

## News from the Leadership & Governance Team:



### February half-term 2011

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### 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](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)

if you need any help or advice please

contact us on 01604 655087 or e-mail:  
[governors@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:governors@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

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

### Electronic Communication

Electronic communications are not only a secure and efficient method for governor communications, but they also allow us to operate in a more environmentally friendly way. It appears that most governing bodies welcome the move to information being sent electronically.

The Leadership & Governance team work hard to keep governors up to date with what is now a fast moving education system, so we distribute the governors' electronic newsletter to Chairs, Clerks and Link governors, when we have sufficient news. We think this is a better system than issuing information termly, which can quickly become out of date.

All of our newsletters and other publications are also available for any anyone to download from the governor pages on the local authority website:

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)



## Revision of the agreed



## syllabus for religious education

The new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Northamptonshire – “Growing Together” was launched on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The new syllabus is required to be implemented in county schools from September 2011.

All LA schools (and Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools) have a statutory requirement to follow the Agreed Syllabus. The Diocese of Peterborough also recommends that all county Voluntary Aided schools also follow the syllabus.

### The need for the new syllabus

The Local Authority is required by law to review its locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education every five years. A lot of developments and changes within education and RE had taken place between 2004, when the last syllabus was published and 2009 when the review began, so there was a need to revise the syllabus to bring it up to date and make it relevant for the children and young people in our county.

Extensive consultation with teachers, children, young people and faith groups resulted in the new Agreed Syllabus for RE in Northamptonshire – “Growing Together” which gives clear guidance to schools about how and what to teach in Religious Education.

### The importance of the subject

Religious Education encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging. Taught well it enables them to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society and global community.

Please use this opportunity to ensure that your school is planning to implement the new syllabus. Your school staff can forward any questions to Lesley Pollard, Learning Adviser for Religious Education at [lpollard@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:lpollard@northamptonshire.gov.uk)



## Education Select Committee Report – Behaviour and Discipline in Schools

On 3 February the first report of the Education Select Committee was published. The Committee launched the report with a press notice headed ‘Bad curriculum brings bad behaviour, warn MPs’. Graham Stuart MP, Chair of the Committee, commented that:

*‘If the curriculum doesn’t stimulate children, they will switch off, and the chances are they will disrupt other children’s learning. The onus is now on the Government to draw up a National Curriculum which engages all children and meets their needs: then let teachers decide how to apply it.’*

The Committee’s conclusions and recommendations identified key areas:

- the nature, level and impact of challenging behaviour in schools:
- perception or reality, enabling and cultivating good behaviour, leading and managing good behaviour;
- challenging poor practice, equipping teachers with the skills and tools to manage behaviour:
- new powers, equipping teachers with the skills and tools to manage behaviour:
- teacher training and continuing professional development, managing exclusions, specialist services.

The full report can be accessed on the Parliament website: Education Selection Committee – Report into Behaviour and Discipline in Schools: [www.publications.parliament.uk](http://www.publications.parliament.uk)



## Jargon Buster: PSHE

Personal, Social and Health Education. This provides a vital foundation for the personal development of young people in preparing them for adult life.



## Data Analysis: RAISEonline

### Reporting and Analysis for Improvement through School Self-Evaluation

RAISEonline provides an online analysis of school and pupil performance data. It replaced the Ofsted Performance and Assessment (PANDA) reports and DCSF's Pupil Achievement Tracker (PAT). Users can interrogate the data interactively and /or produce fixed in time reports - the "full" report.

RAISEonline is a much improved data analysis tool which has been used since 2006.

RAISEonline enables schools to:

- view contextual, attainment and value added data and compare to national averages.
- produce management reports such as the "full" report
- look at pupil by pupil performance
- analyse question level data for National, Optional and Progress tests
- set and moderate pupil targets.

### Who can access RAISEonline?

It's available to all mainstream maintained Primary and Secondary schools in England. Local authority staff, Improvement Partners (IPs) and inspectors can also access RAISEonline.

## Access to RAISEonline by Governors

- Access to RAISEonline is totally at the discretion of the Head Teacher and access needs to be given via a school's RAISEonline Administrator.
- The local authority cannot grant access or override the decision of the Head
- There are levels of access that governors can have however and these are also determined by the Head
- Governors can be given a unique user name and password to access Non-Pupil specific data
- Each unique name and password is in place so that it can be deleted by the school, should a governor leave or misuse these rights
- If a governor requires any more detail than they have been given access to, they could meet with the Head to discuss detail
- Be aware that there are data protection issues which prevent governors from seeing pupil level results
- If the Head sends the Full Report to governors upon publication and after the Performance tables have been updated, this should be sufficient for your needs as a governor
- Finally, governors should use RAISE reports in conjunction with NCC produced School Performance Indicators, your Ofsted report, the school's DfE School Profile, DfE published Performance Tables and the NCC School Profile – these will provide you with the information you need to monitor performance and challenge the Head Teacher

### Training

Leadership & Governance offer RAISEonline training for school governors, in your own school and the session uses your own data so that you can become confident with how to read the data and how to use it.

To book RAISEonline training in your school e-mail: [cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk) who will arrange this training for you.



**Stop Press : only 20 places left!**

**Governors' Annual Conference:  
"Governor Effectiveness in Changing Times"**

**Date:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Venue:** Britannia House, Rushmills, Bedford Road, Northampton NN4 7YB

**Time:** 9.30am – 1.30pm

**To book your place e-mail:**

[cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

**Cost:** £80 per delegate. This cost will be charged against your SLA. If you have used your SLA allowance for 2010/2011 or you operate on a Pay As You Use basis, your school will be invoiced directly.

**For more information:** see the newsletter on the governors pages on the Northamptonshire County Council website;

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)

**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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**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](mailto:governors@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

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