding now have to be linked to research evidence and so the reasons why a particular approach has been chosen need to be presented.

## Safeguarding

### **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**

The latest version of this document is now in force and governors should be familiarising themselves with it and ensuring that all staff are doing the same. A specific reminder that governors also have a role in ensuring that their school's cyber security is effective because of the increased risk of cyber-attacks to the school systems.

Another specific area of Safeguarding that governors need to consider is 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' which is the title of a document just released by the DfE. This topic does not just apply to secondary settings but should also be considered by primary leaders. The advice document includes governors in its specified audience.

## Afterword

The School Governor Service team are still available to support governing boards of all types with website checks, bespoke training and additional support to assist you in ensuring that the work you do to support schools is as effective as possible. Please get in touch to discuss any support you would wish to arrange, using the School Governor Service email address below.

Circulation of this document is to all governors who have given permission for their personal emails to be used or those for whom a school email address is on the [www.skills4bradford.co.uk](http://www.skills4bradford.co.uk) website. If you are a governor/trustee but have not received a link to this document please contact [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk) to ensure that an up to date email address and permission for its use is recorded.