

News from the Leadership & Governance Team:



June 2011

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Training Dates for July

All scheduled governor training will be held in the Management Development Centre at the Marriott Hotel, Eagle Drive, Northampton NN4 7HW. For a map and directions, click on www.marriott.co.uk

GC5/11: Governor Induction Part 3 –
Introduction to Governors
Accountability/Reporting 4th July 6.30pm –
8.30pm

GF3/11: Managing Allegations: 6th July
6.30pm – 8.30pm

Governor Briefings

Since we ceased to offer Link Governor Briefings around the county, we have listened carefully to feedback from governors and have worked hard to provide an effective replacement.

Therefore in September we are launching the first of our "Governor Briefings". This will be a one hour information session and is available for one governor to attend from each governing body. Numbers will be limited, so its advisable to book early. Should we experience a high demand for places we will add in an additional date.

Please note, this is a great opportunity for your Link Governor to attend these briefing sessions, but attendance is open to any serving governor.

Schools who have LASI Aspire membership will be able to send one governor at no charge, any additional governors attending from each member school will be charged at £35 per head. Attendees from schools who are not members of LASI Aspire will be charged £35 per delegate.

Governor Briefings will be held in the Management Development Centre at the Marriott Hotel, Eagle Drive, Northampton NN4 7HW. For a map and directions, click on www.marriott.co.uk

CK11A/11: Governor Briefings: 14th September 6.00pm – 7.00pm

To book training & briefings

Booking governor training is simple, click on: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cpd to review what is available, then e-mail: cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Clerks' Briefings

These will be held in the Management Development Centre at the Marriott Hotel, Eagle Drive, Northampton NN4 7HW. For a map and directions, click on www.marriott.co.uk

CK10A/11: Clerks' briefings for Non-LA Clerks only: 14th September 10.00am – 11.00am

CK10B/11: Clerks' briefings for LA Clerks only: 14th September 10.00am – 12.00pm

Clerks' Accreditation

This will be a nine month programme of supervision and training against the key competencies of effective clerking for 21st century schools.

CK12/11: Cohort 1: Local Authority Clerks only: 6th July 6.00pm-8.00pm at Holiday Inn, Bedford Rd, Northampton NN4 7YF

CK13/11: Cohort 2: All Clerks in Northamptonshire schools: 5th October 6.00pm-8.00pm at the Management Development Centre, Marriott Hotel, Eagle Drive, Northampton NN4 7HW. For a map and directions, click on www.marriott.co.uk

Clerks'

School Teacher Appraisal Regulations

Briefings are currently being planned, these will be x2 one hour briefings for Head Teachers, Governors and Performance Manager Reviewers in response to the Education School Teachers Appraisal Regulations 2011.

These briefings will be delivered at the Northampton Saints rugby ground, Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Rd, Northampton NN5 5BG.

LS18/11: Briefing on new School Teacher Regulations: 28th September 6-7pm

LS19/11: Briefing on new School Teacher Regulations: 29th September 6-7pm

Congratulations to...

Rowan Gate Primary School was graded "Outstanding" overall following an Ofsted inspection on 17th March, which also included "outstanding" for their Leadership and Management.

The Ofsted report states: "Rowan Gate Primary School provides an outstanding quality of education and care. An outstanding vision driven by the Head Teacher and translated into classroom practice, embraced by all staff, ensures that every barrier to learning for pupils with disabilities is removed"

Laura Clarke, the Head Teacher said "We are both delighted and proud to publicise this report which is a real reflection of the quality of education that pupils receive at our school. Staff and governors have worked tirelessly to achieve this wonderful outcome.

Research – Chairs of Governing Bodies

The Leadership & Governance team have worked in collaboration over many years with Chris James, Professor of Educational Leadership and Management in the Department of Education at the University of Bath.

They are currently researching the role of the Chair of a School Governing Body. As part of their research they are surveying Chairs of Governing Bodies and headteachers about the role. This survey of all Chairs of state-maintained schools Governing Bodies in England is the first of its kind. They would be very grateful if you could complete the survey questionnaire which you can access via this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3BNNT97>

You should be able to complete the questionnaire in about 20 minutes. Your reply will help others understand the important work chairs do. It would be very helpful if you could complete the questionnaire as soon as possible or by **Monday 27th June 2011** at the latest.

Your reply will be treated in the utmost confidence. It will only be seen by the members of the project research team. No individual respondent will be identified in any reports.

Many thanks for completing the questionnaire. Your contribution to their research is much appreciated.

Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) Consultation

This will be the new FMSiS. The DfE has recently closed its consultation on the planned replacement for FMSiS – the Financial Management Standards in Schools. The outcome of the consultation will be featured on the DfE's website.

As soon as the results of the consultation have been published, there will be a Clerks' course arranged, so that your Clerk also understands the new procedure.

Governors' Checklist

Local Authorities, in their education functions, schools of all kinds and FE colleges have a duty to have arrangements for carrying out their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children under sections 175 and 157 of the Education Act 2002.

The responsibilities for making sure these arrangements are in place is put on the local authority and on the governing bodies and proprietors of all schools and colleges.

In order for governing bodies to fulfil their responsibilities, the Safeguarding team distributed a 'Compliance Checklist' in January. However our colleagues in Safeguarding have been advised that the email address on the section of their checklist which required completion was incorrect. Please ensure that you forward your completed checklist to:

ccooper@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Jargon Buster "Special Measures"

A status applied by Ofsted to schools that fail to give learners an acceptable standard of education and under which the people leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement.

Schools subject to special measures have regular Ofsted inspections to monitor improvement.

The Outstanding Governance Awards 2011

The National Governors' Association Awards were announced on 12th April. The only contender from Northamptonshire, The Duston School was a finalist in these prestigious national awards. They were nominated by Martin Lawrence, School Governance Advisor, based on their rapid improvements in school performance and governance.

In March 2007, after three years in Special Measures and an Ofsted judgment that inadequate governance was impeding the schools' progress, the governing body was removed. An Interim Executive Board (IEB) was appointed which established excellent working relationships by restoring integrity, professional respect and pride to the senior leadership team. Their joint leadership was described by Ofsted in 2008 as "outstanding and decisive"

In the past three years the school has successfully moved to specialist status and to foundation trust status in order to develop partnership and bring in skills from business and science to support the school's specialism.

Standards are improving significantly and the Ofsted inspection on September 2010 stated that governance was innovative and outstanding.

Withdrawal of GovernorNet

As part of the Government's drive to rationalise websites, GovernorNet has been withdrawn and relevant content transferred to the Leadership and Governance pages of the Department for Education website. The Department will also no longer support online discussion forums.

The Guide To The Law

Work will commence shortly within the Department to update the Guide To The Law. Unfortunately they cannot yet give a date when the new version will appear as certain funding issues need to be resolved.

In future the Guide will only be available on the Department's website. No further CD-ROM versions will appear as funding for production and distribution of the CD-ROMs has been withdrawn as part of the spending review.

Agenda items for the 2011 Summer Governing Body meeting

A list of suggested agenda items is usually included with the termly edition of The Director's Report. As the current Director is leaving his role at the end of this academic year there will be no report issued for the summer term.

You can access a list of agenda items, simply go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors click on the section headed "Clerks" and under the heading, "Latest News" click on "Agenda

items for the Summer term agenda 2011"

Customers, Communities and Learning

The Children and Young People's Directorate has been replaced with a new directorate: Customers, Communities and Learning. In the autumn term we'll bring you news about this new service, its structure and objectives.

Head Teachers' Performance Management

The Department for Education advise that the Education (School Teacher Performance Management) (England) Regulations 2006, still stand, requiring governing bodies to use an external adviser in Head Teachers' performance management. As SIP's have now been withdrawn in Northamptonshire each governing body is now free to source and appoint a suitable person as their external adviser.

The Education Bill

The Education Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on 26 January 2011. Its Third Reading took place in May, with Royal Assent expected in the autumn. The Bill seeks to implement the legislative proposals in the Department for Education's schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching' and measures from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills relating to skills and the reform of higher education funding. It is therefore a very wide-ranging Bill.

Clause 37

This clause frees up the constitution of maintained school governing bodies to allow them to establish smaller governing bodies and to recruit governors based on skills. It introduces a more permissive regime whereby only parents, the Head Teacher and foundation governors, where appropriate, are required members of the governing body.

The changes introduced by this clause are permissive. Governing bodies will be able to change their constitution in line with this

clause if they wish to do so. They can also choose to stay as they are at present.

Governing bodies will still be able to appoint members from local representative groups should they wish to do so. It is for each governing body to decide their own composition to best meet the needs of the school. Elected staff governors, community and sponsor governors could be appointed at the discretion of the governing body. Also included in this are authority governors - appointed by the Local Authority.

Voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools will continue to have foundation governors appointed to ensure that the religious character of the school is preserved and that the school is conducted in accordance with the foundations' governing documents and any trust deed relating to the school. The right of the churches and foundations to appoint the majority of governors in foundation and voluntary aided schools will be retained.

Communication

Can you please help us to keep all governors informed by cascading this newsletter or directing them to the governor pages on the county council website

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors

Don't forget to make full use of the hyperlinks within the newsletter to access more information.

Leadership & Governance team

Support and assistance is just a phone call away. The Leadership & Governance team is available to help from 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

Call on 01604 365087

e-mail: governors@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Rose Kinley: Leadership & Governance Manager

Martin Lawrence: School Governance Advisor

Esther Bushell: School Governance & Workforce Development Advisor

Teresa Elkin: Governor Training Co-ordinator

Diane Woliter: Recruitment, Retention & Trainee

Teacher Advisor

Lesley Eldridge: NQT, AST & Lead Teacher

Co-ordinator

Mark Pevy: Governor Trainer

Jane Hall: Governance Administrator

Sally Holmes: Clerking Administrator

Training courses and bookings:

cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Please Note

Information contained in this issue of The Northamptonshire Governor was correct at the time of publication.

Please be aware that things are currently changing on a frequent basis.

Editorial team

The Northamptonshire Governor is published by the Leadership & Governance team at Northamptonshire County Council and edited by Teresa Elkin and colleagues in the Leadership & Governance team.

The editorial team reserve the right to edit any submitted material. The articles printed and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Leadership & Governance team. Items are accurate to the best of our knowledge but we do not take responsibility for any errors in information provided to us for inclusion.

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