

# Governors' Monthly Update

## May 2019

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**Welcome to the ninth edition of the Governors' Monthly Update.**

### School News

Congratulations to all at Feversham Primary Academy and Hazelbeck Special School for their Outstanding judgements and One in a Million Free School and High Craggs Primary Leadership Academy for their Good Ofsted outcome

### Request for updates

The School Governor Service (SGS) are still hearing that governors are not receiving training information and these updates directly. Unfortunately, if your school is not currently a subscriber to any of our services then we may not receive changes to governor information such as amendments to email addresses. If you are not receiving this document directly please email your details to [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk) and the team will update our records. If you have any concerns about Data Protection please be assured that all information is kept securely in accordance with legislation. The team will provide the Council's privacy notice on request.

### Bradford for Teaching Campaign

This is a school led campaign to support the recruitment and retention of high quality teachers by Bradford schools. Working together, the aim is for Bradford to be the first choice career destination for talented individuals who want to train or build a career as a teacher.

Their work programme is built around four ambitions:

- to work together to build the reputation of our city as a great place to train, teach and build a career
- to grow our own teachers by supporting our teacher training providers
- to support schools to develop and retain their best staff
- to use data and evaluation to discover what works

This is a project funded by the Bradford Opportunity Area until June 2020 and a report has just been released on its first quarter's progress. The link to their website is available [here](#) and they also have a strong social

media presence. The report is available on the 'about' page of the website which is also a great source of information for all involved in recruitment and those looking to become a teacher in Bradford.

## Items for Meetings during the Summer Term

### Summer Term

	<b>First Meeting:</b>	
1	Staff presentation linked to a development plan target and review of progress against target	
2	Review pupil progress against targets and consider predicted pupil performance outcomes and discuss any mitigation	
<b>3</b>	<b>Set the budget for the year (can be second meeting of the term for an academy)</b>	
4	Approve the final accounts for the previous financial year	
4	Review plans for maintenance and development spending	
5	Receive Headteachers Report	
6	Report on quality of teaching, learning and assessment	
7	Receive a report on pupil voice and stakeholder engagement	
8	Review number on roll for September	

	<b>Second Meeting:</b>	
1	Review attendance of pupils and staff	
2	Review pupil exclusions for the year	
3	Evaluate the governing body's effectiveness over the last year against the targets set in the Autumn term	
4	Review the year's racist and other reportable incidents	
5	Review pupil results (primary)	
6	Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions undertaken to accelerate progress	
7	Review the impact of governor and staff training and development	
<b>8</b>	<b>Review and ratify the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy</b>	
8	Report from Governor Newtork/Forum	
9	Receive Quarterly Return	
10	Safeguarding Report	
11	Review the impact of the work of the governing body and any committees and propose and consider meeting dates and times for the next year	

### Other items which should be discussed on a regular/planned basis:

- Safeguarding: consider including this as a standard item.
- Write new policies/review existing policies (include assessing for adverse impact on race equality)
- Consider school improvement dialogue (reports from external School Improvement Partner/ other external consultants)
- Report from Committees
- Report from 'named' governors (e.g. SEN, Literacy, Numeracy, Child Protection)
- Governors' visits to school

- Governor development and training (to include succession planning for any governors whose term is coming to an end)
- Reports from governors who have attended training or a conference
- Induction of new governors
- Update school Self Evaluation Form (SEF)
- Evaluate external data e.g. Analyse School Performance, Data Dashboard
- Review school charging and lettings policies

### **Monitoring Actions for Governors outside of meetings e.g.:**

- Meet with School Council
- Visit link classes
- Learning walks focussing on aspects of School Development Plan
- Classroom visits linked to School Development plan priorities
- Staff input on lead priorities
- Head Teachers Performance Management
- Community and parental links – review
- Named Governors actions e.g. Safeguarding - checking Single Central Record

## **Downgrading of 'Exempt' Schools**

As Governors are aware Ofsted has increased the proportion of Exempt Outstanding schools being inspected to 10% annually. Outcomes for those schools inspected nationally from 9 January – 1 February 2019 were that all of them were downgraded from their previous outcome.

Out of the 46 schools who were inspected, 37 dropped to 'good', 8 to 'requires improvement', and one to 'inadequate'.

Ofsted had been lobbying the government to remove the exemptions granted to previously top performing schools, because many had not been inspected in over 10 years. In December 2018 the Department authorised them to intervene in exempt schools to pick up on potentially poor safeguarding measures.

The Department for Education said that Ofsted were responding to specific concerns, and thus a decline in some outstanding schools was 'only to be expected'. A spokesman stated that downgrading 'shows that its risk assessment approach is working'.

## **Relationships, Sex and Health Education Legislation**

The Regulations were passed by the House of Commons on 27 March and are now continuing passage through the House of Lords. On their implementation schools will be expected to adhere to the guidance and ensure that their curriculum is inclusive of the topics that are identified within the curriculum. Governors need to be aware of the requirement for consultation with parents on delivery of relationships education in primary schools and relationships and sex education in secondary schools.

Schools also have to take into account the religious background of all pupils and handle sensitive topics appropriately. Faith is a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act and any curriculum development must therefore have due regard to that. People's beliefs will be respected. Schools must however still deliver the statutory curriculum to all pupils and have regard for the law as it relates to equality and discrimination. Where there appears to be conflict between religious beliefs

and the statutory curriculum, schools can discuss different viewpoints with the children. It would be appropriate to teach that British society is diverse and everyone should be treated with respect, and at the same time that their family's religion teaches children a particular set of values that they believe in and live by. This should be done in an age appropriate way.

Further information, including a draft policy and guidance on parent consultation, will be available as soon as the final statutory guidance has been released. Section 38 of the [Draft Statutory Guidance Feb 2019](#) outlines the role of Governors.

### National Governors Association Survey

School governors, trustees and local academy committee members can share their experiences of the role and views on education policy in the annual school governance survey which is open now.

Whatever your role on the governing board, however long you've been involved in governance, the National Governance Association's (NGA) value the views and experience of all school governance volunteers. Your answers will make a significant contribution to growing our understanding of school governance in England, and will shape campaigns on issues that matter to you, amplify the voice of school governance across the education sector, and improve the support on offer to governing boards.

Once you have started the survey, you can save and return to your answers whenever you like before submitting them. The survey closes on 13 June. You do not need to be an NGA member to take part. Please share it with others on your governing board and your wider networks!

Although this survey is for school governance volunteers, NGA appreciate the support of clerks in sharing this information with their board(s).

Access the survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/nga-survey/>

### Bradford Leaders of Governance (BLG) group

The BLG are a group of governors formed through collaboration with the Local Authority to share their expertise and experience. To offer support to other governors and boards to promote strong effective governance across the district.

Following a review of the group's remit and membership, the group is opening up the opportunity for experienced governors/trustees to put themselves forward for application to the group.

The Bradford Leaders of Governance group is open to all experienced governors that have the skills to support other governors; are committed and willing to contribute through the LA on Leadership and Governance in other schools; have capacity to offer support.

The remit of the group includes offering individual support to Chairs; being deployed to strengthen a governing board; working with the LA to determine strategic approach; work on panels e.g. Head Teacher recruitment panels and many larger and smaller tasks.

If you wish to express an interest and find out further information please email [Christina.low@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Christina.low@bradford.gov.uk) Governance Training, Intervention & Advice Officer.

## Free Conference for Governors and Employers – 18 June 2019

Organised by the Opportunity Area team, this is a unique **FREE** opportunity to hear from a range of speakers from different organisations, who will present perspectives on governance which will be of interest to potential and existing governors alike.

**Topics will include:**

- **characteristics of an effective Governing Board;**
- **Governor succession planning;**
- **engaging businesses and their employees as governors**

**Date: Tuesday 18th June**

**Time: 5:00pm - Networking Buffet; 6:00pm to 9:00pm - Presentations**

**Venue: Suite 2013 & Legends, Bradford City FC, Valley Parade, BD8 7DY**

**Booking: Please email [S4B.Events@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:S4B.Events@bradford.gov.uk)**

## Education Endowment Fund (EEF) Guide to Becoming an Evidence-Informed School Governor and Trustee

The Education Endowment Fund have produced a new guide for governors and trustees. The guide and information about it is available [here](#).

It is designed to offer a quick way into the high-quality evidence the EEF makes freely available to all schools. It offers practical next steps and tips for further reading framed around three key questions for governors to ask:

- How well are pupils achieving in your school?
- How effectively is your school spending its money?
- How does your school support effective teaching and learning?

It recommends thinking of evidence as offering “best bets” – valuable starting points for a better-informed discussion in your governing board about how your school can improve.

The document is free to download and use for all governors and will form one of the agenda items for the conference mentioned in the item above.

## Afterword

The next edition of the update will be sent out at the start of June

If you have a topic for the Governor Forum, for the Chairs' Update or for the training programme then please email [school.governor@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.governor@bradford.gov.uk) and the service will endeavour to assist.

**Governor Training Programme** – can be seen on Bradford Schools Online and has been emailed to all governors for whom we hold an email address.

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