

Welcome to the March Monthly Bulletin. Our bulletin has been produced with the aim of keeping governors, clerks and school leaders informed of the latest educational developments as they happen. The most effective way of using this briefing is to have it as an agenda item as part of your Governing Board and Committee meetings.

[DfE: Automated External Defibrillators, guide for schools](#)

The DfE has released an operational [guide](#) on how to buy, install, use and maintain AED's in all schools. This will be for background reading for the Health and Safety governor to use when discussing the risk assessment of the AED with the in school operational Health & Safety lead. **Has your H&S governor referred to this guide within their Monitoring report discussion?**

[DfE Statutory Guidance: Schools Causing Concern](#)

The DfE has released updated [Statutory guidance](#) on local authorities' and regional schools commissioners' responsibilities relating to schools and PRUs causing concern. This guidance describes how: local authorities and regional schools commissioners (RSCs) will intervene in underperforming local-authority-maintained schools; RSCs will intervene in underperforming academies; RSCs will intervene in pupil referral units (PRUs) judged inadequate by Ofsted. Underperforming schools are those which: Meet the coasting definition; or Schools that have failed to comply with a warning notice; or Schools that have been judged inadequate by Ofsted. All Boards should read to ensure they understand their responsibilities and how they must comply with the law if their school is classed as causing concern. **Does your school meet the criteria? How is your Board holding the school to account to ensure the school standards are improving?**

[DfE: PE and sport premium: funding allocations for 2017 to 2018](#)

Updated publications added for [PE and sport allocation](#). We would like to remind Boards of the additional website condition from September 2017 requiring schools to publish how many pupils within their year 6 cohort are meeting the national curriculum requirement to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations. Sports premium reporting templates are available at the link above. **Is your pupil premium strategy on the website compliant? How often does your Board monitor and document website compliance? How does your Board monitor and evaluate the impact of the sports premium funding?**

[Statutory Guidance: The designated teacher for looked after and previously looked-after children](#)

This updated [guidance](#) relates to the duty of Governing Boards of all Maintained Schools to appoint a designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children on the school roll. Pages 8 to 11 describes the role of the Board including questions to consider when, through the designated teacher, the Board **holds** the school to account on how it supports its looked-after and previously looked-after children (including how the PP+ is used) and their level of progress. **Will these questions be asked at the next Committee/ Board meeting? How are you holding the school to account? Does the designated teacher report to the Board?**

[Guidance: Academy and school governance: professional development](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) has contracted 5 organisations to provide a professional development programme until March 2020. We are delighted to announce Governor Services are working with Hampshire to deliver the clerks professional development and with the National Governance Association to deliver the Chairs professional development in Kent and the surrounding areas. See later for more details.

[GCSE new grading scale: factsheets](#)

The DfE has released [factsheets](#) for parents, employers and higher education providers on the new GCSE grading scale; standard and strong pass marks and what this means for students, schools, parents and employers. **How has your Board ensured stakeholders understand the new scales?**

[Ofsted Parent View: management information](#)

Ofsted now publishes this [collated data](#) 3 times a year to provide a more up to date picture of the results within Parent View. It covers, amongst others, submissions received in the previous 365 days for all schools. Within the releases you can find: an overall question by question breakdown of the results; a breakdown by phase and region. **Does your Board use this information as a comparative tool?**

[Guidance: Using Ofsted's inspection data summary report \(IDSR\): 16 to 19](#)

The [guidance](#) includes: general guidance on using the IDSR; specific areas to investigate; percentile boundaries used in the IDSR. **Have all members of your board read the guidance and applied it to your IDSR? Does your IDSR correlate with your internal assessment system for predicted outcomes?**

[NGA: The right people around the table: a guide to recruiting and retaining governors & trustees](#)

A free resource produced to support all Boards in recruiting and retaining skilled governors or trustees, [getting the right people around the table](#) is one of the eight elements of effective governance containing chapters on:

Skills; Recruiting; Appointing; Inducting; Succession planning. This is a must read for your Board. The guide is designed to complement [Inspiring Governance](#) enabling recruitment. **How will you utilise these resources?**

NGA: Update to Learning Link modules

As part of the ongoing development of the virtual online [Learning Link](#) platform some of the modules will be refreshed to include changes to policy and legislation. Each module has been updated to this academic year. If you have not signed up to this resource, contact Leadership & Governance where it can be subscribed to at a reduced rate of £150 if you subscribe to the Governor Services SLA. **Does your Board use this online resource? How do you measure the impact of the training undertaken?**

Governors for Schools

SGOSS has been relaunched as Governors for Schools. Another resource for governor recruitment.

Schools Financial Value Standard for maintained schools

A reminder for maintained Boards of the **statutory** requirement to complete, formally approve at a Full Governing Body meeting, evidenced in the minutes and return the [SFVS](#) to KCC by 31st March 2018. **Has your Board received and approved the SFVS? How are you monitoring agreed remedial actions?**

Parent Councils

The Governance handbook states maintained voluntary aided foundation schools and foundation special schools where the majority of governors are foundation based **must** establish a parent council as a body of parents that represents parents and allows them to put forward their views to executive leaders, and the Board. The Board must consult the parent council about its conduct and carrying out its powers. The arrangements for the composition, role and support of the parent council are set out in the following [regulations](#). **As a VA school do you have a parent council which meets regulations? How does your Board take regard of parent forum or council views to inform decision making?**

Kelsi: Staff Governor Election and Governors Legal Declaration form

The Staff Governor Election form and the Governors Legal Declaration form have been updated on Kelsi.

Clerks need to ensure they are using the most up-to-date documents from Kelsi.

Chairs Conference: 28th March, Governance Guardians, few spaces remaining

The [conference](#) focuses on your role as guardians of the school in respect of your core purpose; providing confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance, alongside a focus on safeguarding. Key speaker is David Marriott, an Education Consultant specialising in Governance. Date and time; 28th March 2018 from 09:00-13:00 Ashford International Hotel. Free for all Chairs whose Boards subscribe to the Governor Services SLA, £150 for non-SLA subscribers.

Has your Chair signed up? How are they reporting back to the Board?

NEW - The Professional Clerk – DfE support development for clerks

The new development programme for Clerks of all school and academy governance boards has been launched and is being delivered in Kent; the first cohort is scheduled to start in April in Canterbury. The course attracts DfE support funding which for eligible schools & clerks, could see a cost reduction from the full price of £400 to £50. Please be aware that for both of the currently advertised courses (Canterbury & Gravesend), places and support funding are limited; we would suggest booking a place as soon as you are able. For course content, dates, time, venues, support funding and booking information please click [here](#).

NEW- NGA Leading Governance Development for Chairs programme funded by DfE

We are delighted to announce we have been chosen to deliver The NGA Leading Governance Development for Chairs programme in Kent and the surrounding areas. It is funded by the Department for Education and provides chairs, vice chairs, committee chairs and future chairs opportunities for developing leadership skills and confident governance. Awaiting final confirmation of dates with first cohort starting in June. Watch this space for more details.

Summer District Governors Briefing

The summer round of District Governors Briefings will soon be upon us. Topics covered will be Complaints policy and procedure, Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Safety. **Who is attending from your Board to bring back the latest news, best practice and guidance?**

Wishing all Governors, Clerks and School Leaders a wonderful Easter

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