

Governance Monthly Bulletin – February 2018

For All Governors, Clerks and School Leaders



Welcome to the February 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 Statutory Careers guidance and access for education and training providers for Secondary Schools](#)

Following the launch of the Careers Strategy at the Career Development Institute annual conference in December 2017, the [Statutory Guidance - January 2018](#), with Board responsibilities on page 11, has been released and fully incorporates the careers strategy. The Careers Strategy makes reference to the [Industrial Strategy](#) published at the end of November. It also states the new duty for schools to allow access to all students from years 8 to 13, for providers of training and further education. Boards must ensure they are compliant and understand their strategic responsibilities. Schools must publish on their website a policy statement on setting out their arrangements for provider access and ensure that it is followed. The guidance includes the recommendation of a governor who takes a strategic interest in careers education and encourages employer engagement. More information can be found on [KELSI website](#). **Does your school website contain the policy statement? How are you planning to monitor the statutory career guidance within the school? Is this on your next Committee or Board agenda?**

[DfE Removing Unnecessary Teacher Workload](#)

The DfE has signposted free [events](#) across the country for governors and school leaders to showcase work that is currently being done in schools to effectively reduce [teacher workload](#). For Boards, The Governance Handbook has documents signposted within concerning removing unnecessary workload with regards to the principles and recommendations in relation to [marking](#), [planning](#) and [data management](#). Schools are urged to use the reports to review current policies and practices with all activities driven by what has the most impact on pupil progress, whilst being time efficient for teachers. **How has your Board taken into account the reports with respect to your current policies and practices and impact on pupil progress? How are you monitoring teacher workload and staff wellbeing? How do you know your staff views? How are you monitoring Leadership workload and well-being?**

[DfE Guidance Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)

This [advice](#) for all Boards explains the powers schools have to seize and then confiscate items found during a search. Though operational it highlights the Boards statutory safeguarding responsibilities to ensure the school's approach to sexting is reflected in the child protection policy. We are finding many school safeguarding policies on the school website are not up to date with the latest KCC September 2017 Safeguarding policy. Some policies do not reflect the current Leadership or Designated Safeguarding Leads. Any change needs to be updated immediately in the policy which and approved by the Board. If necessary the policy can be approved as a Chairs urgent action and ratified by the Board at its next meeting. **Is your safeguarding policy compliant and up to date?**

[DfE Secondary Performance Statistics and League Tables](#)

The DfE has released the [league tables](#) for secondary schools and the revised 2016/17 [GCSE exam data](#). Other statistics released include: [16 to 19 attainment](#); [16 to 18 English and maths progress measure qualifications](#); [Destination measures for key stage 4 and 16 to 18 students: 2017](#). **How do these figures compare with your School? Is pupil premium spend having an impact in your school? Have you analysed the results against the School Improvement Plan priorities?**

[DfE Guidance on School performance tables: how to interpret the data](#)

This [guide](#) for Leaders, Boards, Parents, Ofsted and LA's explains how to use the school and college performance data to interpret pupil attainment and progress, and compare schools and colleges. It includes looking at data to evaluate your school's performance against national and local standards and for carrying out self-evaluation. **Will those skilled in data on your Board give a report following self-evaluation of the data?**

[Ofsted Inspection Pupil and Staff Surveys](#)

Ofsted have released the new [pupil](#) and [staff](#) surveys which are delivered and collected online during an Inspection. The questionnaires are confidential and complement evidence which inspectors gather from talking to pupils and staff during the inspection. The staff survey contains new questions on well-being and workload. Results from Inspection surveys should not be a surprise to the Board. **How does your Board take into account the views of stakeholders? Do you conduct annual parent, pupil, and staff surveys? How can the Board evidence the impact of stakeholder view as part of the decision making process?**

[Ofsted Guidance on using IDSR](#)

These [guidance](#) documents contain information on how to use and interpret the Inspection Data Summary Report across all Key stages including 16-19. The IDSR also looks at absence, exclusions and destinations. All governors are expected to be able to understand the IDSR and use the report for analysis of trends and school priorities. The IDSR can be found in by logging in to Analyse School Performance. **Have all members of your Board seen the IDSR? Do all governors have a ASP log in? Have you discussed the IDSR as an agenda item? How do the findings compare to your school improvement priorities?**

[National School Commissioner defines governors as the "unsung heroes of the education system"](#)

Sir David Carter in an [article](#) written for TES defines governors as the unsung heroes of the education system. He

provides views on what effective governance looks like including recruitment being based on the right skills, knowledge and experience; the need for continual reassessment of the expertise and capacity of the board and the importance of the ongoing development of governors. ***How do you ensure you have the knowledge to effectively perform governance? Contact your Area Governance Officer for development support and advice.***

[National Governance Association Updates](#)

Latest guidance updates for members include: Ofsted Inspections and Governance; Online safety; Mental Health issues and well-being; Developing your clerk; role of the safeguarding governor; safeguarding; financial planning; supporting disadvantaged children; Equality act and getting equalities right. Boards can [sign up](#) today to receive the weekly newsletter and access these and more resources and guidance.

[Safer Recruitment Course](#)

Boards are required to have at least one governor who is Safer Recruitment trained. To access NSPCC online safer recruitment training which costs £30 per Governor for a 4 hour course please [click here](#).

[Kent Community Foundation](#)

This grant-making charity, manages several funds which offer grants to individual children and young people from a financially disadvantaged background, specifically: young carers; CYP with disabilities, long-term illness, life-limiting conditions, special needs; disadvantaged, vulnerable, marginalised or at risk CYP. Grants can be spent on specific items e.g. uniform/sports kit/laptop etc. or activities which would otherwise be out of the reach of the child e.g. school trips, extra-curricular activities. Funding will also be considered for disability aids/equipment/home refinements which will be of direct benefit to the health & well-being of the child. For more information visit our website

<http://www.kentcf.org.uk/apply/individual-funding/> or contact Joanne on 01303 815 152 or joanne@kentcf.org.uk

[KCC Governor Services updates](#)

[Chairs Conference- Governance Guardians](#)

David Marriott, an Education Consultant specialising in Governance and School Leadership will be our Key Speaker at this year's [Conference](#) which will focus 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. Date and time; 28th March 2018 from 09:00-13:00 at the Ashford International Hotel. Free for all Chairs whose Boards subscribe to the Governor Services SLA, £150 for non SLA subscribers. ***Has your Chair booked their place?***

[Clerks Conference](#)

The focus of the conference is on 'Taking Accurate Notes'. Date and time; 7th March 2018 from 09:00- 13:00 at the Ashford International Hotel. For Clerks whose Schools subscribe to the Governor Services SLA the conference is free, £150 for non SLA subscribers. ***Are Boards signposting the course to their clerks, for their CPD? If your clerk works within the school are they being released to attend? Is your clerk booked on?***

[Instruments of Government](#)

Leadership and Governance will from now on be sending Instruments of Government requiring signing by the chair to the school and no longer to the chairs home address. Please ensure your school has a mechanism in place for post addressed to the chair.

[Kent CPDonline](#)

Please can clerks ensure their own contact details are up to date on Kent CPDonline as well as the name of the chair, vice chair and all current governors including updating to their school email addresses if. It is a statutory requirement for maintained School Boards to keep KCC up to date with membership and contact details.

[Liability Insurance](#)

Schools covered by KCC arrangements have Public Liability [insurance](#) of £50m which includes for governors. For those schools who have not taken out KCC cover the Board will need to ask leaders to check that governor's liability is included in the schools insurance.

[GDPR awareness training for Governors](#)

To ensure governors are aware of their responsibilities under GDPR two training sessions are being put on for one member of the Board to attend and cascade the information. This course is free for the schools which subscribe to the Governor Services SLA. For [North/ West](#) on 1st March at The Brent Primary School and for [South/East](#) at The Canterbury Academy on 26th February. Please book on CPDonline. ***Who is attending from your Board?***

[Training Courses](#)

Please can Governors ensure that you sign up for the waiting list if a course is full, particularly Governor Induction courses. This will allow us to see areas where we may need to put on additional courses.

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