

Governors' Update

Summer Term 1 2021

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Welcome and information on the Updates

Welcome to the first half termly update for the Summer Term 2021.

For the first time this update is being provided in two formats.

Headline information is being made available to all governors and this version will also be 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.

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 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. 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 SGS and contact will be made on your behalf.

New Governor Briefings Starting

The first new termly briefing will be held virtually on 21 June from 6.30pm-7.45pm.

These sessions are designed to give governors the opportunity to gain information about topics of interest to governors from all types of setting across the District. The format includes hearing from speakers from the Local Authority and raising awareness of issues affecting schools.

Topics will give governors insights into current issues, upcoming changes and an 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 and Networking

The Governor Training programme and Governor Networking opportunities for the rest of the Spring and the Summer Terms 2021 have been published. See www.skills4bradford.co.uk for details, costs & booking; for a print version click [here](#). All courses will still be virtually delivered. Planning is starting for the autumn term so please email school.governor@bradford.gov.uk if you have any ideas for courses you would like to see provided.

Training Programme for the rest of this term

A reminder below of upcoming courses. Book on www.skills4bradford.co.uk or email school.governor@bradford.gov.uk

Hearings: The Governors' Role

Tuesday 18 May 2021 4.30pm – 6.30pm

This course will explain the Governors' role when meeting in a panel for decisions on e.g. complaints, grievances, dismissals. The governing board has a predominantly strategic role, convening panels is one of the activities that calls for operational action.

NETWORK Wellbeing and Mental Health

Wednesday 19 May 5.00pm – 6.30pm

The Network meets termly to enable any Governors taking forward an interest in the school and staff well-being, to meet with their peers from a wide range of schools to discuss, share and learn from each other and to give all attending Governors (including those named governors for Well-being & Mental Health) an opportunity to share good practice and keep up to date with government guidance and good practice from the sector

Introduction to Governance

One-day course - Friday 21 May 2021 9.00am – 2.30pm

Or

Two session course - Monday 28 June 10.00am – 12.30pm

(2nd session Mon 5 July 10am-12.30pm)

This course is targeted at new and recently appointed or elected governors and trustees. It is a 'safe' environment to ask questions, learn about the role of governance in achieving successful outcomes for children. It also offers governors and trustees the opportunity for self-assessment and to learn from and share experiences.

It aims to give you, as a newly appointed governor/trustee (including headteachers, staff governors and associate members), a level of knowledge of governance that you need to effectively support your school in raising standards.

Parent Governor; know your role

Thursday 27 May 2021 6.00pm – 8.00pm

This course aims to give Parent Governors confidence and clarity about their role in Governance. It will give the opportunity to learn about and discuss roles and responsibility and look at suitable behaviours and conduct and will explain jargon and the structure of governance and the role Parent governors play.

Early Years

Monday 7 June 5.00pm – 7.00pm

This course will raise awareness and governors' understanding of the early years, the standards for the learning, development and care of the pupils up to 5 years old, this includes your Reception class children and nursery children. Governors are becoming more aware of the importance of sound foundations in learning in the early years and there are changes starting in September 2021 around the delivery and assessment of early years' provision

Data: Evaluating and Using Data to Monitor Progress

Tuesday 8 June 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Governors need to be able to understand the data on pupil performance provided by the school and the data available from other sources about their school and others, both locally and nationally. This course will look at the data systems that will be used for the next academic year and the transition to this data.

Planning the Governance Year

Wednesday 9 June 4.30pm – 6.30pm

When did you last consider whether your board's meeting schedule both aligns sensibly with the school's management cycle and is manageable for those carrying out the role?

This course will help governors to structure their year and build in an evaluation of their effectiveness. The board needs to take into account the times for making key decisions such as approving the budget, and for receiving key reports such as public exam results.

You should also make sure your annual schedule includes a strategy day in order that governors are reflecting on the effectiveness of their activities in contributing to school improvement and meeting the core duties of governance.

Headteacher Performance Management

Thursday 10 June 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Governors are required to undertake Head Teacher's Performance Management and this course, led by a Lead Achievement Officer, will guide governors in completing this effectively.

The Effective Performance Management of the Head Teacher is one of the most important roles for Governors in ensuring the proper management of the school and the outcomes for the children.

Safeguarding

Tuesday 15 June 6.00pm – 8.00pm

This course will enable governors to be aware of their role in monitoring the effectiveness of schools in keeping children safe from harm and will take account of the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.

The discussion and information provided will assist governors in understanding the different areas of concern and ensure that these are addressed effectively by the systems and practices of their school and will explain the remit of the Named Governor

Monitoring Vulnerable Groups and Pupil Premium

Wednesday 23 June 10.00am – 12.00 noon

This session will investigate what we mean by vulnerable groups and the role governors' play in supporting them to achieve their potential. It will address the governors' role in monitoring and providing for these pupils and also working with the grants and funds available in school for vulnerable children.

Chairs' NETWORK

Thursday 24 June 6.00pm – 7.30pm

The Chairs' Network meets termly to enable Chairs, Vice Chairs to meet with their peers from a wide range of schools to discuss, share and learn from each other.

Join this Chairs' Network for facilitated termly support from your peers; to hear about and discuss current challenges; to gain clarity and direction on effective board management.

Chairing the Board 2 session course Tuesday 29 June 4.30pm – 7.00pm

(2nd session Tue 13 July 4.30pm-7.00pm)

Over this 2 x 2½ hour course, new Chairs and potential Chairs will be introduced to the behaviours and practices 'needed by' an effective Chair. This course will also be useful to vice-chairs and chairs of committees. Practical tools will be shared to support the role.

BOOKING: Please visit www.skills4bradford.co.uk to reserve a place on any SGS courses or email school.governor@bradford.gov.uk with requests or queries.

Updates from the Department for Education

Education Staff Well-Being Charter

The DfE have published a wellbeing charter for education staff that all state funded schools and colleges are invited to familiarise themselves with and to sign up to in the autumn. The Charter is available on the GOV.UK website.

The DfE will be conducting research on the impact of the charter in organisations that sign up and progress will be evaluated in 2023

Pupil Premium Grant Changes

Pupil Premium Conditions of Grant for 2021/22 are now available.

These must

- demonstrate, from the next academic year, how their spending decisions are informed by research evidence (condition 7)
- use the strategy statement templates to publish their pupil premium strategy (condition 8)

It is suggested that governors should consider these when looking at the planning for the next academic year.

New Model Music Curriculum

The DfE has announced a new model music curriculum for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3.

This guidance:

- sets out a model of how the statutory curriculum can be delivered
- identifies the core concepts that are needed for pupils to progress in their study of music
- demonstrates how pupils can build their understanding of these concepts from year 1 to year 9

Education Secretary renews Vision for All Schools to be Part of a strong Multi-Academy Trust

In his speech to the Confederation of School Trusts annual conference on 28 April, Gavin Williamson said the government's vision is for the school system to continue to move decisively towards a single model built on strong multi-academy trusts as its foundation, bringing the current pick-and-mix system of local authority maintained and standalone academy schools to an end.

All schools have gone above and beyond through the pandemic, with all teachers and staff playing a vital role in the country's frontline response. But the pandemic has brought to the fore the benefits of strong multi-academy trusts in providing outstanding support for both children and staff, through their collaborative approach and being able to pool resources and knowledge.

The Education Secretary also stated his ambition to bring schools with a history of long-term underperformance, which have had three consecutive Requires Improvement or worse judgements by Ofsted, into strong multi-academy trusts. He committed to consult fully with the sector on any such changes.

All schools will now have the option to 'try the academy experience before they buy' – associating with multi-academy trusts for a defined period to experience the benefits for themselves and their students, with no commitment.

A new National Behaviour Survey will also be launched to give parents a termly snapshot of the state of behaviour in schools, including disruptive behaviour and bullying. It will not be an accountability tool, but will provide parents and stakeholders the data they need to build a picture of behaviour in

schools over time and improve the government's ability to support schools with any challenges they are facing.....

The new National Behaviour Survey builds on the £10 million Behaviour Hubs programme, matching the best multi-academy trust leaders and academy heads with partner schools and trusts to help embed outstanding behaviour policies that support children to thrive.

Further new interventions to encourage and support schools to join a strong multi-academy trust were also announced

Catch Up Premium – Update

The guidance relating to carrying forward funding beyond this academic year and Ofsted monitoring has been updated on 27 April. Also included is the opportunity to register schools for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention Programme (NELI) for the 2021-22 academic year. Funding is available for this programme.

Registration for Summer School Funding

Secondary schools, including special schools and alternative provision are now able to apply for summer school funding. The deadline for applications is 23.59 on 7 May 2021. This is available on the basis of current Y7 numbers.

Updates from the Local Authority

EYFS Reforms

Links have been published on Bradford Schools Online to documents and videos to support the implementation of EYFS reforms in September 2021. The changes to the EYFS framework need to be understood by governors and both training and a webinar are being prepared by SGS to assist governors with understanding these changes. A link to the information is [here](#).

Updates from Ofsted

Guidance on Supporting SEND

Ofsted have produced a report on how children and young people's SEND needs are met in mainstream schools. Published on 13 May it raises a list of concerns identified in the provision for identified pupils in a range of schools, including the role of TA, SENCo time and ensuring quality information sharing. It is recommended that all SEND governors should read this report.

Ofsted Curriculum Research Reviews

Ofsted have published a research review of religious education in schools.

It identifies some common features and also explains that there will be a report in spring 2022 on the quality of RE curriculums taught in schools and the evidence for this will be gathered during subject deep dives during inspections.

It has also published a research review into the factors that can contribute to a high quality science curriculum. It is an analysis of other research programmes and expresses concern at the decline in the status of science in primary education given the importance of these foundational years in influencing pupils' scientific aspirations and future learning.

It also looks at research evidence about effective ways to embed scientific knowledge and the need for knowledge to be built upon over time and further expresses concern at the number of both primary and secondary school teachers without relevant post A level qualifications in science.

Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges.

Ofsted have published information on the steps they will be taking to verify if schools and colleges have appropriate safeguarding processes in place. It will also consider whether current guidance is understood by schools and colleges, and whether it is sufficient to help them respond effectively to allegations.

Ofsted will visit a sample of schools and colleges where cases have been highlighted. As well as talking to school and college leaders, pupils and students, they will look at how well systems of support and response are working, and discuss the wider issues raised by the evidence.

The review will look at whether schools and colleges need further support in teaching about sex and relationships, and whether current inspection regimes in state and private schools are robust enough around the issue of sexual abuse. It will also consider how well schools and colleges are working with local multi-agency safeguarding partners.

They will work with representatives from social care, police and victim support groups, as well as school and college leaders. The review is aimed to conclude by the end of May 2021.

Ofsted to publish new series of subject reviews and reports

From this month onwards the documents will be published in two phases, beginning with the research reviews in the summer term. 'The reviews will set out the literature that informs the way we think about high-quality education in each subject.'

Ofsted Inspections – amended handbooks

Ofsted will inspect schools and further education & skills (FES) providers in the summer term to provide reassurance about how well children and learners are catching up, but it will not resume a full programme of graded inspections until September.

Following extensive discussion with government and education leaders, Ofsted confirmed on 29 March that it will undertake on-site, lighter-touch inspections in the summer term. Unlike 'full' inspections, these visits will allow inspectors to assess how well schools and FES providers are educating their learners and keeping them safe, but they will not result in a grade.

However, where the evidence strongly suggests that a school's current grade is no longer a fair reflection of its work – for example where the school is graded 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' but has clearly improved – inspectors will be able to convert to a full, graded inspection either immediately or later in the term. As always, Ofsted will do the same if a visit to a higher-graded school highlights a significant cause for concern.

An updated set of inspection handbooks with full details of these changes has been published.

Ofsted is also working closely with Sir Kevan Collins on how its work can support the longer term education recovery.

Education Endowment Foundation

Covid-19 Information and Resources

The EEF has provided research based information on the impact of Covid-19 on pupil attainment Support resources for schools and parents, evidence on supporting students to learn remotely. and a planning guide for the 2021 academic year, including questions relating to implementation.

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 website. If you are a governor/trustee but have not received a link to this document please contact school.governor@bradford.gov.uk to ensure that an up to date email address and permission for its use is recorded.