**Governor Newsletter Autumn 1st Half Term**

**Introduction of Safeguarding Partnerships, which will come into effect from September 2019**

This will replace all Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with a team of key professionals from the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and the police. Each locality will have access to its own dedicated team, who will work collaboratively to implement new safeguarding strategies with the aim of strengthening the child protection and safeguarding system in the local area.

Schools can still contact the LSCB until this change comes into effect.

**Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education**

The Department for Education is introducing compulsory [Relationships Education for primary pupils and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for secondary pupils](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/780768/Government_Response_to_RSE_Consultation.pdf) from September 2020. All schools will be required to teach these subjects and follow the statutory guidance. Health Education will be compulsory for all state-funded schools only, as independent schools are already required to teach Health Education under their requirement to teach Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE).

The government will be actively encouraging and supporting schools to start teaching these new subjects from September 2019. Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools’ decisions on when and how certain content is covered.

**Reference to the new Ofsted framework**

Changes to the framework include a 90-minute phone call between the lead inspector and head the day before an inspection begins, extending Section 8 ‘short’ inspections from one to two days (for schools with >150 pupils), and revised judgement categories.

[Read the full education inspection framework 2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/education-inspection-framework-2019-inspecting-the-substance-of-education)

Although most schools will only be inspected once every few years, it can be a source of worry for governing board and staff alike. The [NGA guidance centre](https://www.nga.org.uk/Knowledge-Centre/Good-governance/Accountable-governance/Ofsted.aspx) has a suite of guidance in relation to Ofsted to help ensure that governing boards are fully aware of what to expect including top tips and frequently asked questions.

You may find the link to the this [webinar](http://bit.ly/GovernorsWebinarEIF) a useful briefing. The following documents are referenced in the webinar.

**•** Education inspection framework and inspection handbooks - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>

• Governance Handbook - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

• Being strategic: A guide for governing boards - <https://www.nga.org.uk/Knowledge-Centre/Vision-ethos-and-strategic-direction/Being-Strategic-A-guide-for-governing-boards.aspx>

• Amanda Spielman at National Governance Association- <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/national-governance-association-speech>

**Reference to the new guidance 'Teaching online safety in school'.**

The government has recently published new guidance on teaching children and young people about online safety and appropriate online behaviour. The guidance is non-statutory and applies to all local authority-maintained schools, academies and free schools. It may also be helpful to nurseries and FE colleges.

The guidance covers fundamental knowledge and behaviours for pupils, including how to evaluate what they see online, how to identify risks, and how and when to seek support. It is not intended to create additional content or teaching requirements; topics can be incorporated into other curriculum areas, including the new compulsory Relationships (Sex Education) and Health Education in place from September 2020.

All of these changes can be found on from page 96 of [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2) document.

**Key Governing Board Tasks – Reminders**

* All governors must have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Remember that as the individual gets a copy of their DBS certificate, it needs to be clear as to who the check must be shown to, so it can be added to the single central record. It is also a requirement, outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019, that Governors have a Section 128 check.

A section 128 direction prohibits or restricts a person from taking part in the management of an independent school, including academies and free schools. A person who is prohibited is unable to participate in any management of an independent school, academy or free school. The term management also includes governors. A section 128 direction also disqualifies a person from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor of a maintained school.

The full list of grounds is set out in regulation 2(link is external) of the Independent Educational Provision in England (Prohibition on Participation in Management) Regulations 2014.

If you carry out an enhanced DBS check with barred list information on an individual, with 'children's workforce independent schools' specified in the parameters, the certificate will detail whether they are subject to a section 128 direction. You can also carry out section 128 direction checks through the Teaching Regulation Agency. You can do this by logging onto the Secure Access Portal. Secure Access is a free service available to all schools and colleges. This will enable schools to check existing Governors.

* All governor information must be on Getting Information about Schools (GIAS) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-database-of-governors> . Lack of school website compliance in addition to lack of governor info on GIAS is something Ofsted have highlighted as a common theme.
* Update register of interests and publish on school website.

The Scheme for Financing Schools requires all schools to keep a register of any business or personal interest of Governors and Staff employed at the school, which should include their immediate families where appropriate. This requirement applies to all authority maintained schools and pupil referral units.

The process of declaring personal or business interests is designed to prevent individuals from abusing their positions, protects them in the event of allegations of this nature and allows the school to manage such conflicts appropriately.

The processes ensure that all relevant potential conflicts of interest are transparent through being documented and the appropriate management action also being recorded.

What the Process should look like?

i) All Governors and staff should complete annually an individual form which is signed and retained at the school

ii) **A responsible officer** **will review the interests** declared and determine what restrictions / actions, if any, are placed on the individual based on their declaration

iii) This information will then be entered into the school’s register of interests and the register will then show all personal potential conflicts of interest and the school’s/Governing Body’s response to any declarations

iv) Once completed the register should be kept up to date and open to free inspection by Governors, Staff, Parents and the Local Authority, subject to any constraints under the

Data Protection Act

* Update Governor Attendance for the academic year 2018-2019 onto the School website.

Governing Body Tasks for the Autumn Term FGB meeting (Some of these may also be undertaken in the summer term ready for autumn):

* Discuss and agree terms of reference for full GB or operating guidelines.
* Review the committees in place and their terms of reference/members. Elect members and appoint clerks to committees where appropriate. The full GB can delegate the election of chairs of each committee to the committee themselves.
* Agree a programme of meetings for the year including committees and when to review aspects of the school improvement plan.
* Appoint governor/s to specific responsibilities where appropriate e.g. Child protection, special educational needs and disability (SEND), looked after children (LAC), health and safety.
* Set objectives of the GB for the year linked, to the school improvement plan.
* Review progress on the school’s self-evaluation
* If the school is its own admission authority (foundation and voluntary aided) draw up an admissions policy for the next school year if it needs to change.
* Review National Curriculum tests, GCSE and other exam results – remember first teaching of new GCSEs in some subjects and AS/A levels in some subjects.
* Conduct Headteachers (HT) appraisal (recommended to take place before teaching staff) – deadline for pay decisions 31 December 2019. Review and determine the HTs salary (backdated to 01 September 2019).
* Ensure every teacher has an appraisal review and their salary is reviewed by 31 October 2019 (backdated to 01 September 2019)