



JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governance Update – 21st September 2017

Issue 1

Welcome

I would like to introduce myself as the new Governance Coordinator for the Diocese of Portsmouth and Diocese of Winchester. I joined the team at the start of September having spent 15 years working in education. My role is to support our schools with governance issues and work with ex-officio and foundation governors in particular to support them with governance.

I also look after admissions for the diocese and will be involved in some of the admissions forums with Local Authorities.

If you have any governance queries or need any support then please do not hesitate to contact me on: 02392 899651 or 07725 278104. Alternatively email me at Sharon.brueton@portsmouth.anglican.org

Please note that I work Monday – Thursday so if you contact me on a Friday, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I am back in the office.

This is the first of our regular updates on governance that will be sent out. These will generally be fortnightly on a Thursday but may vary some weeks depending on the updates and school visits that I carry out.

I look forward to working with you all and visiting your schools over the coming year.

Sharon

Admissions Policy

The model admissions policy for 2019-20 admissions, was emailed out to Headteachers and Chairs on the 6th September. A copy of it can also be found with guidance notes on the [Diocesan website](#)

The guidance is for all Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided schools to assist in the preparation of their Admissions Policies for 2019. There is new information which we would like Governing Bodies to have regard to which can be found on the 'model' policy.

Analyse School Performance

In order to ensure that your Governing Board is continuing to hold leaders to account, it is important that you become familiar with your schools' educational data and that you know the information that you are being provided by your school is accurate.

As governors, you should be aware of the '[Analyse School Performance](#)' website which replaced RAISEonline. (RAISE online closed on the 31st July 2017) If you need help with accessing this site, there is a 'YouTube' Video that can help [here](#). You may need your school to help with getting [access set up](#) to the site.

Additional reports are now available on the site that can help you see how your children are performing. From September 2017 Key Stage 2 data will also be available.

School Inspection update

Ofsted released a '[School Inspection Update – Special Edition](#)' in September which identifies some key messages as to how Ofsted will be carrying out inspections from now on.

They have also developed a new style data report, the IDSR which will replace the previous inspection dashboard later in the autumn term.

Governing Boards need to become familiar with this document and ensure that they are aware of the data for their school and how this is recorded.

Revised School Funding Formula

'[The National Funding Formula for School and High needs](#)' is now available on the DfE website and outlines the funding formula that will be used in schools. Key points include:

- the DfE's formula will provide for secondary schools to receive a minimum of £4,600 per pupil in 2018/19 and £4,800 per pupil in 2019/20, while primary schools will receive £3,300 per pupil in 2018/19 and £3,500 in 2019/20
- every school will receive a £110,000 lump sum and an additional £26 million will be allocated to rural and isolated schools
- every school will see a minimum cash increase of 1% by 2019-20 and many schools will see larger increases

Governors are responsible for ensuring that schools spend their money effectively and efficiently. Please ensure that you become familiar with the funding your school will receive over the next few years and how this will impact on the decisions that you make about your school.

Edubase becomes 'Information about Schools'

The DfE launched '[Get information about schools](#)' on Monday 18 September. This service will become the primary source of school data, replacing the current EduBase system. Please update any weblinks on your school website and links in school documents regarding Edubase.

Edubase was frozen from Friday 15th September and any information relating to your school should have automatically been transferred to the 'Get Information about schools' site. As we are at a start of a new academic year, this is often the time that new governors have joined and governors may have left. Please remember that it is paramount that 'Get Information about schools' is updated and that it holds accurate information about your governing board. Please spend a few minutes looking at the site and checking your information.

The person / people in your school that had access to Edubase, should have access to the new system in the same way as this should have been transferred.

Data Protection Regulations

From May 2018, the Data protection Act (1998) will be replaced by a more stringent 'General Data Protection regulation' (GDPR)

As a governing board, you must be aware of your obligations under the new regulation and ensure that you comply.

Further details will be available nearer the time, but key messages are:

- It will be mandatory for all schools to appoint a Data Protection Officer
- Tough Penalties will be imposed for failure to comply
- The school is responsible for any third parties in connection to the school to securely hold data. (ie software companies and catering providers etc.)

A [12 step checklist](#) has been produced that can help you prepare for the new legislation.

Academies Financial handbook – 2017

Please note that The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published the latest edition of the 'Academies Financial Handbook 2017' over the summer. A copy of the updated version can be found [here](#).

Governor Training

The 2017-18 Training opportunities booklet will be released in the next few weeks, confirming training available for foundation and ex-officio governors.

Diocese Database Update

During the last few weeks, I have discovered that not all the information that we hold about governors in schools is correct. Over the next few weeks, I will be contacting clerks and / or admin officers, providing them with a list of what we hold in relation to governor details and asking whether the information is up to date.

We require details of:

- The Chair of Governors
- All Foundation Governors
- Ex-Officio Governors
- Clerk
- RE Coordinator

Having correct information means that we can contact the right people with information.

Can we also remind clerks, that they need to let the Diocese know when there is a change to any of these roles so that we can ensure that we update our database. In the absence of the clerk, it is the responsibility of the school admin officer or chair of Governors to up-date us as needed.

It is important that we have up to date details so that we can see where there are ex-officio and foundation governor vacancies. We will be working with schools over the coming months to support schools with these vacancies so that we can help ensure an effective governing body is in place.

Legislation Update

[The Constitution of Governing bodies of maintained schools](#) statutory guidance has been updated.

Please ensure that you are now using the latest version of this document.

Within the document, there is now new guidance which came into effect on the 1st September on removing an elected parent or staff governor. Governing bodies are expected only to exercise the power to remove an elected governor in exceptional circumstances where the actions or behaviour of the elected governor warrants removal rather than suspension. The power should not be used simply to remove dissenting or challenging voices. Governors who have been removed are also given the right to appeal.

If an elected governor is removed, then they are disqualified from taking up another governance role for a minimum of 5 years.

Please ensure that as a governing body, you are up to date with and following this guidance.

Who Governs our schools?

A new report has been published to try and help people understand the role of schools governance.

The report looks at the following areas:

- Purpose and Participation
- Induction and Development
- Landscape and Policy
- Stakeholders and Exerts
- Leadership and Autonomy
- Collaboration and Partnership

'Who Governs Our Schools? Trends, Tensions and Opportunities' is available online [here](#).

Southampton Schools

I have been asked to forward this to Southampton Schools -

Get Inspired Southampton
The O2 Guildhall, Southampton
SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2017
10am-3pm FREE ENTRY
COME ALONG AND GET INSPIRED!

The event is aimed at young people and their families. We want students – their parents and even grandparents – to get a real understanding of the broad and exciting career paths that the diverse businesses in and around our City have to offer. We will inspire the students and their families about local firms, employment, future career choices and opportunities.

It will be an interactive day that inspires people to consider areas of work they may never have thought of, and which helps them to understand how they might get there.

For further details contact Suzanne Lewis at EBP South via email slewis@ebpsouth.co.uk tel. 02392 283443

Contact Details

Sharon Brueton, Governance Coordinator

Diocesan Office, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO2 8HB

02392 899651 / 07725 278104

Sharon.brueton@portsmouth.anglican.org

www.portsmouth.anglican.org / www.winchester.anglican.org / www.pwdat.org