

Note Pad

A regular news sheet for
Governors of Schools
throughout the Bradford District

To achieve school improvement through the effective governance of schools

April 2013



Ofsted School Data Dashboard released

On Wednesday 27 February 2013, Sir Michael Wilshaw, HMCI Ofsted, launched a new School Data Dashboard designed to support governors to hold their schools to account.

The dashboard will provide a snapshot of more than 20,000 mainstream primary and secondary schools performance at Key Stage 1, 2 and 4. The most significant change is that the dashboard compares each school with similar local schools, not just national data.

Sir Michael said “The School Data Dashboard I have launched today raises the stakes. Many governors know their school well already. But for those that don’t, there are now no excuses. Inspectors will be very critical of governing bodies who, despite the dashboard, still don’t know their school well enough.”

He also called for some governors to be paid, better trained, and for more professional governors drawn from both the public and private sectors.

Emma Knights, Chief Executive responded to the speech by saying “The National Governors’ Association welcomes the publication of Ofsted’s data dashboard as all governing bodies need to understand their school. However most of this information is already available to governors in a different format; most governing bodies will be using more detailed data to monitor, evaluate and challenge school leaders and have sophisticated conversations about how to tackle the problems identified by the data.”

There is no evidence to suggest that paying governors would improve governance. All surveys show a significant majority of existing governors do not support remuneration; and question the motivation of those who would only govern for payment.

If you haven’t yet viewed your school’s dashboard, you can view it at <http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk/index.php>

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Pupil Premium Spending – Report

Ofsted has released a second report into how effectively schools spend pupil premium to maximise achievement. Its initial report was critical of school spending of the premium, but Ofsted itself was criticised for assessing impact before it was realistic for impact to be shown.

Inspectors visited a range of primary and secondary schools to identify best practice and found that several characteristics were common among schools spending the pupil premium effectively. These include: ring-fencing the funding, analysing which eligible students were underachieving and why, basing interventions on research evidence and using achievement data to monitor the impact of interventions. The active involvement of governors was another factor, with best practice seen where governors were fully involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of pupil premium spending.

Draft School Governance (Procedures & Allowances) regulations

The Department for Education (DfE) has consulted on draft Procedures and Allowances Regulations that would replace the current Terms of Reference, Procedures and Allowances Regulations for local authority (LA) maintained schools. The draft Regulations will allow governing body meetings to be conducted electronically and remove much of the Terms of Reference Regulations. The draft Regulations also require the governing body to take advice from the clerk. Subject to the parliamentary process, the regulations should be in place for September.

Joseph Nutter's Foundation

(Registered Charity No 507491)

Providing assistance to children or young people in need where a parent has died.

The Joseph Nutter's Foundation is a long-established charitable body whose objects are to provide assistance to children and young people in need and who have at least one deceased parent.

Their aim is to offer modest support in the form of annual and one-off grants for essential items that will improve the welfare of the child or young person.

Who qualifies?

Any child or young person aged between 0 and 16 residing within Bradford Metropolitan District who has a deceased parent(s).

Grants

The prime consideration is the need of the child or young person and the grants are aimed at addressing individual needs.

The Foundation award grants for:

- Clothing and footwear
- Bedding
- Beds
- Other essential household items that will improve the welfare of the child or young person

They may occasionally consider other needs on an individual basis.

What to do next?

If you are able to identify a child or young person who may qualify for assistance please contact one of the persons listed below, who will be happy to give further advice, assess the family's needs and make recommendations to the Foundation's Trustees.

John Lambert – Administrator
E-mail: john@bradfordtextilesociety.org.uk

Kerr Kennedy – Senior Care worker,
Daytime: 01274 722772
E-mail: caley80@yahoo.co.uk



Lord Nash, Minister for Governance gives evidence to MPs

On Wednesday, Lord Nash, the under-secretary of state for schools, and the minister with the responsibility for governance, gave evidence to the House of Commons Education Select Committee for its inquiry into governance.

Lord Nash, who has only been in post for two months, covered many areas of governance including: paying governors, the size of governing bodies and clerks. National Governor's Association (NGA's) work and opinions in many of these areas were mentioned a number of times but especially in regard to their work with Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) on raising the profile of clerking.

In relation to the size of governing bodies Lord Nash explained that the academy that he sponsored, Pimlico Academy, had a governing body of seven which he felt was more effective than a larger group. He went on to say that the government should be sending the message that governance is important and that historically the importance of the governing body had been underestimated in relation to its ability to drive change. The select committee asked what he would be doing to help this and he responded that he would talk about governance a lot more and pointed to the work that the National College and NGA were doing.

Sir Michael Wilshaw had recently mentioned paying governors and Lord Nash said he would listen to Sir Michael's thoughts, but that he did not believe governors should generally be paid. Voluntary, he said, does not mean amateur.

Drug and Alcohol prevention – resources for governors from DfE

The Department for Education have been working with Mentor UK on aspects of drug and alcohol education. They have prepared a slide presentation that explains how governors can support better drug and alcohol prevention in their schools. This presentation for governors explains how to ensure that schools are doing what they need to in order to:

- be sure that the school can manage drug and alcohol incidents with confidence and consistency;
- deliver high quality PSHE education that makes a clear contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- demonstrate to Ofsted that the behaviour and safety of pupils is 'good' or 'outstanding' and they understand how to manage risks;
- fulfil the school's statutory duty to promote all pupils' wellbeing, including for those who are at risk from their own use or that of someone in their family.

The presentation is available on the Mentor UK website:
<http://www.mentoruk.org.uk/resources/schools/governors>.





School Sport Funding announced

Primary school sport is set to be transformed thanks to a £150 million-a-year boost that will improve coaching for the youngest pupils and inspire the Olympic and Paralympic stars of the future, the Prime Minister has announced.

London 2012 gave Britain a once in a lifetime opportunity to inspire a nation to enjoy sport and the Government wants to embed that into the school day from an early age. The new sports funding aims to improve the quality of provision in every state primary school in England.

This means:

- A lump sum for each school, with a per-pupil top-up. A typical primary school with 250 primary aged pupils would receive £9,250 per year. This is the equivalent of around two days a week of a primary teacher or a coach's time - enough to make sure every pupil in the school can do sport with a specialist.
- 'Ring-fenced' funding – only to be spent on sport - will go directly into the hands of heads and teachers who will decide what is best for their children's needs. This could vary from specialist coaching and teacher training to dedicated sports programmes, Change4Life sport clubs and support for after-school or weekend competitions.

- A greater role for Britain's best sporting and voluntary organisations, including National Governing Bodies who will increase the specialist coaching and skills development on offer for primary schools.
- Tougher assessment of sport provision via Ofsted to ensure the funding is bringing the maximum benefit for all pupils, with schools held to account for how they spend the money.
- Sport England investing £1.5 million a year of lottery funding through the County Sport partnerships to help Primary Schools link up with local sports coaches, clubs and sports governing bodies.
- New provision as part of initial teacher training to produce a cadre of primary teachers with a particular specialism in PE. This is being developed in conjunction with sporting bodies and will start with a pilot covering 120 primary teachers, with the first of these beginning work in schools in September 2013.

Further information can be found at <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00222877/%C2%A3150m-olympic-legacy>

Public Forum for Education (PFE)

Wednesday 24th April 2013
from 4.00pm – 6.30pm (buffet from 4.00pm),
Future House, Conference Room D,
Bolling Road, Bradford BD4 7EB

Governors are warmly invited to attend this open debate on the topic of:

“Partnership Working with co-located Services”

There will be discussions on and contributions from the following:

- Positive experiences of Common Assessment Framework (CAF). Arthur Martin, Unit Manager, Burnett Fields, will talk about family centres and children's centres making contact with other local services for family benefit
- Staff and pupils from Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College will talk about their positive experiences and effectiveness of the Sports Academy

- Lyndsey Brown, formerly Headteacher at Bradford District PRU - will talk about multi agency working developed in District PRU and how this philosophy will be rolled out to Oastler's

Most importantly we want to hear from you. Anyone with an interest is welcome so please publicise through your networks and bring friends and colleagues. We would particularly like parents, governors and young people to attend.

The Public Forum for Education holds “big conversations” throughout the year on topical issues in education. With an independent chair Margaret Platts MBE, the Forum enables everyone with an interest to contribute their views.

Please confirm your attendance and names of others you invite, either email Public.Forum.for.Education@bradford.gov.uk or call Heidi Hardy on (01274) 432337.

Forums for 2013

Please note that the following dates have been scheduled for PFE meetings in 2013:-

- Wednesday 19 June 2013
- Wednesday 18 September 2013
- Wednesday 20 November 2013

These meetings will start at 4.30pm with a buffet from 4pm, and our aim is to finish by 6.30pm. The meetings will be held at different locations around the district.



Working Together to Safeguard Children

Working Together to Safeguard Children has been published and is available on the DfE website at <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00030-2013>

This guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

The guidance replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010); The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000); and statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (2007).

The guidance will come into effect from 15 April 2013. This guidance is essential to the work of all Designated Child Protection / Safeguarding staff in schools and services.

Below is the link to the DfE summary introductory article:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/articles/a00223160/revise-safeguarding-guidance->

Free conference for special school governors

On Saturday 18 May the National Governors Association will be holding its inaugural Special Schools Conference in central Birmingham. The conference is aimed at special school governors, but all with an interest are welcome and the conference is open to members and non-members alike.

The programme will include: how to govern in special schools and the implementation of the new arrangements for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

There will also be opportunities to network with your fellow special school governors from around the country and discover just how diverse special school provision is.

The conference will open at 10.30 and finish by 15.00. It is free to attend, so please let other governors know. More information will be available after Easter.

Bookings must be made via the NGA website by 10th May.

For enquiries, please email bookings@nga.org.uk.

Inside Out - an update on outdoor learning from Bradford Council

You can download your copy of the first issue of Inside Out - the new newsletter for learning outside the classroom by going to <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/userfiles/file/EB%20Leadership%20Team%20documents/Inside%20Out%20-%20Issue%201%20March%202013.pdf>

The aim of Inside Out, the newsletter for learning outside the classroom, is to keep all schools up-to-date with what is happening at Nell Bank, Buckden House and Ingleborough Hall and to encourage you to let them know what you are doing as part of your outdoor learning experiences.

As you may be aware the three centres are currently part of a refurbishment programme and "Inside Out" will be used as a platform to share progress.

Music and Art - Academic Year 2013-14

Following the publication of the National Plan for Music Education (which is available to view via BSO) the Government's expectation is that every child will have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument AND sing regularly. The Music & Arts Service has developed several highly subsidised packages to allow all schools to participate in such schemes – these can be tailored to meet each school's individual needs – with the packages also comes live music performances for the school, access to Charanga (online music tool) and opportunities to participate in ensembles/ large performances.

Full package details and further information on this scheme can be found on BSO at <http://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/CMSPage.aspx?mid=2011>.

If you would like further information then please contact either Debbie Bellwood – Business Manager or Paula Briggs – Deputy Head. On 01274 385553

Free, Fun, 'Big Play' Workshop

Future House, Wednesday 5 June 2013

Your school has been invited to 'Whole Class Instrumental Pupils' to take part in the 'Big Play' Workshop taking place at Future House, Bolling Road, Bradford, BD4 7EB on Wednesday 5 June 2013. 2 sessions will be run, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

A number of events have been organised like this in the past and have been asked by many schools to run them again. They have been very successful giving children the opportunity to join a large band with the chance to do a short informal performance at the end of the session. All the music is taught at the session so there is nothing to prepare before hand. All your school needs to do is get the class to Future House with their instruments.

Everyone who attends this event will have the opportunity to enjoy many fun musical activities and play in a large group, which provides a useful stepping stone towards joining a band or orchestra and developing performing skills. All the music to be played has been composed especially for pupils of these levels, so EVERYONE is catered for! The workshop will provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their social skills working alongside pupils from other schools and it will be led by experienced and enthusiastic teachers from the Music & Arts Service. We very much hope your school will participate in this event as it promises to be a very worthwhile musical experience.

If you would further information please contact Lynsey Cawthra by Friday 10 May 2013.





Share the good news with Parents

The Education Communications Team is gathering stories for the Summer edition of its e-newsletter available online for parents called 'Term Times for Parents and Carers'.

Does your school have any good news stories that they would like to feature in the second, Summer edition of Term Times for Parents and Carers to celebrate their success and achievements?

If so, please email the story and any pictures you may have to the Education Communications Team: FHCommunications @bradford.gov.uk or contact Fiona Binns on 01274 385717.

Deadline for stories is Friday 3rd May 2013.

To view the first edition and share with Parents, Carers and Staff <https://bradford.gov.uk/news/4974-term-times-for-parents-and-carers-e-newsletter-ready-to-share>

Invitation to the official opening of Anne Frank and You Exhibition

'Anne Frank + You' is a touring exhibition presented by the Anne Frank Trust UK which examines the experiences of Anne Frank, and promotes understanding and tolerance today.

The exhibition is presented in two parts – historical and contemporary. The historical section of the exhibition is focused round a near life-size replica of Anne Frank's bedroom in which she wrote her diary. It presents the story of Anne Frank and her family, with a pictorial timeline charting the rise of Hitler, the Nazis and the subsequent Holocaust. The contemporary panels present issues of identity and moral choices in modern British society.

It is the third visit to Bradford and it is part of the Building Resilience in Bradford programme coordinated by the Diversity and Cohesion service at Bradford Council. Ten schools have hosted the Anne Frank Trust's 'History for Today' exhibition linking the story of Anne Frank with the challenges and hopes of today. Some of these students have been trained as ambassadors and will also act as guides during the exhibition.

The exhibition will be open to the public and for school visits from 17th April until 9th May and is open from 10.00am until 5.00pm (7.00pm Thursdays) at the Yorkshire Craft Centre, Bradford College. Contact Alina Khan on 07582 103098.



The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille. Please call 01274 385629.

City of Bradford MDC

www.bradford.gov.uk